

Unapproved School Board Workshop Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Board Workshop

August 1, 2017; 3:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a workshop on May 16, 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. Administrators present were Superintendent Douglas Sullivan and Mrs. Dorothy Martinson. Also present was Mr. Patrick Bernadeau from The Dickinson Press and Mrs. Twila Petersen.

Call to Order - Board President Ricks called the workshop to order at 3:00 p.m. She welcomed Mr. Patrick Bernadeau from The Dickinson Press to the workshop.

Berg Building – Director of Student Services Dorothy Martinson addressed the Board to present information regarding attendance areas. Mrs. Martinson explained the benefits to the students receiving Title I services in the District. The District Title I allocation is determined by the census count, foster count, and free and reduced lunch count. The Title I Look-a-Like services are provided at Jefferson and Lincoln Elementary schools since they are not eligible for Title I funds. There could be a change in the funding with the Every Student Succeeds Act. Mrs. Martinson explained Dickinson Public School District has been unique in how the attendance areas are addressed. The large school districts have a targeting process. Buildings are eligible or ineligible for Title I services based on attendance areas.

Mrs. Martinson contacted Ms. Laurie Matzke from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI) regarding attendance areas. There are concerns with the District letting students attend wherever they wish. She explained the consequences of not knowing if a school would be a Title I prior to the start of school which would impact when services could begin.

There was a discussion regarding placement of students, placement of transfer requests due to parents moving, data received by the principal prior to the end of the school year, possibly placing rural students at Berg, identifying students eligible for services, and building allocations. There is a potential impact to the private schools where Title I is provided. Board members thanked Mrs. Martinson for sharing information.

President Ricks suggested the Board members discuss a timeline. Superintendent Sullivan explained the Board is not required to open Berg as a K-5 building. Another alternative is to open Berg as a K-2 school with rural placement and roll forward to transform into a K-5 over the course of possibly four years. This would provide the District time to hire a full-time principal.

Senate Bill 2186 – Superintendent Sullivan distributed a handout with information regarding Senate Bill 2186. This bill will increase educational opportunities. A school or school district may apply for a waiver to improve the delivery of education, improve the administration of education, increase education opportunities for students, or improve the academic success of students. There would be reporting requirements that would need to go through DPI.

Dr. Sullivan explained how the Leader-in-Me skills were introduced in one of the elementary schools. This program is not District funded. It was presented at the administrative level with support from the faculty and parents. Superintendent Sullivan suggested the Board consider fulfilling its role at a macro level and express its support and enthusiasm for SB 2186 and let the District's leadership at the

Senate Bill 2186 (cont.)

building level present innovative programs suggested by the administration, faculty, and parents. Board members were enthusiastic about this opportunity to be innovative. Dr. Sullivan said he will be visiting with the Cabinet members regarding SB 2186 and suggested putting this topic on the August 14 Board meeting agenda. He suggested the Board members review the education summit videos. SB 2186 provides flexibility to the Districts at a local level and an opportunity for school districts to try different things.

There was discussion regarding having a consultant instead of a principal at Berg, for the present time. Board members shared they wished to have a vision created using a consultant and feedback from the community and inquired how those goals would be carried out by the new principal. Mrs. Schwartz inquired once the Cabinet has started the conversation, could a Board member come to the next Cabinet meeting and share the Board's interest and support for innovative programs. Superintendent Sullivan felt the August 14 Board meeting would be a more ideal setting.

President Ricks requested RSP and Associates draw a map with an attendance area for Berg. There was discussion regarding site improvements.

Adjournment – At 4:24 p.m., President Ricks declared the workshop adjourned.

Sarah Ricks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary