

Unapproved Board Workshop Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Board Workshop

October 11, 2010; Following the Board Meeting
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a Board workshop on October 11, 2010, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Dr. Becky Pitkin, Dr. Morton Krieg, and Mr. Jason Hanson. Ms. Leslie Ross was absent. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Ron Dockter, Mrs. Becky Meduna, Mr. Del Quigley, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mr. Perry Braunagel, Miss Sherry Libis, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mrs. Tammy Praus, Mr. Shawn Leiss, and Mr. Henry Mack. Others present were: Mrs. Amy Axtman, Mrs. Sandy Bertelsen, Mr. Riley Abing, Ms. Lisa Miller from the Dickinson Press, and Mrs. Twila Petersen.

President Fehr called the meeting to order.

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

Topics of discussion included:

Science Scores

Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Director of Instruction, provided handouts giving examples of science benchmarks and science standards. She discussed areas that were prioritized on the benchmarks. Teachers in the district have taken steps to increase the reading abilities of the students since reading correlates with the increased student learning. The teachers are taking initiatives to do book studies on reading essentials. The positive results of the changes may not be recognized on the assessment tests for another two years.

Roughrider Education Services Program (RESP)

Several handouts were provided to Board members regarding RESP. The handouts listed services, cooperating partners, participation fees, budgets, and the fees incurred by the District. Recently RESP went to a system where schools pay for services used. Dickinson Public Schools (DPS) has many participants in the RESP winter inservice. There was discussion if the services provided meet the needs of DPS. DPS is changing and growing which makes it unique. The services provided by RESP are based on the results from a needs survey distributed to the district administrators and teachers.

Update on Dickinson High School's (DHS) Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Principal Ron Dockter handed out copies of minutes from discussions the teachers at the high school have had regarding professional learning communities. The PLC committee meets once a week and then meets with the faculty at least once a month. The main focus is student learning and the ability to give additional support to the students through more time spent with students. Recently some DPS faculty and administrators visited the Minot Public Schools campus where they have incorporated intervention time into the school day to give students the opportunity to receive additional help from teachers. The teachers reteach areas in subjects that a student may not have understood the first time. Dickinson High School administrators and faculty would like to mirror what Minot Public Schools is providing. They would like to proceed with adding 20 minutes as tutorial time during the school day at DHS. They propose the school day begin five minutes earlier and the current time for Channel One be devoted towards classroom time. There will be more time added during the lunch break for students to use as a study hall. This additional time will not be considered punishment. Minot has seen the number of failing grades drop since they are using the intervention time. Mr. Dockter explained there are some logistics to work out but would like to implement the change beginning second semester of this school year (January 2011).

Finance and Budgetary Information

Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep distributed handouts with information regarding the current revenue and expenditures in comparison to the budget. He explained the anticipated average pupil membership for the district. Mr. Reep also explained the mill levies and how the district is reimbursed for those funds.

Social Studies Curriculum Development

Mrs. Kathrein explained the method that was previously used in the social studies curriculum and the transition to teaching the subject using different types of resources, not just the traditional books. The new resources are very effective.

Legislative Issues

Superintendent Sullivan distributed copies of the legislative issues discussed at a recent North Dakota Study School Council (NDSSC) meeting. A few of the areas discussed that may impact DPS were the ACT/WorkKeys testing fees, transportation costs, merit pay compensation, funding prekindergarten, academic and technical college scholarship recommendations, and per student funding.

At 7:20 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary