

Unapproved Public Hearing Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Public Hearing

August 13, 2012; 6:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a public hearing on August 13, 2012, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice-president Jason Hanson, and Mr. Scott Staudinger. Board members absent were: Ms. Leslie Ross and Dr. Morton Krieg. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mr. Ron Dockter, Dr. Becky Pitkin, Miss Sherry Libis, Mrs. Tamara Praus, Mr. Shawn Leiss and Mr. Henry Mack. Others present were: Mrs. Terri Duttenhefer, Mr. Leo Duttenhefer, Mr. Clarence Hauck, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Miss Katherine Grandstrand from the Dickinson Press.

Call to Order – Board President Fehr called the hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Property Tax Levy - President Fehr called upon Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep to provide the school board and audience with information regarding the property tax levy. Assistant Superintendent Reep explained school districts are required by law to hold a public hearing to discuss the certificate of tax levy that is filed by the school district with the county auditor's office by August 15 of each year. Mr. Reep provided a handout for taxable valuations. He explained if an individual owns a property within the school district and the value of the property stays the same as last year, Dickinson Public Schools is lowering the property tax mill levy by .83 mills. Many properties in the school district are being reassessed by the city or county and therefore the values of properties are increasing. The increase in the property values generates additional funds in taxes while a portion of the taxes funds the school district. The school district requests dollars from the county auditor which is then converted into mills. The school district mill levy will go down about .83 mills.

Mr. Reep provided a second handout showing the comparison of mill levies for the 16 largest schools in North Dakota. When comparing Dickinson Public to other class A schools, Dickinson Public is the second lowest in mills.

Public Participation – Assistant Superintendent Reep asked for questions from Board members and guests at the hearing. A member from the audience inquired what the school district was going to do with the million dollars Dickinson received from the state. Mr. Reep explained out of the million dollars that Dickinson received, zero dollars were received by the Dickinson Public School District. Mr. Reep suggested that question might be provide to the Dickinson City Commissioners. Dickinson Public Schools applied for energy impact funding and received zero dollars. The same member from the audience questioned if the new school that was being built was due to the influx of people. Mr. Reep explained the new school was being paid with funds within the district. In the past three years in the kindergarten through grades five, the district has gained 279 students. Preliminary numbers for the enrollment this fall shows another increase of students. He further explained by the fall of 2013 the school district will have maximized its space for students. Mr. Reep explained that property taxes are not increasing to pay for the new school. The member from the audience inquired what would happen with the new school if the “boom” went “bust” similar to the 1980s. Mr. Reep responded that Heart River Elementary was built during the last oil boom and has been utilized since. Dickinson is a growing community. The new school has been discussed in the past three years; therefore, prior to the recent boom.

Assistant Superintendent Reep and Board members expressed their appreciation to the audience for the comments and questions. Board President Fehr expressed the intent of the Board is to keep mills down. She anticipates the values of homes in the community to increase.

Adjournment – At 6:22 p.m., the public hearing was adjourned.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary