

Unapproved School Board Workshop Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Board Workshop

June 22, 2017; 1:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a workshop on June 22, 2017, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Sarah Ricks, Vice President Brent Seaks, Mrs. Tanya Rude, Mrs. Kim Schwartz, and Mr. David Wilkie. Also present was Superintendent Douglas Sullivan.

Call to Order - Board President Ricks called the workshop to order at 1:00 p.m.

Business Manager Evaluation – President Ricks discussed the template provided by the North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA). Superintendent Sullivan has reviewed the template and checked the items that he recommends be removed from the NDSBA template. Dr. Sullivan and Board members made minor revisions. There was discussion regarding if the Board and superintendent comments should be consolidated into one.

Berg Elementary - Superintendent Sullivan shared a spreadsheet with projections for kindergarten classroom sizes for the next four years based on the live birth averages at St. Joseph's Hospital. Dr. Sullivan explained the proposed sections at the elementary schools. He noted the Board's desire to open Berg as an innovative elementary school and the time constraints placed upon the District. Potentially the School District could need a new elementary school in 5-7 years, even with the opening of Berg as an elementary school. Dr. Sullivan noted the professional development, education, and recruitment requirements that would be attached to an innovative school. President Ricks inquired what would be the minimum number of students required to open Berg as an innovative school and maintain it. There was discussion regarding inward and outward migration. Dr. Sullivan explained the inward and outward migration numbers would not be available until this fall. Mr. Seaks suggested breaking down the pros and cons. There was a brainstorming session with topics discussed including hiring a principal for Berg, attendance areas, resources, funding, mill levies, profile of a graduate, team teaching, vision statement, mission statement, culture, input from Cabinet members, community input, and prioritizing needs assessment. Dr. Sullivan suggested asking Cabinet members if there was a bare piece of ground and a new elementary school was placed on it, what would the education look like in that school. That feedback would then be shared with the Board members.

President Ricks declared a recess at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:16 p.m.

Superintendent Evaluation - President Ricks asked Board members if they had an opportunity to review the evaluation. Mr. Seaks asked questions regarding the scoring rubric and the meaning of effective, highly effective, etc. There was discussion regarding questions that could have a "yes" or a "no" response instead of ranking 1-4. There is a potential for unintentional low scoring if the rankings are not accurately represented. President Ricks suggested an asterisk beside the questions that should be answered as a yes=4 and a no=1. President Ricks inquired if Board members had any revisions to the questions. There were no recommended changes. There was lengthy discussion regarding potential surveys to be distributed beginning January 2018.

Superintendent Goals – Dr. Sullivan listed some potential topics that he would consider as his goals. Some of those topics included Berg reopening, revisiting the delivery of the education at DHS, profile of a graduate, site for an elementary school, the District’s strategic plan, embedded technology for K-5, and preparing for the AdvancED visitation in 2018. As part of his evaluation, Dr. Sullivan is required to share information with the Board regarding “big picture items”. He felt the School District’s big picture item would be the District facing stagnant funding from the state level and funding possibly going backwards from the federal government in a climate where enrollment is increasing and the District does not have a lot of bonding capacity. He presented some scenarios the District could be facing in the next 3-5 years. There was lengthy discussion regarding the superintendent’s goals and how updates may be reported to the Board.

Adjournment – President Ricks declared the workshop adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Sarah Ricks, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary