

Unapproved Board Workshop Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Board Workshop

October 5, 2009; 6:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a Board workshop on October 5, 2009, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Dean Rummel, Mrs. Kris Fehr, Ms. Leslie Ross, and Mrs. Mitzi Swenson. Absent was Dr. Mort Krieg. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mr. Del Quigley, Mr. Calvin Dean, Mr. Henry Mack, Mr. Perry Braunagel, Mr. Ron Dockter, Mrs. Becky Meduna, Mrs. Tammy Praus, and Mrs. Sherry Libis. Others present were: Mrs. Deb Conlon, Mrs. Twila Petersen, Ms. Janet Prchal from Hulsing & Associates, and Ms. Lisa Call from the Dickinson Press.

President Rummel called the meeting to order.

No action will be taken. Topics may become agenda items at future Board meetings.

Topics for discussion included:

Facilities – Assistant Superintendent Reep provided the following documents that are posted on the school board website under Supporting Documents: The Dickinson Public Schools (DPS) September 1, 2009, enrollment report; projected enrollments for the DPS for the years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013; cost estimate option; and an estimate for North Elementary.

Mr. Reep explained this past June, another classroom section was added to Heart River Elementary. This August, another kindergarten section was added to Lincoln Elementary. Next fall, the DPS will still be two classrooms short. Mr. Reep explained the ripple effect of the influx of students into the system this fall. He asked for discussion regarding the use of \$2.2 million in federal funds to be used to assist in funding additions onto two schools. This would help ease the burden on the system. There are some restrictions on using the federal funds. One restriction is to keep any additions to schools under 25% of the existing building square footage. It seems that Lincoln and Jefferson are the most populous schools. This could be due to the number of families living north of the interstate.

Mr. Reep provided handouts outlining five different scenarios for additions and/or new construction. He briefly described each option. Ms. Janet Prchal from Hulsing & Associates explained she could do a master plan for any option. After discussion, it was felt the best option would be Option B; add six classrooms and a multipurpose room to Lincoln Elementary and add four classrooms and a multipurpose room to Jefferson Elementary. Mr. Reep explained this option would not require any additional property tax money. Mrs. Swenson asked the time frame for the Board to consider this proposal. Ms. Prchal explained, if we were projecting a target date of next spring to begin construction and working backwards, the Board would need to consider a plan of action no later than November. There was discussion regarding the release of some stimulus funds and how this will affect the contractors' ability to bid on a project in the spring.

President Rummel recommended a special Board meeting on Monday, October 12 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the recommendation of the construction and to consider approval of the recommendation. President Rummel requested additional details from Superintendent Sullivan and Assistant Superintendent Reep.

Vocational Education – Mr. Dockter provided a handout outlining the areas of Career and Technical Education offered at Dickinson High School. The handout also listed some of the area businesses that instructors and students work with in various vocational areas. Mr. Dockter explained health careers has a large interest. He said welding also had a large demand due to Mr. Privratsky's experience and teaching skills.

Mr. Rummel recommended the vocational programs be evaluated every year and at the end of five years, the School Board and Administrators review the information and make recommendations for any adjustments.

Professional Learning Community Report

- a. **Staff/Faculty Training** – Superintendent Sullivan reported he and the Cabinet members discussed the Professional Learning Communities status. On September 25 and 28th, there was training of staff about school improvement and common assessments. Feedback was positive. Faculty would like more time to work together as a team. Additional training was also recommended by the faculty and staff.

Dr. Sullivan proposed the Board consider sending individuals to training. This would be the next step in providing resources to our faculty and professional teaching staff in Professional Learning Communities and developing some common assessments. Superintendent Sullivan provided a handout that projected an estimated cost for one participant to attend a conference.

President Rummel recommended Dr. Sullivan and Ms. Kathrein research in-state and out-of-state conferences. We should take advantage of any quality conferences and President Rummel recommended School Board members also take advantage of these opportunities. President Rummel also suggested the option of bringing a trainer here. Compare that cost where DPS sponsors the training and invites other districts to participate.

There was no disapproval from the Board members. President Rummel suggested Superintendent Sullivan provide a couple of options for review.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Dean Rummel, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary