



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2020; 12:00 p.m.

Members present: Dr. Shon Hocker (Superintendent), Mrs. Stacy Kilwein (representing Partners in Parenting), Mrs. Lenée Bookhardt (representing Dickinson High School PAC), Mrs. Tavia Kuntz (representing Jefferson Elementary PAC), Mrs. Alicia Saienga (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Jessica Cron (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC), Mrs. Nicole Wald (representing Berg Elementary PAC), and Mrs. Julie Heidecker (representing Roosevelt Elementary PAC).

Call to Order – Superintendent Hocker called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of the February 13, 2020, Meeting Minutes –The February 13 meeting minutes were distributed to the committee. Mrs. Tavia Kuntz moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Alicia Saienga seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

March 9 School Board Meeting and Workshop Agendas – Superintendent Hocker explained at last night's Board meeting, the Board received an audit report from a representative of Brady Martz. The Brady Martz firm found no concerns or issues with their audit and the report was approved by the Board. Dr. Hocker reported the Board approved a resolution to pay down an outstanding debt. There was a discussion regarding the District's debt. Dickinson Public Schools received \$900K from Dunn County for Dickinson Public property in Dunn County.

Dr. Hocker reported the Board approved the addition of 15 new positions for the 2020-2021 school year proposed by the Budget Committee. Of these 15 positions, two are administrative positions and 13 are certified positions. These positions are justified by the continued growth in the District. There were 4-6 additional positions approved by the Board that are contingent upon grant approval.

At the Board workshop last night, Dr. Hocker addressed the Board and shared student capacity and building condition concerns. Dr. Hocker explained to the committee alternate plans for the Dickinson High students which includes a relationship with Dickinson State to provide educational opportunities to approximately 120 DHS students starting the next school year. The cost attached to the DSU credits would be covered through DPS and DSU scholarships. There will be a small fee to be covered by the parents of the DHS students. The courses at DSU will help relieve some of the congestion at DHS.

Another option to address overcrowding at DHS is to offer early morning courses. There are already nine teachers interested in participating by teaching early morning courses.

Superintendent Hocker shared information regarding conversations with state representatives on building a vocational education building in Dickinson. There are also ongoing conversations regarding a sports complex in conjunction with Dickinson State University. If the vocational education building and sports complex were approved by the state, it would save approximately \$20 million of the cost of building a new high school and help bridge the gap with the projected increase

of students. Dr. Hocker went into detail regarding the various moving pieces and is optimistic about the long-term plans for the District.

To address overcrowding at the elementary level, the Board discussed some options. One option was to offer half-day kindergarten. Another option was to build a new elementary school. Dr. Hocker stated he would be visiting with several architects regarding re-designing the original plans for Prairie Rose Elementary and obtaining costs for building in today's market.

Dr. Hocker shared with the committee the District would be looking to hire a principal for Heart River Elementary as Mrs. Susan Cook will be retiring. He shared that once the applicants have been narrowed he hoped to have the remaining applicants for the position interview with the District-wide PAC members.

There was a discussion regarding cereal options for breakfast at all elementary schools. Dr. Hocker will visit with the District's nutritionist and have her review options provided to the students.

There was a discussion about busing and how the routes are created. Currently, there are no middle school students and high school students that ride the same bus unless they are rural route students. A committee member inquired why there are no seat belts on the buses. Dr. Hocker responded due to the higher seat backs on the buses, seat belts are not required. He added the District follows all state busing guidelines.

Committee members discussed selecting a gift to be provided to all District employees during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week in May.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.