

TO: School Board Members
FROM: Douglas W. Sullivan, Superintendent
SUBJECT: Agenda Background
DATE: April 18, 2016

- I. Call to Order** – President Ricks will call the meeting to order.
- II. Public Participation** - Any person wishing to address the Board may do so by completing a written request prior to the meeting. The request must be within the guidelines of Board Policy BCBA, Public Participation at Board Meetings.
- III. Additional Agenda Items/Removal of Items from Consent Agenda** – Items which require Board action may be placed on the agenda by approval of a majority of the Board members present. Board members may request that an item on the consent agenda be removed for consideration by itself.
- IV. Consent Agenda**
- a. Minutes – March 14 regular board meeting, and March 14 public open forum/state mandated planning meeting. The minutes are posted under Minutes on the school board web site.
 - b. Bills – The bills are posted under Financial Reports on the school board website.
 - c. Financial Report – The Financial Report is posted under Financial Reports on the school board website.
 - d. Pledged Assets Report – The Pledged Assets Report is posted under Financial Reports on the school board website.
 - e. Personnel Reports – The personnel reports are posted under Supporting Documents on the school board website.
 - f. Student/Staff Recognitions – The student/staff recognitions are posted on the Consent Agenda.

Sample motion: “I move to approve the agenda (or revised agenda) including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the March 14 regular board meeting and the March 14 public open forum/State Mandated Planning; the bills for April 2016; the financial reports for April 2016; the pledged assets report for April 2016; the personnel reports; and the student/staff recognitions; as presented.”

- V. Superintendent’s Report** – Superintendent Sullivan will report on topics which do not appear elsewhere in the agenda.
- VI. Business Topics**
- a. **DPS Foundation Update** - DPS Foundation President James Peters will address the Board providing information on what the Foundation is doing which supports DPS. This agenda item is informational only. No action is requested.
 - b. **Dickinson Middle School Construction Update** –Representatives from Mortenson Construction will be attending the Board meeting and presenting updated information on the construction of the new middle school. This agenda item is informational only. No action is requested.

- c. **Teacher Grievances** – The School Board has received grievances from four Dickinson Public Schools teachers. The teachers are speech language pathologist teachers: Ms. Merrill Fahlstrom, Ms. Sherry Loris, Ms. Jill Nelson-Wetzstein, and Ms. Ellen Getz. The grievances are filed based on the teacher’s request for “an extended contract of 75 days.”

As per pages 12-13 of the 2015-2016 DPS negotiated agreement (posted on the website), following are the steps for the grievance process. If no agreement is reached in each step it may move to the next step. The teacher filing the grievance must be present at each step of the procedure.

Grievance Step 1 requires the teacher to submit the grievance to the building principal.

- February 3, 4th and 5th – Five teachers (Dana Price, Sherry Loris, Merrill Fahlstrom, Ellen Getz, and Jill Nelson-Wetzstein) submitted grievances to the building principal.

Grievance Step 2 requires the teacher to submit the grievance to the superintendent.

- February 19, 2016 - Five teachers (Dana Price, Sherry Loris, Merrill Fahlstrom, Ellen Getz, and Jill Nelson-Wetzstein) submitted requests for a grievance conference.

The teachers requested the grievance meeting be held as a group. Superintendent Sullivan held a grievance conference on March 2, 2016. A follow up meeting was held on March 9, 2016. Superintendent Sullivan’s March 15, 2016, decision is posted as a Supporting Document.

Grievance Step 3 requires the teacher to submit the grievance to the Board.

- March 29 and 30th, 2016 – four teachers (Sherry Loris, Merrill Fahlstrom, Ellen Getz, and Jill Nelson-Wetzstein) submitted a request to the Board for a grievance conference.

The negotiated agreement states: “The grievance will be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting. The board will communicate in writing a decision to the grievant within fourteen (14) days after the meeting at which the board renders its decision.”

- d. **Attorney Consultation-Teacher Grievances (Executive Session may be Necessary)** – Attorney Consultation regarding teacher grievances may be discussed in executive session. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 44-04-19.2. The topic or purpose of this executive session is Attorney Consultation-Teacher Grievances.
- e. **Hagen Junior High Facility Repurpose Discussion** – As a follow up to the March 14 public open forum/State Mandated Planning, Superintendent Sullivan will discuss some options that have been proposed for Hagen Junior after Dickinson Middle School has opened. This agenda item is for discussion purposes only. No action is required.
- f. **Budget Development and Input Committee Report** – This committee met on March 24. Superintendent Sullivan and Board representatives will review the topics discussed. Budget Committee and administration will also report on budget items that are being considered by the Committee and do not appear elsewhere on the agenda. Minutes from this meeting are posted on the District’s website. Board input may be requested.

- g. Major Summer Building Projects** - Assistant Superintendent Reep will give a report to the Board on the status of the proposed projects this summer. Mr. Reep has prepared a preliminary list which is available on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item is informational only. No action is required.
- h. National School Board Association Convention Highlights** – Board Members Sarah Ricks, Kris Fehr, Tanya Rude, and Leslie Ross along with Superintendent Sullivan will give highlights from the National School Board Association Convention they recently attended in Boston. This agenda item is informational only. No action is requested.
- i. Teacher Negotiations Update** - Mrs. Fehr and Mrs. Ricks are the school board representatives on the Teacher Negotiations Team. The Teacher Negotiations Team has had six meetings. President Ricks and Vice President Fehr will provide an update regarding topics discussed. This agenda item is informational only. No action is requested.
- j. Breakfast and Lunch Meal Prices** – Assistant Superintendent Reep will address the Board. Mr. Reep has prepared a summary of the meal prices. His summary is available on the website under Supporting Documents. Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act requires that schools provide the same level of financial support for lunches served to students who pay for their meals as those students eligible for free meals. To be in compliance, Mr. Reep recommends increasing student breakfast prices by \$.05. Adult breakfast prices must increase by \$.30. Lunch prices will increase by \$.10 for students and \$.25 for adults. The reduced meal prices would remain the same. The areas highlighted in yellow on Mr. Reep’s Supporting Document reflect the suggested new prices. Action is requested. Sample motion: **“I move to approve a fee of \$1.40 for student breakfast, \$1.70 for adult breakfast, \$2.25 for lunch for students in grades K-6, \$2.55 for lunch for grades 7-8, \$3.35 for lunch for grades 9-12, and \$4.00 for lunch for adults, effective fall of 2016.”**
- k. Roosevelt Elementary Boiler System Replacement Bid** – The school district advertised for replacing the boilers at Roosevelt Elementary. Bid opening was on Tuesday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. Two companies, Central Mechanical and CA Contracting, submitted bids. The two bids opened were \$252,000 from Central Mechanical and \$271,641 from CA Contracting. The original estimate for the project was \$115,000. Assistant Superintendent Reep and Len Lindbo met with the design team of JLG Architects and ONE Engineering on April 14 to discuss the changes from the original mechanical estimates. A number of code requirements and late addendums were necessary late in the design process. Assistant Superintendent Reep will work with the design team and the low bidder, Central Mechanical, to explore value engineering options in order to bring the project closer to the original budgeted amount. The administrative recommendation to the Board is to accept the low bid submitted by Central Mechanical for the replacement of the boiler system at Roosevelt Elementary. Action is requested. **Sample motion: “I move to accept the bid submitted by Central Mechanical for \$252,000 to replace the boiler system at Roosevelt Elementary, and further instruct Assistant Superintendent Reep to work with the design team and Central Mechanical to come up with value engineering solutions to lower the price.”**
- l. Open Enrollment Applications** – Pamela Praus applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools from New England School District. Carol

E. Miller applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to DPS from Hettinger School District. These students are currently attending DPS. The administrative recommendation is to approve the applications. Action is requested. **Sample motion: “I move to approve the request for a child of Pamela Praus and a child of Carol E. Miller to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools as per the open enrollment request.”**

- m. **Early Resignation Incentive Notification** – Policy DKBC Early Resignation Notification was approved by the Board in 2007 and 2011. Classified staff have a deadline of April 1 to submit their resignation notification. Mr. Richard Novotny, head custodian at Jefferson Elementary (19 years of service), has submitted his resignation within the deadline. The administrative recommendation is to approve the early resignation incentive. Action is requested. **Sample motion: “I move to approve the early resignation incentive for Richard Novotny, head custodian at Jefferson Elementary with an effective date of May 27, 2016.”**
- n. **Teacher Negotiations Strategy (Executive Session Anticipated)** – Teacher Contract Negotiations Strategy may be discussed in executive session. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 44-04-19.1(9). The topic or purpose of this executive session is Teacher Contract Negotiations Strategy.

VII. Other

VIII. Adjournment

Announcements

- May 2-6 – Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.–Teacher/Staff Retirement and Recognition Program, DHS auditorium.
- Wednesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.–Southwest Community High School graduation, DHS auditorium
- Sunday, May 29, 1:00 p.m.–Dickinson High School graduation, DHS gymnasium