

Unapproved School Board Workshop Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Board Workshop

October 10, 2011; 6:20 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a Board workshop on October 10, 2011, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Dr. Rebecca Pitkin, Ms. Leslie Ross, and Mr. Jason Hanson. Board member absent was Dr. Morton Krieg. Administrators present were: Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Mr. Del Quigley, Mr. Perry Braunagel, Mr. Ron Dockter, Miss Sherry Libis, Mrs. Tamara Praus, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson and Mrs. Becky Meduna. Others present were: Mr. Shawn Kessel, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Mr. Sean Soehren from the Dickinson Press.

President Fehr called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

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

Topics for discussion included:

Current Enrollment and Enrollment Trends

City Growth Patterns – City Administrator Shawn Kessel provided handouts from a PowerPoint presentation “Growth in the Queen City”. Mr. Kessel identified areas that parcels are being developed. Most of the growth was noted as being north of the interstate. Within the handouts were plat maps of subdivisions located adjacent or near the land owned by Dickinson Public Schools on 29th Street West. Mr. Kessel explained the proposed bypass north of Dickinson. In 2010, approximately 120 building permits were issued. To date in 2011, 160 building permits have been issued. In 2010, 77 permits were for single family homes. This year approximately 73 permits were for single family homes. Approximately 55 permits were issued so far this year for multi-family homes. There was discussion regarding highway 22 and the safety of the children at the four schools located on highway 22. Mr. Kessel said this concern is being reviewed and there is a possibility a different truck route could be established.

Birth Rates – Assistant Superintendent Reep updated the group regarding birth rates at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Previous information indicated a large increase in births during the month of September. The third quarter births were lower than projected. Mr. Reep provided a handout estimating the classroom sizes as the current student enrollment rolls over for the next few years and using an estimate of birth rates. Mr. Reep estimates an enrollment of approximately 245 kindergarten students each year for the next two years.

Current and Future Use of Facilities – Assistant Superintendent Reep reviewed the discussion at the September Board workshop regarding reorganizing the schools within the district and using “sister schools”. Another option discussed was the possibility of building a new school on the ten acre lot located north of Dickinson. Mr. Reep distributed a handout provided by the state in reference to North Dakota School Funding Options Available for Building Projects. Options vary from school building bonds, limited tax bonds, general fund levy increase, to HVAC bonds. A bond issue would cost approximately \$140 on a \$200,000 house. Another option Mr. Reep proposed was to use some of the interim fund to buy down the project with the remaining funds allocated from an HVAC bond.

Current Enrollment and Enrollment Trends (cont.)

Ms. Ross requested information regarding the valuation and life expectancy on the buildings currently owned by DPS. This would provide an overall picture of the buildings. There was discussion regarding the land by the high school owned by DPS, the junior high school building and the elementary school buildings. At the Cabinet meeting today, Cabinet members feel the most demand for classroom space was at the elementary level. Mr. Reep will set up tours of the school buildings and also forward information to Board members regarding the history of the buildings. President Fehr asked for information to be provided at the November School Board meeting regarding the potential cost of a new school building with and without the bond issue.

School Board Self-evaluation/Self-assessment Instrument

Ms. Ross provided Board members with information regarding the proposed Board self-evaluation policy and a self-evaluation template provided by the North Dakota School Boards Association. There was discussion regarding the length of the proposed self-evaluation template, binding future Board members to the form, and the purpose of the self-evaluation. Board members agreed to place in the Board member orientation packet the Board self-evaluation exhibit BEC-E and the responsibilities of Board members as outlined in the North Dakota Century Code. This would provide the new member with information regarding the purpose of the Board.

Property Tax Initiative

Superintendent Sullivan had requested two documents received from the Office of the State Tax Commissioner be distributed. The material was regarding Measure No. 2. This topic will be discussed at the North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) Convention. President Fehr recommended taking this topic under advisement and postpone further discussion until more information and feedback is received at the NDSBA Convention.

At 8:00 p.m., Ms. Ross moved to adjourn. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary