

## Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools  
Regular Meeting

April 4, 2011; 5:00 p.m.  
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on April 4, 2011, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Mr. Jason Hanson, Ms. Leslie Ross, and Dr. Morton Krieg. Member absent: Dr. Becky Pitkin. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Ron Dockter, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mr. Perry Braunagel, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mr. Calvin Dean, Mrs. Tamara Praus, Mr. Henry Mack, Mrs. Becky Meduna, and Miss Sherry Libis. Others present were: Mrs. Diana Stroud, Mrs. Rosella Perdaems, Mr. Damian Sobolik, Mrs. Jeri Braunagel, Mrs. Andrea Dorval, Mrs. Sandra Schobinger, Mrs. Carla Schaeffer, Mr. James A. Peters, Mr. James Peters, Mrs. Twila Petersen, Mrs. Amy Axtman, Mrs. Sandy Bertelsen, and Mr. Sean Soehren from the Dickinson Press.

President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

There were no requests for Public Participation.

There were no deletions to the agenda. Ms. Ross moved to add the Dickinson High School Girls' Fast-pitch Softball Agreement to the agenda as item #10. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ross moved to approve the revised agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the March 14, 2011, regular meeting; the bills for April 2011; the financial report for April 2011; the pledged assets report for April 2011; the personnel reports; the hire of Christa Hofland, strategist at Jefferson Elementary; Justene Metcalfe, speech language pathologist at Hagen Junior High; Shantel Roll, music teacher at Heart River Elementary; Serena Thompson, strategist at Dickinson High School; Alisha Webster, strategist at Dickinson High School; and Courtney Williams, district-wide .5 instructional reading coach; the student/staff recognitions; the RESP report; and the RACTC report. There were no tuition waiver agreements. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:

- a. **Collaborative Bargaining Team Meetings** – Collaborative Bargaining meetings have been progressing very well. There has been positive discussion with a tentative agreement on two topics.
- b. **Legislative Update** – In the legislature, things have been relatively quiet for the schools. Last week, the House Education Committee discussed a plan that would pay teachers a bonus based on student achievements. The requirement for districts to have a bullying policy is almost finalized. This will require the North Dakota School Boards Association to draft a model policy which would then be reviewed at the district level.
- c. **Upcoming Graduations** – The Adult Learning Center graduation is on May 12 at 7:30 p.m. Southwest Community High School's graduation is on May 25 at 7:00 p.m. The Dickinson High School graduation will be held on May 29 at 3:00 p.m.

**Sixth Grade Departmentalization Reorganization** – Superintendent Sullivan briefly explained over the past few months, the staff at Berg Elementary has been discussing ways to improve the delivery of teaching in the classrooms using flexible groups and to provide additional time for collaboration. He invited Principal Tamara Praus, Mrs. Sandra Schobinger, and Mrs. Carla Schaeffer to address the Board and explain their proposal. Mrs. Praus reported the teachers at Berg have been discussing ways to improve their teaching strategies. The focus of the teachers is to be more in alignment with the professional learning communities and to have more opportunities for intervention time. The teachers propose concentrating and teaching on three core courses instead of four core courses. This would give them the additional time necessary to focus on student learning and collaboration. Teachers at Berg will be teaming together in groups of two. There were examples given of the study hall at Berg and how students can sign up for assistance in subjects. Board members asked questions and asked for clarification regarding recess, how groups would be structured, and how students would be selected for groups, etc. An overview drafted by Principal Praus is available on the school board website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Seventh Grade Mathematics Curriculum** – Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Andrea Dorval, and Mrs. Jeri Braunagel addressed the Board explaining the upcoming changes in the math courses. North Dakota will soon be adopting the math common course standards. This will require an increase in rigor in most grade levels and for some levels there will be a change in expectations on how students gain their knowledge about mathematics. Mrs. Kathrein provided a handout that gave examples of a traditional mathematics program and also the connected mathematics program. Her handout also included information from the DPI website indicating the mathematics content. The mathematics representatives proposed all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students be required to take Connected Math and then as 8<sup>th</sup> graders, be given the option of Algebra I or Connected Math. Mrs. Kathrein has prepared an outline of the proposal which is available on the school board website under Supporting Documents. Board members expressed concerns about how the restructuring would affect students of all abilities and if the groups would be managed by the same teacher in the same room at the same time. Board members had additional questions and comments. Due to the absence of Dr. Pitkin at the Board meeting, this agenda item was tabled for another meeting. Board members were asked to inform Superintendent Sullivan of any other questions or concerns which may be addressed at a future meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Lincoln Elementary and Jefferson Elementary Additions Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep gave a brief update to the Board on the progress of the additions at Lincoln Elementary and Jefferson Elementary Schools. Final walk-through inspections will be done at both locations on Tuesday. At Lincoln, once the City has given their approval, the new addition may be occupied. Principal Quigley and his staff plan to move into the new addition before the end of the school year. He will be moving four sections of kindergarten and four sections of grade one to the new classrooms. Principal Meduna will wait until this fall to occupy the new addition at Jefferson. She will move third grade into the new classrooms. The kitchen work at Jefferson will be completed when school is out this summer. Both locations will have exterior work to complete this summer. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Roughrider Education Services Program (RESP) Update** – The Board Presidents from RESP and Dickinson Public Schools did meet in March and agreed to meet again the end of April. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was requested.

**Board Policy BEC-School Board Evaluation** – At the April 2010 School Board meeting, Board members tabled the continuing discussion of Board Policy BEC-School Board Evaluation and supplementary exhibit BEC. These two documents (BEC and BEC-E) are posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Ms. Ross noted the evaluation form was lengthy and recommends a trimmed version. Ms. Ross will be attending a presentation on Board self-evaluation at the National School Boards Association Conference and will report back to the Board members information collected from this presentation. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was requested.

**Board Policy Revision or Deletion–Second Reading and Final Adoption**–Copies of the proposed revision to policy KAAB-Volunteers in Schools and the proposed deletion of policy DBGD-Inservice are available on the website under Supporting Documents. Policy KAAB has some minor revisions and policy DBGD has been replaced with policy DHBA-Professional Development. The administrative recommendation was to revise or delete the policies as presented. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to accept the second reading and final adoption of the revision to school board policy KAAB-Volunteers in Schools and the deletion of school board policy DBGD-Inservice, as presented. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**DHS Girls' Fast-pitch Softball Agreement** – The girls' fast-pitch softball agreement with the Dickinson Public Schools and Dickinson Diamonds Fast-pitch Softball Club, Inc. was reviewed for approval. The only change from last year's agreement to this year was the change for Dickinson Public Schools to provide transportation for away games. A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding with Dickinson Diamond Fast-pitch Softball is available on the website under Supporting Documents. The administrative recommendation was to approve the one year agreement. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Dickinson Public Schools and Dickinson Diamonds Fast-pitch Softball Club for Dickinson High School girls' fast-pitch softball for the 2010-2011 school year, as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Other** – Superintendent Sullivan welcomed Dickinson Press reporter Mr. Sean Soehren to the Board meeting. No other topics were discussed.

**Adjournment** At 6:05 p.m., Ms. Ross moved to adjourn. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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The meeting was adjourned.

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Kris Fehr, Board President

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Vince Reep, Business Manager

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Twila Petersen, Secretary