



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, December 10, 2024; 12:00 p.m.

Professional Learning Lab

Committee members present were Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Laura Fetting (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC and Dickinson Middle School PAC), Mrs. Stephanie Rogers (representing Roosevelt Elementary PAC), Mrs. Maree Bowlsby (representing the Early Childhood Program PAC and Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Carolyn Morowski (representing Roughrider K-8 Virtual Academy), Mrs. Melissa Wells (representing Jefferson Elementary PAC), and Business Manager Stephanie Hunter.

Call to Order –Superintendent Dr. Lewton called the meeting to order at noon.

Approval of the November 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes – The minutes from the November 13, 2024, meeting had been emailed to the committee members and were available at the meeting. Superintendent Dr. Lewton briefly reviewed some topics from that meeting. He said he had contacted the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction regarding the March 13, 2025, Family Engagement Professional Development Opportunity. He reported the doors with the shatterproof glass at the Hagen Building are scheduled to be installed during the Christmas vacation. Mrs. Morowski moved to approve the November 13, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

December 9, 2024, School Board Meeting Agenda – Superintendent Dr. Lewton reported this week Thursday, December 12, a team from Cognia® will do an accreditation of the District. The accreditation process in previous years was over a couple of days. This year's will be completed in one day. The external review team will be interviewing students and teachers.

Last night, Dr. Lewton reported the date for the upcoming Southwest Night with the Legislators. Mrs. Wells inquired if the District was making particular requests. Dr. Lewton said he has met with Representative Lefor. One of the areas they discussed was the deficit of funds provided to the District by the state and federal for special education and English Learner services for students.

At last night's Board meeting, Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris and District Behavioral Health Coordinator Richard Smith presented information regarding the District's Behavior Solutions Smart Goals. All schools have long-term and short-term Smart Goals. This is in response to classroom behaviors across the nation interrupting the learning of others. Six of the eight buildings have incorporated bullying prevention into its goal. This could include education, conflict management, and reducing physical aggression. The District is identifying behaviors to teach skill-by-skill. Students are learning to self-govern, to be held accountable for behaviors, and to understand the rules for behavior.

Dr. Lewton provided an update on the elementary schools remodeling and the high school rebuild. A handout with updates for both projects was distributed. He listed the short list of items to be completed at Heart River and Lincoln elementary schools. Roosevelt Elementary has seen some significant work completed. The transition of the new front office, space for special education, and the library will be completed in the months ahead.

The District and City are applying for a water grant for the high school project. This grant would fund the replacement of the water main from the street to the high school. The prefabricated walls and structural steel will go to bid in January. A yellow storage building will be torn down in March. This building provides no classes. The footings for the new sections of the high school are scheduled to be dug in May.

Dr. Lewton reported the Board approved the addition of five certified instructors for the next school year. This was in anticipation of retirements and resignations in the upcoming months. The Board also approved the addition of three health career instructors. There will be openings for face-to-face health career instructors next school year as the Roughrider Career and Technical Education (RACTC) will only be servicing students online.

District-Wide PAC Representative on 2025-2026 Calendar Committee – Dr. Lewton requested a volunteer to represent the District-Wide PAC and serve on the District’s Calendar Committee to assist with drafting the calendar for the next school year. Mrs. Wells volunteered to attend the meeting next week.

Family Engagement – Superintendent Dr. Lewton referenced the Family Engagement Professional Development Opportunity mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. There was interest from some of the committee members regarding attending the event. Dr. Lewton will reach out to Mrs. Morowski.

Other – Mrs. Wells shared Jefferson Elementary took a year off last school year from a building-specific Scholastic fundraising event. Jefferson resumed the fundraiser this school year. Mrs. Wells explained parents from Jefferson Elementary could opt out of participating. If parents wished to participate, they needed to provide ten contacts. Their child would then be eligible for prizes. Mrs. Wells felt there was some inequality. Some students would receive a prize and others would not. Other committee members responded this was similar to other fundraising events. After the Scholastic fundraising was completed, every student at Jefferson Elementary received a packet of age-appropriate new books for them to keep. The students received the books regardless if their parent participated or did not participate in the fundraiser. Dr. Lewton suggested Mrs. Wells visit with the Jefferson Elementary principal regarding her concerns with the Scholastic fundraiser.

Mrs. Fetting reported Lincoln Elementary recently completed a successful fundraiser with students selling pizzas and cookie dough. The amount raised for Lincoln’s playground equipment was \$12,000. Another fundraising event at Lincoln provided students with \$1 for each item that was sold. There was cash back instead of prizes for the students.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.