

# The Morning After



---

## Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, January 15, 2013

---

- 1) **Call to Order** – President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** - The Board approved the revised agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports; the personnel reports which includes the new hire of Brent Jung, district-wide English Language Learner instructor, and the resignation of Sarah Chapman, grade three instructor at Jefferson, effective May 24, 2013 (four years of service); a student/staff recognition; a tuition waiver agreement for a child of Justin Willis from Dickinson to Richardton-Taylor, a tuition waiver agreement for a child of Brandi Erie from Dickinson to Richardton-Taylor, and a tuition waiver agreement for a child of Brenda Kostelecky from South Heart to Dickinson; the RACTC report; and the RESP report.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
  - a. **AdvancED Survey** – The school district did not receive sufficient parental participation on its initial survey request and therefore, to meet the accreditation review requirements, the survey window has reopened and will be available until February 1.
  - b. **Employee Assistant Program (EAP) Services** – Sanford Health has notified the school district that effective February 28, 2013, Sanford will no longer provide EAP services. Administrators will evaluate some alternatives. President Fehr inquired if this would affect any employees who are currently receiving the services. Mr. Reep explained this information is not available to the employer. He explained there are a couple of options the District is reviewing.
  - c. **Stark County Infrastructure Grant** – Superintendent Sullivan commended Assistant Superintendent Reep on securing a grant from Stark County in the amount of \$22,968 to help defray the cost to purchase a bus.
  - d. **Negotiations Seminar** – There will be a negotiations seminar sponsored by NDSBA in Bismarck during February 7-9.
  - e. **Southwest Night with the Legislators** - This event will be held at the Bismarck Ramkota on Monday, January 28.
  - f. **Collaborative Bargaining Meeting** - The next Collaborative Bargaining Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, January 25.
  - g. **Heart River Principal Interviews** – The interviews are scheduled for Friday, January 18.
  - h. **Budget Committee** – A topic for discussion will be school district facilities. Administrators may consider looking into a long range facility planner and seek outside assistance. If a bond election was recommended, the planner would assist with that process.
- 4) **School Board Vacancy** – Mr. Scott Staudinger has submitted his resignation from the Dickinson Public Schools Board. Available on the website under Supporting Documents are a policy and supplementary regulation regarding the procedure to fill the vacancy. Letters of interest for an interim board member are being accepted by Business Manager Reep until the next board meeting (February 11, 2013). The position will be announced in the school newsletter and also

advertised. Board members will compile a list of suggested responsibilities to be shared with interested applicants. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was requested.

- 5) **Prairie Rose Elementary School Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep addressed the Board stating progress on the construction is on schedule if not a bit ahead of schedule. Last week there was a tour provided to President Fehr and Ms. Ross of the new school. Both board members thanked Mr. Reep for the tour and shared their enthusiasm for the progress made on the construction, the features, and overall atmosphere. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
  
- 6) **RESP Update**- RESP Director Amy Axtman addressed the Board. Available on the website under Supporting Documents is a summary report provided by Mrs. Axtman. President Fehr noted she is the DPS representative on the RESP Board. Mrs. Axtman thanked the Board members for the invitation to share information. Two main areas that Mrs. Axtman addressed were the relationship between RESP and DPS and also finances. Mrs. Axtman explained DPS has been involved with RESP since its inception. This involvement is appreciated by RESP. There are currently 19 school districts and one parochial school that are members. Mrs. Axtman explained the Succeed 2020 grant, the PEP grant and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant. RESP services provide districts with professional development, data systems, school improvement, technology support, and curriculum enrichment. Many of the services are shared amongst the participants. Funding through the Succeed 2020 grant will provide to DPS \$51,950 towards a 1.5 instructional strategist. DPS has been advertising for this position since August 2012. The DPS students generate \$43,461 in state student payment aid revenue to RESP. RESP receives annually approximately \$92,000 total in state student payments. Mr. Reep reported the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant is in its fifth and final year. President Fehr thanked Mrs. Axtman for attending and reporting at the meeting. Mrs. Axtman was appreciative of the opportunity. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
  
- 7) **DHS Language Arts Curriculum** – The DHS Language Arts Department has done extensive work on the language arts curriculum. The focus was how to increase the writing skills of the students and therefore better prepare students for the state assessment and ACT tests administered to students in their junior year. The Language Arts Curriculum Review Committee felt writing was a concern at DPS and therefore provided a proposal to the Board. The proposal is available on the website under Supporting Documents. Mrs. Cynthia Koppinger from the DHS Language Arts Department and Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein addressed the Board. Mrs. Koppinger thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the proposal. The major change in the proposal would be at the sophomore level where literature in addition to the writing component would be part of the English 10-A and English 10-B courses. The current speech class taught in the sophomore year would be moved to the junior year. Advantages of moving the speech class to the junior year may help students be better prepared as they will be more mature. The current course structure could have students take a literature class in their first semester of their freshman year and then not take the final literature class until their senior year. This is a detriment to the students and a possible reflection on their assessment scoring. Ms. Ross inquired if there are other districts who have adopted this schedule of English courses. Mrs. Koppinger noted that data is hard to find. It is varied throughout the country. Ms. Ross also asked how the change will be analyzed in the future. Mrs. Koppinger provided a handout demonstrating the steps for analyzing student progress. She noted the department is collecting “anchor papers” and using a rubric, scoring the paper on its expected achievement. Mrs. Koppinger discussed the WriteSource textbooks that the department is learning how to use to

evaluate papers. This new online source provides timely feedback. The ACT writing test Smart goals are on a timeline to 2016. The ACT training mentioned by RESP would be something of interest to the Language Arts English Department. The RESP training would assist the department in analyzing the ACT scores. President Fehr asked how this change would affect the Speech Club. Mrs. Koppinger responded that Speech Club is a separate entity. President Fehr inquired why the change in the program now. Mrs. Kathrein responded that the department has discussed at great length the proposal. The curriculum review may have been important in initiating the change. President Fehr asked about the ACT test with the new writing component, if there would need to be a change in staffing, and how will the district know if this change has been effective. Mrs. Koppinger responded last year's writing scores could be a benchmark for future scores, there is no required change in staffing with the proposal, and she said the ACT scores and the state assessment will reflect if the new course proposal has been effective. The Board approved the proposal from the DHS Language Arts department to change the English class sequence and courses required for graduation. The change will begin during the 2013-2014 school year. President Fehr thanked Mrs. Koppinger and Mrs. Kathrein for presenting material and for the time committed by the department to review the program and draft the proposal.

- 8) **Girls' Fast-pitch Softball Cooperative Agreement** – The agreement with the Dickinson Diamonds Fast-pitch Softball (DDFS) is due for renewal. DDFS requested to enter into a one year agreement. This would be the fifth and final year of the agreement. The Memorandum of Understanding is posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Activities Director Guy Fridley addressed the Board explaining the only change to the agreement was the school year. Mr. Fridley noted he has made it aware to the DDFS that this is the final year. There will be ongoing discussions as an agreement for full control of the program is established before the 2014 season. The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between DPS and DDFS at DHS for the 2012-2013 school year.
- 9) **Destruction of Old School Records** – The Board authorized the business manager to destroy the records presented (with one revision) in accordance with the North Dakota Century Code by shredding and/or depositing them in the Dickinson city landfill.
- 10) **Bid for School Bus** – The Board accepted the low bid submitted by Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc. to purchase the 2014 International route bus for \$82,381. This new route bus will be used by Harlow's for its newest route that was added. It is a stock bus that can hold 71 passengers. Mr. Hanson inquired how long the buses last. Mr. Reep explained it is based on mileage and year. Some buses may run up to 250,000 miles.
- 11) **Early Resignation Incentive Application** – The Board approved the early resignation incentive application for Sarah Chapman, grade three instructor at Jefferson Elementary, with an effective date of May 24, 2013. Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the deadline for certified staff to turn in their application is March 1. The deadline for classified staff to turn in their application is April 1.
- 12) **Open Enrollment Applications** - The Board approved a request for the three children of Paula D'Amico, a child of Mindy Wood, a child of Karen Hale, and two children of Michelle Renner to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District under the open enrollment policy. Superintendent Sullivan explained the district is continuing to enroll families that reside in the district and is also receiving applications for families living outside the school district and wishing their children to attend DPS. The classroom sizes in grades K-6 (with the exception of

grade 4) are at or above the recommended classroom sizes. Superintendent Sullivan expressed his concern with the enrollment numbers and the possibility of having some very large classroom sizes in grades K-6 if the district continues enrolling students living within the district and open enrolling those outside the district. Superintendent Sullivan may advise the Board to deny future open enrollment applications with limited exceptions.

- 13) **Board Policy Addition – First Reading** - The Board approved for first reading the addition of policy FAAD-Tuition Agreements. This policy is available on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 14) **Board Regulation Additions or Revisions – First Reading and Final Adoption** – The Board approved for first reading and final adoption school board regulations KAAD-BR Distribution and Posting of Noncurricular Material in School Regulation, FCB-BR Supervision of Students, and FIB-BR Criteria for Participation in Non-school Sponsored Contests and Competitions. These regulations are posted on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 15) **Other** – There were no other topics for discussion.
- 16) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.