

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

May 12, 2014; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on April 14, 2014, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice President Jason Hanson, Mrs. Tanya Rude, Dr. Morton Krieg, and Ms. Leslie Ross. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Ron Dockter, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Dr. Becky Pitkin, Mr. Jay Hepperle, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Ms. Tamara Praus, Mr. Calvin Dean, and Mrs. Melanie Kathrein. Others present were: Ms. Lee Mehrer, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Ms. Nadya Faulx from the Dickinson Press.

Call to Order – Board President Fehr 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 – Ms. Ross moved to remove the minutes from the April 28, 2014, school board meeting from the consent agenda. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Discussion: Ms. Ross noted that the minutes reflect a bond election on Monday, October 6. It is the intentions of the Board not to have an election on a Monday. She suggested an additional motion to amend the minutes. The motion carried unanimously. The minutes from the April 28, 2014, school board meeting were removed from the consent agenda for consideration by itself.

Consent Agenda - Mrs. Rude moved to approve the agenda including the revised consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the April 14 regular board meeting; the bills for May 2014; the financial reports for May 2014; the pledged assets report for May 2014; the personnel reports; the student/staff recognitions; and the RACTC report; as presented. There were no tuition waiver requests. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

April 28, 2014, Board Meeting Minutes - Ms. Ross moved to amend the minutes from the April 28, 2014, school board meeting to state the bond election for the new middle school building will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2014. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Rude moved to approve the amended minutes of the April 28, 2014, school board meeting. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following topics.

- a. **Educator of the Year** – Each year the Chamber of Commerce selects Educators of the Year from Dickinson Public Schools (DPS), Dickinson Catholic Schools and Dickinson State University. Last week it was announced the DPS Educator of the Year is Ms. Sherry Libis, Principal at Prairie Rose Elementary. Board members congratulated Ms. Libis for her achievements and for being selected.
- b. **New District Logo** – The School Improvement Leadership Team recommended the District consider replacing the logo which is a dated picture of an apple with a Macintosh computer. A committee was formed to research a new logo and Dr. Sullivan distributed copies of the new logo selected by the committee.

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

- c. **Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grants** – Roosevelt Elementary and Heart River Elementary were recently awarded a grant for fresh fruits and vegetables. President Fehr thanked and congratulated Principal Mack and Principal Cook for applying and receiving the grants.
- d. **Upcoming Graduations** – Superintendent Sullivan reminded board members Southwest Community High School's graduation is on Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. and Dickinson High School's graduation is on Sunday, May 25 at 1:00 p.m. President Fehr encouraged all board members to attend these graduations.

Business Topics

Prairie Rose Elementary Expansion – At the April school board meeting, the school board approved a recommendation from the DLR Group to add classrooms to Prairie Rose Elementary. This expansion would accommodate six classrooms in grades K-5 in the building. The administration has met with the architect on the project, Ms. Jan Prchal of Hulsing and Associates, to discuss the possibility of adding six classrooms to Prairie Rose Elementary. The purpose of the addition would be to prevent overcrowding in the elementary classrooms and further position the school district to address the increasing enrollment in grades K-5. A proposed timeline for the project has been posted on the website under supporting documents. Superintendent Sullivan addressed the board noting Prairie Rose Elementary has been open less than a year and was built with the intent of having expansion capacity. Ms. Prchal indicated the District could move forward with the expansion to a 4-section school. The expansion could be ready for occupancy as early as fall of 2015. He added there could potentially be a bid opening on July 29, 2014, with contracts signed in August and construction to begin in August. Mrs. Rude inquired how disruptive this would be to have construction going on while school is in session. Dr. Sullivan responded with the building construction going on it will be disruptive but there will be conversations, similar as in the past, requiring the contractors to keep the noise to a minimum during the day. The safety of the students will also be stressed to the contractors and there will be areas that will be fenced off from student access. Mr. Reep added that the expansion will be in the NW wing which is away from grades K-3. President Fehr asked what the anticipated cost would be for the expansion. Superintendent Sullivan responded the estimated rough cost, without knowing the plans, would be \$2.3-\$2.5 million. Dr. Krieg asked for clarification, the expansion would not be part of the bond referendum. Dr. Sullivan agreed it would not. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

School Bond Election Update – At the April school board meeting the board authorized the administration to proceed with preparations for a bond election to construct a middle school. During the discussion the school board deliberated the dollar amount for the project and instructed the administration to provide additional information at the May board meeting. Last month the price for the project was estimated at \$65 million. The administration has conducted multiple discussions and emails with school bond consultants. Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the board. On Monday, May 6 community members met and started forming a group to head up a process for a successful bond election. Mr. Reep reported the administrators are working with the Stark County Auditor to conduct the bond election and to also work on bonding capacity. Administrators have contacted the bond counsel for guidance. The estimated amount from the DLR Group for the bond capacity is \$65 million. Once there is voter approval for the request then the District can bond up to that amount. If the bonding capacity is lower than estimated the District would make revisions for reductions. If bids came in lower than anticipated then the District would sell bonds for the bid amount. Mr. Reep wanted the board and the public to know that the \$65 million is based on the DLR

School Bond Election Update (cont.)

Groups estimated amount. The DLR Group has included the land acquisition as part of the \$65 million. There are two possible sites for the middle school; one site would be at no cost to the District and one site would require legislative action. Mrs. Rude inquired if the Dunn County Auditor had been contacted to also hold the bond election there. Mr. Reep responded those voting from Dunn County would be requested to vote at the nearest polling site which could be Prairie Rose Elementary. President Fehr clarified that she understood the District would be asking for \$65 million but if a lesser amount is needed then the District would ask for the lesser amount. This is in alignment with continuing the School District's tradition of asking for what is needed and not more. Mr. Reep responded the DLR Group indicated in its presentation that the District has over \$200 million in needs but the immediate need is a new middle school. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to establish the amount of the bond election scheduled on October 7, 2014, for construction of a new middle school, at \$65 million. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Discussion: President Fehr said even though the amount is set the exact amount will not be known until later. Mr. Reep concurred. A roll call vote was taken: Hanson-aye, Krieg-aye, Rude-aye, Ross-aye, Fehr-aye. The motion carried.

2014-2015 Student Handbooks - A copy of the 2014-2015 student handbooks and a summary of the recommended changes for the elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School, and Southwest Community High School have been posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. Administrative recommendation was to approve the student handbooks. Action was requested. Board members noted some typos in some of the handbooks that will be corrected before going to print. Mrs. Rude recommended adding on page seven of the elementary handbook the Wellness Committee. President Fehr requested clarification regarding the Standards Recovery Program noted in the Hagen Junior High handbook. Hagen Principal Marcus Lewton addressed the board and explained there are concerns with student attendance and this program would help students get caught up before transitioning back into some classes. President Fehr requested the high school and junior high handbooks recognize exceptions to the head gear policy, such as religious reasons. Those changes will be incorporated before the handbooks go to the printers. Area codes will also be used as a prefix for telephone numbers listed in the handbooks. Mrs. Rude moved to approve the 2014-2015 elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School, and Southwest Community High School student handbooks, as corrected. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Meeting Date and Time - Ms. Ross moved to schedule the annual school board meeting for Monday, July 14, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. Aye votes: Ross, Fehr, Hanson, and Krieg. Nay vote: Rude. The motion carried.

Board Policy Revision-First Reading - Policy ACBD School Medication Program was revised in August 2013 allowing schools to administer medication to students following guidelines within the policy. Subsequently, Mrs. Sheila Freed, Public Health Nurse from Southwest District Health Unit, provided training last fall to identified administrators, teachers and staff. Mrs. Freed has also been consulted throughout the school year to assist in this process and provide guidance. Her advice was requested regarding any suggested revisions to the policy. Available on the website is a copy of the revised policy. Mrs. Rude inquired what the protocol would be when there are problems with administering medication. Dr. Sullivan responded there were some challenges with the policy and the complexity of the supplemental forms to the policy that needed to be completed by the parents. The principals and secretaries did a good job in explaining the documents and receiving completed forms from parents. Mrs. Freed from Southwest District Health Unit has been great to work with and work

Board Policy Revision–First Reading (cont.)

through the documents. Mrs. Rude referred to the District’s Wellness Committee and its request to have a health care plan for students with allergies provided by the provider. Mrs. Rude added there is no health care plan in the policy. Superintendent Sullivan noted there are many supplemental documents, such as an administrative regulation and exhibits, which refer to a health care plan. President Fehr asked if there will be continuous training for the employees. Dr. Sullivan responded there will be refresher training in the fall for employees. Action was requested to adopt the policy. Mrs. Rude moved to accept the first reading approval of the revision of board policy ACBD School Medication Program, as presented. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revisions–Second Reading and Final Adoption – Policy DEAA-Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace and Policy FFA-Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use/Abuse have minor revisions recommended by the North Dakota School Board Association (NDSBA). Policy FFI-Student Use of Electronic Devices currently prohibits the use of personal communication devices. The revised policy offers more flexibility for students with restrictions in areas of expected privacy. The policy does provide the building principals with discretion. Available on the website under Supporting Documents are copies of the revised policies with changes noted in red text. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to accept the second reading and final adoption for revised school board policies DEAA-Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace, FFA-Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use/Abuse, and policy FFI-Student Use of Electronic Devices. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – There were no other topics for discussion.

Adjournment – At 5:43 p.m. Ms. Ross moved to adjourn. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. At 5:43 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary