

Dickinson Public Schools
Unapproved Special School Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2018, 2018; 8:30 a.m.
Central Administration Office Board Room

The Dickinson Public School Board held a special meeting on April 20, 2018, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Board Member Tanya Rude, Board Member David Wilkie, and Board Member Jason Rodakowski. Others present were: Dickinson High School Principal Ron Dockter, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Jay Hepperle, Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein, Lincoln Elementary Principal Tammy Peterson, Director of Student Services Dorothy Martinson, School Board Secretary Twila Petersen, Dr. Shon Hocker, Mr. Matthew Cheeseman, Reporter Steve Kirch with KX News, Reporter Iain Woessner from The Dickinson Press, Mrs. Carla Hocker, Mr. Jayden Hocker, and Ms. Fern Pokorny,

Call to Order - Board President Seaks called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Participation - There were no requests for public participation.

Interview Mr. Matthew Cheeseman for the Superintendent of Schools Position – Mr. Matthew Cheeseman, finalist for the position of Superintendent of Schools, was interviewed by the School Board.

At 9:10 a.m., President Seaks declared a recess. At 9:54 a.m., the meeting reconvened.

Interview Dr. Shon Hocker for the Superintendent of Schools Position – Dr. Shon Hocker, finalist for the position of Superintendent of Schools, was interviewed by the School Board.

At 10:23 a.m., President Seaks declared a recess. At 10:32 a.m., the meeting reconvened.

Review of Impression Forms from Interview Groups – There were meetings held on Thursday, April 19 for Cabinet members, Dickinson Public Schools employees, and the public to meet and ask questions from the two finalists that were interviewed. After these meetings, participants were encouraged to provide input through impression forms. President Seaks explained the Board members had an opportunity to review all the impression forms last night and this morning. When he reviewed the impression forms, he typed up a summary of the comments and distributed that summary to the Board members. Mrs. Rude commented that she was impressed with the amount of feedback and the amount of information written down on the forms. She expressed her gratitude to the Cabinet members, teachers, staff, and public that attended the sessions and provided the valuable input. Board members concurred with Mrs. Rude that the information was valuable and thanked all who participated.

President Seaks explained that the finalists interviewed had commonalities. They both were personable and honest and shined through their caring of students, teachers, and staff. Additionally, the finalists were community minded and family oriented and shared their successes within the Districts they currently serve.

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Discussion of Superintendent Selection – Mrs. Rude stated that a decision on the selection of the next superintendent will not be an easy decision to make. Each Board member provided their input regarding the two interviewed. After further discussion, Mrs. Rude moved to select Dr. Shon Hocker as the next Superintendent of Schools for Dickinson Public Schools. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Rude, Rodakowski, Wilkie, Schwartz, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously.

Possible Discussion of Contract Negotiations and Strategy (Executive Session Anticipated)

– President Seaks noted the next item on the agenda was Discussion of Contract Negotiations and Strategy. He added this topic may be discussed in an executive session. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code §44-04-19.1 subsection 9. President Seaks noted a motion would be in order to discuss the next topic in executive session rather than in an open meeting. As per North Dakota Century Code NDCC § 44-04-19.1, subsection 9; Mrs. Schwartz moved to close the meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of Discussing Contract Negotiations and Strategy. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Schwartz, Wilkie, Rodakowski, Rude, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously. The executive session was recorded. President Seaks reminded the Board members to limit their discussion during the executive session to the announced topic. Any collective decision, collective commitment, or other final action by the governing body must occur after it reconvenes in an open meeting, unless final action is specifically required by law to be taken during the executive session.

As per Board Policy BCAD-Executive Session, President Seaks requested the following to be in attendance at the closed meeting: the School Board Members Mrs. Kim Schwartz, Mrs. Tanya Rude, Mr. David Wilkie, Mr. Jason Rodakowski, Chair Brent Seaks, Recording Secretary Twila Petersen, with an option to also include Mr. Mike Collins, a representative with Ray and Associates (via conference call), and Dr. Shon Hocker, the selected next Superintendent of Schools for Dickinson Public Schools.

At 10:45 a.m., the meeting convened in executive session. Members of the public were requested to depart from the meeting. President Seaks announced he anticipated reconvening the open portion of the meeting at approximately 11:15 a.m. The following individuals were in attendance during the executive session: Mrs. Schwartz, Mrs. Rude, Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Rodakowski, Chair Seaks, Recorder Petersen, and Dr. Shon Hocker.

At 11:32 a.m., Board Member Wilkie exited the executive session. At 11:34 a.m., Board Member Wilkie returned to the executive session.

At 11:44 a.m., the meeting reconvened in an open meeting. President Seaks invited the public back into the meeting and stated the discussion during the executive session was contract negotiations and strategy regarding the superintendent position.

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Possible Discussion of Contract Negotiations and Strategy (cont.)

Mr. Rodakowski moved to extend an offer to Dr. Shon Hocker to be the next Superintendent of Schools for Dickinson Public Schools. The terms of the contract shall be three years with a starting salary of \$210,000. Mrs. Schwartz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Rodakowski, Wilkie, Schwartz, Rude, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously. President Seaks announced that Dr. Shon Hocker had verbally accepted the offer for the position of Superintendent of Schools, dependent upon successful completion of negotiations of his contract.

Adjournment – At 11:46 a.m., President Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.

Brent Seaks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary