



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2023; 12:00 p.m.

Professional Learning Lab

Committee members present were Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Barb Shockey (representing Prairie Rose Elementary PAC), Mrs. Nicole Wald (representing Berg Elementary PAC), Mrs. Stephanie Rogers (representing Roosevelt Elementary PAC), Mrs. Laura Fetting (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC), Mrs. Jessica Sherman (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Melissa Wells (representing Jefferson Elementary PAC), and Business Manager Stephanie Hunter.

Call to Order –The meeting was called to order by Dr. Lewton at noon.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda Items – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Approval of the March 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Jessica Sherman moved to approve the March 14, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Stephanie Rogers seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

April 11, 2023, School Board Meeting Agenda – A copy of the agenda from last night's Board Meeting was distributed to the committee members. Superintendent Lewton highlighted topics from the agenda. He announced the dates for Kinder Kick-Off, Dickinson High School's graduation, and Southwest Community High School's graduation.

Dr. Lewton summarized the Board Goals for reading and noted the scores are on target for 2027.

District-Wide PAC Gifts for DPS Employees – Twila distributed the printed thank you cards and a roster of employees for each of the buildings. The gifts for the employees should arrive before Friday, April 21. Twila will box up the gifts by building and then contact the DW PAC members. The committee chose a date to distribute the gifts to the employees the week of May 1-5.

Behavioral Health Specialist – Mrs. Wald inquired what the behavioral health positions consist of. Dr. Lewton noted this was discussed at the January School Board Meeting and January District-Wide PAC Meeting. The specialists that were hired are part of the Mental Health Grant that was awarded to the District. Dr. Lewton explained the District primarily hired social workers. The social worker's role will depend upon the needs of the building.

Rezoning the District – Mrs. Wald inquired how soon the District will rezone the schools. Dr. Lewton noted this was brought up at the February and March DW PAC meetings. He explained the Board will not have a conversation on rezoning until after October of this year. He reiterated four of the six elementary schools are out of space. Berg Elementary and Prairie Rose Elementary are the only two schools with room for more students.

Mrs. Sherman inquired how rezoning would affect staff. Dr. Lewton used the reopening of Berg from a sixth-grade center to an elementary school as an example. When Berg reopened, teachers and staff could request to be transferred to that school. Openings at the school were distributed to all certified employees. Potentially a new principal, support staff, and custodial staff would need to be hired if a new elementary building would be built.

Alternative High School – Mrs. Wald inquired how a student is directed to the alternative school. Dr. Lewton explained students may request to go to the alternative high school. Sometimes it is a better fit for the student than the traditional classroom. There is typically a waiting list for the alternative high school. Mrs. Wald inquired regarding the Roughrider Virtual Academy. Dr. Lewton responded that last school year (2021-2022) was the first year the Roughrider Academies were not under the COVID emergency clause.

District's Policy Regarding Expelled Students – Mrs. Wald inquired what was the District's policy regarding students being expelled and if it was different at each school. A copy of the District's Board policy on Suspension and Expulsion, the District's Board regulation on Suspension and Expulsion, and the North Dakota Century Code on expulsion were distributed to the committee members. Superintendent Lewton explained the North Dakota Century Code dictates the school district's procedures for suspension and expulsion. The North Dakota School Board's Association develops the language for the Board policies and regulations and then Dickinson Public Schools adopts the policies and regulations. North Dakota Century Code has some requirements for automatic expulsions. These are the same for all schools; however, different grade levels may have different stipulations, such as a kindergartener. Mrs. Wald inquired if a student is expelled if they are removed from the District. Dr. Lewton responded they could be but more than likely the student will be placed in the Roughrider Academy if they are on a deferred imposition. He noted each scenario is different. Every student is different. All the facts on the student must be presented such as past history, the totality of the offense, if the student has support, if support can be provided to the student, what will happen to the student, etc. Dr. Lewton expressed the importance that each scenario and each student is unique.

Mrs. Wald suggested the CTE Center have an open house for students similar to the high school. It was noted the high school has an orientation for students at the beginning of the school year for all freshmen and new Dickinson High students to the District.

Inquiries – There were no other inquiries from the committee.

Other – The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at noon at the Professional Learning Lab.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.