

Dickinson Public Schools

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2018; 5:00 p.m.

Central Administration Offices Board Room

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on October 9, 2018, at the Central Administration Offices. Board members present: President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Board Member Michelle Orton, Board Member Jason Rodakowski, and Board Member David Wilkie. Others present were: Superintendent Shon Hocker, Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris, Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein, Director of Student Services Dorothy Martinson, Business Manager Kent Anderson, Dickinson High School Principal Kevin Hoherz, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Jay Hepperle, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Tad Schye, Southwest Community High School Principal Kristy Goodall, Dickinson Middle School Principal Marcus Lewton, Dickinson Middle School Technology Instructor Todd Selle, Prairie Rose Elementary Principal Nicole Weiler, The Dickinson Press Reporter Kayla Henson, JE Dunn Construction Project Senior Manager Brian Stark, JE Dunn Operations Coordinator Marc Mellmer, and School Board Secretary Twila Petersen.

Call to Order - Board President Seaks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Participation – There were no requests for public participation.

Additional Agenda Items/Removal of Items from the Consent Agenda – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda nor the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Wilkie moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the September 10 regular school board meeting, the minutes from the September 10 budget public input hearing; the bills for September 2018; the financial reports for September 30, 2018; the pledged assets report for September 30, 2018; the personnel changes reports; the RACTC director's report; a tuition waiver request for a child of Deana Birdsall from Dickinson Public to South Heart Public and a tuition waiver for a child of Heather Kruz from Dickinson Public to South Heart Public; and the student/faculty/staff recognitions; as presented. Mrs. Schwartz seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Hocker reported on the following topics which did not require board action.

Dr. Hocker reported a Mental Health Task Force had been created and had its first meeting. There are 27 active members participating in this group with homework assignments and research to bring to the next meeting on October 30. The first meeting was very good with generic first-step ideas regarding the mental health challenges of some students.

Ms. Kayla Henson, reporter with The Dickinson Press, was introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Dr. Hocker reminded the board members the District was hosting a public tour and open forum at Dickinson High School on Tuesday, October 16. The public tour would be from 6:15-7:00 with the input forum beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Business Topics

Principal Reports – Prairie Rose Elementary Principal Nicole Weiler and Dickinson Middle School Principal Marcus Lewton addressed the Board and provided information regarding the events, activities, and achievements at these schools.

Ms. Weiler shared a PowerPoint presentation for the Board. She explained the students at Prairie Rose Elementary have selected a mascot for the school, the Prairie Rose Panthers. Prairie Rose Elementary is a Leader in Me school with a goal of working towards the Lighthouse Leadership status. There will be a formal Lighthouse Readiness review in May. Every Friday, there is time built in the schedule for the Leader in Me lessons. Each of the students at Prairie Rose is participating in a reading unit with the goal of showing some type of growth by each student. Some teachers have been selected to receive a scholarship for a Leader in Me training in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ms. Weiler explained the Prairie Rose Elementary students are broken up into teams within the building. She gave an example of one team, Team Isibindi, which is planning a Pennies for Patients fundraiser. Another team, Team Travail, is working on a school-wide recycling campaign.

The school staff are attempting to provide one or more positive behavior trackings to every negative behavior tracking. Faculty are attempting to help the students learn to self-regulate their voices. One example of this is in the cafeteria when the noise is not buffered during lunchtime due to the high ceilings in the cafeteria.

Dr. Lewton was joined by Dickinson Middle School Technology Instructor Todd Selle and they addressed the Board. Dr. Lewton explained students have opportunities at the end of the day during enrichment time where specific skills or behaviors may be taught. Some segments of time on Fridays may be utilized as restorative justice. Additionally, multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) are provided to support students and help them catch up with their peers. All the support ties into the beliefs identified by the school improvement team and to prepare students for the future.

Mr. Selle is part of a team of teachers in the STEM program. He brought samples of work the students are doing at different STEM modules. The STEM teachers try to encompass math into every aspect. Students are encouraged to be creative and no project should be identical. MR. Selle brought examples of different commercial, industrial, and computer programming projects that he shared with the Board. Examples included a dragster car, engineering tower, glider, laser engraved surface, and products created using the CNC lathe and milling machines.

Board members thanked Ms. Weiler, Dr. Lewton, and Mr. Selle for providing the interesting information regarding the buildings. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Dickinson High School Update – Dickinson High School Principal Kevin Hoherz addressed the Board. He provided a packet of material for the Board members. Mr. Hoherz referenced the September 17 and 18th workshops and the critical information collected from teachers regarding

Dickinson High School Update (cont.)

the Dickinson High School expansion project. The workshop discussion included trends for 21st century students and identifying project goals. Options were discussed during the workshop to address the trend of increasing enrollment. The three options included: an extensive remodel of the existing facility, demolition of the pods with remodel with a possible addition to the facility, with the third option of building a new high school. Pricing for the options was shared and planning for different student capacities was also reviewed at the workshop. Capacity of the school could be 1,500 students to 2,000 students. Mr. Hoherz explained there were productive meetings that included staff members, students, and community members. Community members are local individuals from local businesses who had a great opportunity to provide input in the future of Dickinson High School.

Another workshop is scheduled for the week of October 15 where additional community members will be included. On Tuesday, October 16, there will be a public tour of the Dickinson High School facility at 6:15 p.m. with a public input meeting at 7:00.

A tour of the new high school in Alexandria, Minnesota is planned for the high school focus group on October 25 and 26th. The Alexandria Area High School serves approximately 1,200 students.

Board members thanked Mr. Hoherz for the updated information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Berg Elementary School Update – Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris addressed the Board. He noted the Berg Elementary building is moving quickly towards completion. Towards the end of the month, the marker boards will be installed in the classrooms and hallways. A public open house has been tentatively scheduled for Monday evening, November 5. There will still be a few minor items to be completed after the open house. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Student Mobility Report – Assistant Superintendent Harris explained a copy of the inward and outward migration reports are posted on the website. Mr. Harris addressed the student enrollment in the District and explained from spring 2018 to fall 2018, the enrollment was up 144 students. There were 192 graduating seniors last May and 366 kindergarten students this fall. Therefore, there are 174 more kindergarten students than outgoing seniors. Mr. Harris said this was a great scenario where the enrollment is larger at the lower grades and the District can prepare as the students move up in grades and the buildings can prepare for growth and sustainability.

Mr. Harris referenced the number of new students in the District and explained there were 556 new students from September 2017 to September 2018. These new students had to transition into the system and become acclimated and assigned to classes/classrooms. President Seaks thanked Mr. Harris for the data he presented. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

School Board Workshop - There was a Board workshop following the Board meeting. Topics discussed in the workshop included the Dickinson High School expansion and the superintendent's evaluation tool. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Superintendent’s Formative Evaluation – Board President Seaks requested Board members complete their portion of the evaluation of the superintendent online prior to Friday, November 3. He added there would be a discussion regarding this topic at tonight’s Board workshop. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Budget Input and Development Committee Update – The Budget Input and Development Committee met on October 3. Board representatives on the committee are President Brent Seaks and Board Member Jason Rodakowski. The minutes are posted on the website under the District-wide Committee Meeting Minutes link. President Seaks explained the primary discussion at the recent budget meeting were the topics of the general budget fund, possibly hiring a Construction Management at Risk for the high school project, and a potential bond election. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Amended Budget and Tax Levy – The Budget Input and Development Committee recommended approval of an Amended Budget and Certificate of Levy to be filed with the Stark County Auditor by October 10, 2018. Posted under Supporting Documents is the revised Certificate of Levy. Mr. Rodakowski moved to authorize the administration to file the amended 2018-2019 fiscal year general fund budgeted expenditures of \$47,048,863 and amended Certificate of Levy for \$17,337,580. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Wilkie, Rodakowski, Orton, Schwartz, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously.

Designate Foster Care Liaison –The Department of Public Instruction recommends Dickinson Public Schools designate a foster care liaison. Administrative recommendation was to designate Mrs. Stacy Kilwein, Coordinator for Partners in Parenting, as the District’s Foster Care Liaison. Action was requested. Mrs. Orton moved to designate Stacy Kilwein as the Foster Care Liaison for the Dickinson Public Schools for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Reschedule November 2018 Board Meeting and Workshop – Superintendent Hocker, several administrators, and a Board member have made plans to attend a training the second week of November. Administrative recommendation was to move the November 13 Board meeting and workshop to Monday, November 19. Mrs. Schwartz moved to reschedule the November school Board meeting and workshop to Monday, November 19 at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Administration Offices in the Board room. Mrs. Orton seconded the motion. Discussion: President Seaks inquired if the proposed date would fit in each of the Board member’s schedules. No conflicts were noted. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Special School Board Meeting – The AdvancED Engagement Review Team is requesting an opportunity to interview the school board members during the review November 4-7. This may be as a group and/or individual interviews held onsite or via telephone conversations. President Seaks noted only two members of the Board would be meeting with the accreditation team in person and therefore there would not be a quorum. President Seaks declared this topic removed from agenda. There were no objections from the Board members.

2018 North Dakota School Boards Association Convention Delegates - President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Mrs. Michelle Orton, Mr. David Wilkie, and Mr. Jason Rodakowski will be attending the annual North Dakota School Boards Association convention. Copies of the proposed agendas for the convention and law seminar are available on the North Dakota School Boards Association website. Action was requested to designate four delegates to the general assembly. Mrs. Schwartz moved that Board Members Jason Rodakowski, David Wilkie, Michelle Orton, and Kim Schwartz be appointed delegates from Dickinson Public Schools and Board Member Brent Seaks be appointed as alternate delegate for the North Dakota School Boards Association Convention. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Schwartz, Wilkie, Rodakowski, Orton, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the 2018 NDSBA Governmental Affairs Committee Resolution Report is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board website.

School Board Policy Revision, First Reading – Available on the website under Supporting Documents are the recommended revisions to policy ABBA-Dickinson Public School District’s Policy for Tobacco Use. Superintendent Hocker addressed the Board and explained the proposed changes were made by the North Dakota Department of Health in agreement with the North Dakota School Boards Association regarding nicotine patches. The recommended revisions are noted in red text. Action was requested. Mrs. Schwartz moved to approve for first reading revised policy ABBA-Dickinson Public School District’s Policy for Tobacco Use, as presented. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Rodakowski, Wilkie, Orton, Schwartz, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – There were no other items presented.

Adjournment – At 5:50 p.m., President Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.

Brent Seaks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary