

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

May 11, 2009; 5 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on May 11, 2009, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: Dean Rummel, Kris Fehr, Mitzi Swenson, Mort Krieg and Leslie Ross. Administrators present were: Superintendent Stremick, Vince Reep, Becky Meduna, Dorothy Martinson, Sherry Libis, Ron Dockter, Henry Mack, Melanie Kathrein and Del Quigley. Others present were: Margaret Olheiser, Beverly Kinnischtzke, Stacy Kilwein, Trina Kudrna, Karen Heidt and Beth Wischmeyer, Dickinson Press.

President Rummel called the meeting to order.

There were no requests for Public Participation.

Swenson moved to delete agenda item X. Adequate Yearly Progress from the agenda because we have not received the report yet and to add Extracurricular Coop Agreement with Bismarck Public Schools in Soccer. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Swenson moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the April 14, 2009, regular meeting; bills for May 2009; financial report for May 2009; and the pledged assets report for May 2009; the resignations of Elaine Dennis, grade three teacher, Lincoln; Michele Werchau, learning disabilities teacher, Lincoln; the hires of Sarah Chapman, grade two teacher, Roosevelt; Amy Kuehl, grade one teacher, Lincoln; Marni Neubauer, kindergarten teacher, Heart River; Sheri Showalter, grade four teacher, Heart River; Courtney Williams, grade three teacher, Jefferson; the RESP Report; the student/staff recognitions; and the tuition waiver agreement for Leland Krueger, Dickinson to South Heart. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Stremick reported on the following:

- 1) Snow day-Governor Hoeven waived one of our snow days. Our last day of school is Friday, May 29 and Graduation is scheduled on Sunday, May 31 at 3 p.m.
- 2) DSU students-He has been meeting with Dr. Conner from DSU regarding having DSU education students spend more time in the schools. DSU is increasing the field experience requirement by 30 hours. It has the potential to benefit our students with one on one tutoring, etc. but it will also increase our workload.
- 3) School accreditation report-He recently received notification that all of the Dickinson Public Schools are accredited. They no longer have accredited with commendation.
- 4) Legislative highlights-He reviewed some of the changes that were made by the legislature in House Bill 1400 and Senate Bill 2199.
House Bill 1400 key issues
 - Added one additional student contact day in 2010-2011 and an additional student contact day in 2011-2012. Student contact days will increase from 173 to 174 and 175 days.
 - Added one student performance strategist for every 400 students in 2010-11 for grades K-3 for tutors or coaches.

Superintendent's Report cont.

- Added summer school for grades 5-8 in reading, math, science and social studies beginning the summer of 2010-2011. Students don't have to qualify to be in summer school.
- One counselor for every 300 students in grades 7-12. A career advisor can be used to meet 1/3 of the requirement in 2010-2011.
- Professional development plans will need to be adopted and reviewed by DPI in the future to make sure districts have a plan and that they are following their plan. Our professional development plan is tied to our school improvement plan or NCA.
- Mentoring program for first year teachers will be provided by the state.
- Increased graduation requirements in the state to 22 credits - 4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 1 physical education, 3 focused electives (foreign language, fine arts or career and technology education) and 5 electives.
- An annual formative assessment for grades 2-10 will be required. We already give the NWEA assessment.
- A career interest inventory assessment in grades 7 or 8 and grades 9 or 10 will be required.
- All grade 11 students and GED students will be required to take the ACT test or Work Keys test. The test will be taken during the school day and the school district will pay for it.
- Scholarships for students meeting requirements for Academic and Career and Technical Education in the amount of \$750 per semester/\$1,500 per year, up to \$6,000 starting in 2010-2011. Students graduating in 2009-2010 are eligible for scholarships if they score a 24 or higher composite on their ACT test.

Senate Bill 2199

- Provides up to 75 mills of tax relief for school districts to buy down their mill levies from the state.

Adult Learning Center Update – The Adult Learning Center Report is posted under Supporting Documents. Margaret Olheiser was present at the meeting to answer questions. They had 185 students last year. Former employees of American Express have started to come in. A large number of their clients are over age 50. The GED graduation is scheduled on Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Dickinson High School. President Rummel thanked them for the job they are doing. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Partners in Parenting Update – The Partners in Parenting Report is posted under Supporting Documents. Stacy Kilwein and Del Quigley were present at the meeting to answer questions. They are experiencing success with their 16 week Gearing Up for Kindergarten program. President Rummel thanked them for the job they are doing. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

RASP (Roughrider After School Program) Update –The RASP Report is posted under Supporting Documents. Trina Kudrna, Del Quigley and Candace King were present at the meeting to answer questions. They were awarded \$250,000 for three years. Grant schools include Heart River and Roosevelt in Dickinson plus Beach and Hebron. They have 193 students in Dickinson and 60-75 students in Beach and Hebron. After school programs are also held at Lincoln, Jefferson and Berg in Dickinson but they are non grant schools and the fees paid by parents pay for the expenses at those schools. The 21st Century grant now requires schools to offer a full-time summer program. They have 185 students registered for the 2009 summer program. The state is using our summer program as a model school program. They do take a week off before the summer program starts to train staff, move supplies, etc. and the week before school starts to do maintenance at the schools, etc. President Rummel thanked them for the job that they are doing. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Facility Planning Follow up – The Board has been discussing short range and long range facility planning at previous Board meetings. At the April Board meeting the Board discussed possible facility planning options and directed Superintendent Stremick and Vince Reep to look at the pros and cons and an approximate cost for the suggested options. The facility planning report is posted under Supporting Documents. Superintendent Stremick met with Shawn Kessel and Shawn Soehren from the city. They are seeing most of the residential growth on the east side of Dickinson.

The options that were presented at the April meeting included: a new super school (600 student elementary), new elementary school on the north property, moving grade five to Berg, classroom additions at two elementary schools and sister schools (K-2, 3-5). Superintendent Stremick and Vince Reep reviewed the pros and cons of the different options and the projected cost. Superintendent Stremick stated that they came up with the pros and cons at a Cabinet meeting with input from the administrators. Dr. Doug Sullivan was present at the Cabinet meeting when they discussed facility plan options.

Option #1-Elementary super school-A super school would house about 600 elementary students. It would cost about \$12 million plus engineering and architect fees. The pros for a super school were: economy of scale, regulating class sizes, we would be able to combine classes, not as many lunch personnel and facilities to maintain, fewer custodial staff and administrators would be needed, teacher collaboration and they could repurpose the other buildings for space for the Adult Learning Center and Southwest Community High School. Cons for a super school were: the cost, too many kids in one building, additional transportation for parents, you wouldn't have neighborhood schools, repurpose the other buildings and we may have an empty building.

Option #2-North Elementary school-A new school located on our property located in north Dickinson which would house about 300 students would cost about \$6 million. The pros for North Elementary were: a new school up north, several students live north of interstate which go to Jefferson and Lincoln, it would be another neighborhood school. The cons of a North Elementary school were: it doesn't help class sizes, it would divide classes between five or six schools, the cost is \$6 million which is expensive and the location is on the northern boundary of the city.

The first two options would have to be funded by bond issues.

Facility Planning Follow up cont.

Option #3-Move grade five students to Berg-It would cost no additional dollars. The pros for moving grade five students to Berg were: it would cost zero dollars, it would create some rooms at the other elementary schools, they would have two grade levels at Berg, teacher collaboration and it would strengthen grade five. The cons for moving grade five students to Berg were: Berg would not have any additional rooms for art, science lab, etc., they may require more specialists FTE's and travel, it wouldn't help equalize K-4 class sizes and there is no parking at Berg.

Option #4-New additions at Jefferson and Lincoln-They would add additions with six new classrooms plus a multipurpose room at both schools which would be used for lunch, etc. The projected cost is about \$1.45 million for each addition. Pros for additions at Jefferson and Lincoln were: it would cost \$2.9 million, it would provide an opportunity to equalize class sizes with three to four sections at each school, we would have some room to grow, it would allow extra classes at Roosevelt and Heart River, and it would help us plan for the future and may be a long term solution. The cons for new additions at Lincoln and Jefferson were: elitism, the cost is in the middle, some people view it as too big, two big elementary schools compared to the other schools.

We could build an addition on Jefferson or Lincoln and wait to see if we need additional space.

Option #5-Sister schools (Grades K-2 and grades 3-5)-The estimated cost for in city transportation is \$54,000 per year. The cost to fund rural transportation is about \$15,000. This would be an ongoing cost. We may have some increase in staff. The pros for sister schools were: you could equalize class sizes in K-2 and 3-5, it would promote teacher collaboration. The cons for sister school were: little parental preference, only two schools to pick from, too many transitions for kids, it would require in city transportation with busing costs, bus drivers are hard to find, we may need to purchase more buses and there is no new space under this proposal.

Option # 6-A combination of new additions and sister schools

Discussion followed. The Board eliminated the super school, North Elementary school and grade five at Berg options. They will continue to study the additions at Jefferson and/or Lincoln, sister schools and a possible hybrid combination of the two options. We may have the potential to use stimulus dollars for an addition. The administration will do some research on what the stimulus dollars can be used for and look at possible financing, etc. They will bring additional information to a future Board meeting. Input was requested. This agenda item was informational only.

Approve 2009-2010 Student Handbooks – Copies of the proposed 2009-2010 Student Handbooks and a summary of the recommended changes for the elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School and Southwest Community High School are posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. Discussion followed. Board members discussed the cell phone policies in the elementary, Hagen and DHS student handbooks. The administration will look at the cell phone policy in the other Class A schools in North Dakota and bring the information to the next school board meeting. Action was requested. Swenson moved to approve, with the exception of the cell phone policy, the 2009-2010 elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School and Southwest Community High School student handbooks, as presented. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Extracurricular Coop Agreement with Bismarck Public Schools in Soccer-This agenda item was added to the agenda. They received a request to approve an extracurricular coop agreement with Bismarck Public Schools in boys' soccer beginning the fall of 2009. Discussion followed. Transportation to Bismarck for practices and games would be provided by the parents. We have about six boys that have expressed an interest in soccer. The administrative recommendation was to approve the application. Action was requested. Swenson moved to approve the extracurricular cooperative agreement with Bismarck Public Schools in boys' soccer beginning the fall of 2009. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy DBGA Professional Leave-First Reading - Policy DBGA Professional Leave was presented for first reading. The administrative recommendation was to approve the revisions for first reading approval. Action was requested. Swenson moved to approve the revisions in policy DBGA Professional Leave for first reading approval, as presented. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REA Joint Powers Agreement -Due to changes in state law, RESP is replacing their current Joint Powers Agreement. The new agreement is posted under Supporting Documents. The new agreement keeps the wording about a per district fee and joining does not make any other financial obligations of the district. The administrative recommendation was to approve the REA joint powers agreement and to budget the equivalent of \$100 per teacher which will be equally split between student and administrative services. Action was requested.

Ross moved to approve the RESP Joint Powers Agreement and to budget the equivalent of \$100 per teacher which will be equally split between student and administrative services. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Meeting Day & Time - Board members were asked to schedule the annual meeting date. Action was requested.

Swenson moved to schedule the annual school board meeting Monday, July 13, 2009, at 5 p.m. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other

At 5:45 p.m., Swenson moved to adjourn. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dean Rummel, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Karen Heidt, Secretary