

Notes from School Board Meeting

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

December 14, 2015; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on December 14, 2015, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Sarah Ricks, Vice President Kris Fehr, Mrs. Leslie Ross, and Mrs. Tanya Rude. Board member absent was Mr. Jason Hanson. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Kristy Goodall, Mr. Ron Dockter, Dr. Becky Pitkin, Mr. Henry Mack, Ms. Tammy Praus, and Mrs. Susan Cook. Others present were: Mr. Wayne Olson, Mrs. Margaret Olheiser, Mr. Lyle Smith, Ms. Jarris Bergherr, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Mr. Andrew Haffner from the Dickinson Press.

Call to Order - Board President Ricks 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 Consent Agenda – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Consent Agenda – Mrs. Fehr moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the November 9 regular board meeting, November 9 board workshop; bills for December 2015; the financial reports for December 2015; the pledged assets report for December 2015; the personnel reports; the student/staff recognitions; a tuition waiver request for a child of Anna Strohecker from Dickinson to Richardton-Taylor; and the RACTC report, as presented. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. **Immunizations Update** – Dr. Sullivan updated Board members regarding the ongoing work identifying students that are not in compliance with the North Dakota law regarding immunizations. The schools are working closely with the Southwest District Health Unit (SWDHU). There are approximately 175-200 students who are not in compliance. This is down from the 399 reported at the November meeting. Mrs. Freed from SWDHU continues to make contacts and the high school staff are also contacting parents. Parents are encouraged to have their children be in compliance either through starting the immunization process or completing a waiver form. At today's Cabinet meeting discussion continued regarding immunizations. Cabinet will be setting a deadline in January for students to be in compliance. After that deadline students will be instructed to stay home. Dr. Sullivan and Board Vice President Fehr shared their frustration regarding the responsibility placed on the school district to ensure students are in compliance in regards to immunizations. They encourage the Legislature to review this requirement and come up with a better solution. Superintendent Sullivan has discussed the possibility of a shot clinic being provided if one specific shot could get a significant number of students in compliance. Mrs. Fehr shared her concern for the students and staff who are at risk because of a potential virus being spread at the schools that could have been avoided. She encouraged individuals to consider the health of the community and school district when contemplating a decision about immunizations. She appreciated Dr. Sullivan's and Mrs. Freed's proactive approach. Mrs. Ross inquired if there will be steps taken in the future so that students are compliant. Dr. Sullivan said that would be a discussion in the future. Some school districts do not allow students to enter the school until the immunizations are in compliance. The North Dakota Century Code allows 30 days for students to be in compliance. However, the District also must ensure that students are attending school.

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

- b. **Adult Learning Center (ALC) Accomplishments** – At a recent ALC state training, the State Director Val Fischer announced to all the ALCs that Dickinson currently has the highest GED passing rate in the State for reading and writing.
- c. **No Child Left Behind** – Dr. Sullivan noted that last week there was a change in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. He didn't know the specifics of the change. It appears Superintendent Baesler is planning to form a task force on how schools can move forward, adjust, and utilize the new law to its full intent. The task force would look at Common Core standards. DPS Director of Instruction Kathrein and Superintendent Sullivan will be drafting a letter to Superintendent Baesler. The letter will indicate Mrs. Kathrein is interested in serving on the task force if one is configured.

Business Topics

Roughrider Area Career and Technical Center (RACTC) Update – Mr. Wayne Olson, RACTC Director, addressed the Board. He distributed a handout with information regarding the DHS health sciences program. Mr. Olson was appointed the director of the RACTC in August. He has 31 years of experience in the education field. He noted the RACTC and DPS have a unique working relationship. In the health sciences area there is one full-time teacher at DHS teaching classes to the students. Within his handout were a list of the health careers classes the teacher provides. During the fall semester Health Careers I is offered and in the spring semester Health Careers II is offered. The student enrollment in Health Careers II will be smaller due to the job shadowing built into the course. Medical Terminology is also offered in the spring. This is a dual credit course. Mrs. Johnson is the health careers instructor at the high school. RACTC holds her contract and pays her salary and benefits. Due to the unique block scheduling at the high school it is difficult to offer additional courses via ITV or Tegrity. Board members thanked Mr. Olson for coming to the meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

New Middle School Construction Update – Assistant Superintendent Reep updated the Board members on the progress of the new middle school. He said the cement work should be completed by the end of December. Last week Friday's snow didn't slow down the cement pouring. Steel should be on site the first week of January. This week Wednesday there will be a construction meeting. Representatives from Mortenson Construction and Wells Concrete will be present. A guaranteed price for the construction will be provided to the school district. There are additional costs on top of the guaranteed price, such as liability insurance, land purchase, and architect fees. Mr. Reep added the guaranteed maximum price has come down a bit over the past six months. After receipt of the guaranteed maximum price there may be room for established monies to be reallocated. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Budget Development and Input Committee Update – The Budget Committee held a meeting on November 17. Board representatives on the Budget Committee are Mrs. Ross and Mr. Hanson. Minutes from the meeting are posted on the DPS main webpage under District Wide Committee Minutes. Topics discussed at the meeting included a technology grant, a preliminary discussion regarding the 2016-2017 classified salaries, budget items for the new middle school in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, a request to purchase another school bus, and preliminary discussion regarding bus purchases in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The Budget Committee has requested Assistant Superintendent Reep to look at different alternatives in regards to classified staff salaries. Mrs. Ross noted the administrators and Board support the classified

Budget Development and Input Committee Update (cont.)

staff and acknowledge they work hard and wish to retain them. There was discussion regarding the non-competitive ETC technology grant. A subcommittee of the Technology Committee reviewed options for the grant and felt the best use for the grant funds would be to support the 1-to-1 initiative by adding carts (laptops and printers) in the English and science departments at the high school. Funding will also be used to ensure the infrastructure will be compatible with the new carts and also professional development on utilizing the carts. The grant requires matching funds from the District and Assistant Superintendent Reep assured the Board there would be matching funds available. Mrs. Fehr inquired regarding the 1-to-1 initiative in the high school social sciences department. Dr. Sullivan reported recent feedback shared on the use of the Surfaces indicates they are used overwhelmingly on a daily basis. There was discussion regarding a survey previously administered to students regarding the 1-to-1 initiative and the possibility of another pre-survey regarding technology being administered. The pre-survey would provide raw data and a follow up rubric would guide the learning. Dr. Sullivan will work with faculty and staff to try and collaborate. Dr. Sullivan noted that the District will be putting approximately \$535,000 in expenses into the next budget for fixtures and equipment for the new middle school. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

2016-2017 Proposed DPS School Calendar – The Calendar Committee has met and proposed two school calendars for the 2016-2017 school year. Minutes from the Calendar Committee meetings are available under District Wide Committee Minutes. Two calendars, A1 and A2, were presented for staff to review for consideration. The two draft calendars are posted as Supporting Documents on the website. Superintendent Sullivan explained the difference between the two calendars. The two calendars were identical with the exception of a four-day weekend in February in calendar A1 and a four-day weekend in March in calendar A2. Dr. Sullivan reported the Calendar Committee voted by building. Five buildings voted for A1 and three buildings voted for A2. One school board member requested input from the District-wide Parent Advisory Council. Of the four parent responses all of them felt A2 was the appropriate selection. Additionally Cabinet members discussed the two calendars at this morning's meeting. Input from DHS Student Affairs indicates there are anywhere from 120-130 students gone during the WDA tournament which is scheduled over the proposed four-day weekend in March. Cabinet members also felt A2 was the appropriate selection. Mrs. Fehr noted a concern to her was in addition to the students gone for the WDA tournaments there would also be faculty gone requiring substitute teachers. She has received many responses from parents requesting a longer break in the spring. Some parents feel the short Easter weekend is a hardship. Mrs. Ross said she stood firmly in having a spring break. Mrs. Rude said in Montana they had a spring break; however, she added that if there is a full week for a spring break then school would need to be in session into June. It is not always desirable in the community to have school in June. Mrs. Fehr felt the November 30 early release day was too close to the Thanksgiving holiday break. She encouraged that date to be reviewed and possibly move the early release date to another date, not the week following Thanksgiving. She suggested the first week in December or a week or two prior to Thanksgiving. There was discussion regarding having off from school several days in a row and the need for parents to find daycare for those days. President Ricks inquired if there needed to be a calendar adopted today. Superintendent Sullivan suggested the board adopt a calendar and then the early dismissal could be discussed at Cabinet. Mrs. Fehr moved to approve the 2016-2017 school calendar A2 with a starting date of August 24, 2016; the last day of school scheduled for May 24, 2016; and graduation held on May 28, 2016 with the Cabinet and administration reviewing the November 30 early release date and be allowed the opportunity to schedule on another date. Mrs. Rude seconded the

2016-2017 Proposed DPS School Calendar (cont.)

motion. A roll call vote was taken: ayes-Rude, Ross, Fehr, Ricks; nays-none; absent-Hanson. The motion carried unanimously.

Bid for Route Bus – The school district advertised for and provided specification sheets (bus chassis and bus body) for bids for one 77-passenger school bus (seated to 71). Only one company, Harlow's Bus Sales, submitted bids which were opened at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2015. Harlow's bid is posted under Supporting Documents. The administrative recommendation was to accept the bid from Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc. to purchase the bus. Action was requested. Mrs. Ross moved to accept the bid submitted by Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc. and purchase the 71 passenger school bus for \$88,495. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: ayes-Fehr, Ross, Rude, Ricks; nays-none; absent-Hanson. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Enrollment Applications – Jennifer Perdaems applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted from South Heart Public to Dickinson Public. Brian Woehl applied for open enrollment for his step-child to be admitted from Richardton-Taylor Public to Dickinson Public. Matthew Hecker applied for open enrollment for his child to be admitted from South Heart Public to Dickinson. Dr. Sullivan explained all three currently attend DPS. Administrative recommendation was to approve these three open enrollment applications. Kristi White applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted from Belfield Public to Dickinson Public. Her child was attending school out of state. Dr. Sullivan noted the application from Ms. White was for a junior at DHS. Superintendent Sullivan previously gathered information from DHS Principal Dockter regarding 11th grade enrollment numbers. Two core classes have large class sizes; US History has 30 students in one class, 32 and 26 in the other two classes, and American Literature has 26 students. These two courses are required for graduation. Administrative recommendation was to deny the application from Ms. White. Mrs. Ross moved to approve the request for a child of Jennifer Perdaems, a child of Brian Woehl, and a child of Matthew Hecker to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools as per the open enrollment requests. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: ayes-Rude, Ross, Fehr, Ricks; nays-none; absent-Hanson. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Ross moved to deny the request for a child of Kristi White to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools as per the open enrollment request. Mrs. Fehr seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion: Mrs. Fehr inquired if this would mean that open enrollment was closed for the junior class at DHS. Superintendent Sullivan responded that it would be closed at this time. A roll call vote was taken: ayes-Ross, Fehr, Rude, Ricks; nays-none; absent-Hanson. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – Mrs. Ross recently attended a Midgettes invitational at DHS. The DHS team brought home a trophy. Mrs. Ross noted a touching and proud moment when the DHS team members presented a card to the Williston team due to the recent loss of their coach to cancer. Mrs. Fehr reminded everyone to attend the DHS holiday concert at DSU on Tuesday night. The students work very hard in preparation for the concert which will also be broadcast on KDIX radio. Mrs. Fehr inquired regarding the enrollment numbers since there are budgetary implications tied to the enrollment. Superintendent Sullivan responded that since the beginning of the school year there has been a decline of 59 students. He noted it is a moving target that the assistant superintendent is monitoring closely. Mrs. Ricks reminded the Board there is a NDSBA 2016 Negotiations Seminar in Bismarck on February 11 and 12th at the Bismarck Ramkota. If individuals are planning to attend they are requested to inform Mrs. Petersen. Mrs. Rude wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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Adjournment – At 6:10 p.m. Mrs. Ross moved to adjourn. Mrs. Fehr seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Sarah Ricks, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary