

Dickinson Public Schools

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2018; 5:00 p.m.

Central Administration Offices Board Room

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on April 16, 2018, at the Central Administration Offices. Board members present: President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Board Member Tanya Rude, Board Member David Wilkie, and Board Member Jason Rodakowski. Others present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Business Manager Kent Anderson, Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein, Dickinson High School Principal Ron Dockter, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Guy Fridley, Southwest Community High School Principal Kristy Goodall, Dickinson Middle School Assistant Principal Casaundra Francis, Heart River Elementary Principal Susan Cook, Lincoln Elementary Principal Tammy Peterson, Prairie Rose Elementary Principal Sherry Libis, Roosevelt Elementary Principal Henry Mack, Dickinson Middle School Language Arts Instructor Tiffany Aman, Dickinson Middle School Language Arts Instructor Kimberly Goodall, Jefferson Elementary Third Grade Instructor Dinah Eslinger, School Board Secretary Twila Petersen, The Dickinson Press Reporter Iain Woessner, Dickinson Public Schools Foundation President James Peters, Dickinson Public Schools Foundation Director of Development Karen Heidt, The Dickinson Press Editor/Publisher Harvey Brock, Mr. Jerry Schwartz, and Mrs. Michelle Orton.

Call to Order - Board President Seaks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Participation – Mr. Harvey Brock, publisher/editor of The Dickinson Press, requested public participation regarding the topic of the Superintendent Search. Mr. Brock addressed the School Board and thanked them for the opportunity. He explained the hiring of a superintendent is a challenging task and appreciated all the Board has done. He noted he was not questioning who should be hired nor questioning the merits of the process. Mr. Brock felt the four names of the candidates should have been considered “finalists” and revealed to the public. At that point, he felt, they became open records and their names should have been released before and not after the interviews. Mr. Brock referenced Century Code and his interpretation about releasing the names and open records. He requested the names of the four be released as soon as possible.

Additional Agenda Items/Removal of Items from Consent Agenda – Mrs. Rude moved to add under item e. Personnel Reports of the consent agenda the certified new hires of Elizabeth Brown, elementary classroom instructor, grade and location to be determined; Jeremiah Hayes, science instructor at Dickinson High School; Amy Smith, special education instructor, location to be determined; Richard Smith, assistant principal, Prairie Rose Elementary; and Nancy Wanner, elementary classroom instructor, grade and location to be determined; all for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Schwartz seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda – Mrs. Schwartz moved to approve the revised agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the March 12 regular School Board Meeting, the April 3 Special School Board Meeting, and the April 12 Special School Board Meetings; the bills for March 2018; the financial reports for March 31, 2018; the pledged assets report for March 31, 2018; the personnel reports to include the certified new hires of Elizabeth Brown, elementary classroom instructor, grade and location to be determined; Jeremiah Hayes, science instructor at Dickinson High School; Amy Smith, special education instructor, location to be determined; Richard Smith, assistant principal, Prairie Rose Elementary; and Nancy Wanner, elementary classroom instructor, grade and location to be determined; a tuition waiver request for two children

Dickinson Public Schools
Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2018; 5:00 p.m.
Central Administration Offices Board Room

Consent Agenda (cont.)

of Jocelyn Jorgenson from Dickinson to South Heart, a request for a tuition waiver for a child of Jennifer Everett from South Heart to Dickinson, a request for a tuition waiver for a child of JoAnne Davis from Dickinson to South Heart, and a request for a tuition waiver for a child of Jennifer Zaste from Dickinson to South Heart; the RACTC director's report; and the students/faculty/staff recognitions; as presented. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on topics that did not require Board action.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week – Dr. Sullivan noted Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week this year is recognized May 7-11. On Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a Teacher/Staff Retirement and Recognition Program at the Dickinson High School auditorium.

Compliance Report from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) – Available under Supporting Documents is a copy of a letter from the NDDPI regarding the monitoring of the District's compliance regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It has been determined by NDDPI that the District Meets Requirements.

Business Topics

Principal Reports – Mrs. Dinah Eslinger, third grade instructor at Jefferson Elementary, addressed the Board. She explained the schedule for a third grader. The mornings begin with a meeting where the students discuss issues in the classroom to include self-regulation, role-playing, and other activities. The students learn skills and available resources to assist them. Students at Jefferson can earn positive influence sheets. These could be individually or as a team effort. Mrs. Eslinger explained there are monthly assemblies held at the school where Principal Streeter distributes coupons or rewards based on the positive reports received. Additionally, the custodians select the cleanest classroom at the school each month which gives the students encouragement. Board members thanked Mrs. Eslinger for providing the information.

Ms. Casaundra Francis, Dickinson Middle School assistant principal, Mrs. Kimberly Goodall, Dickinson Middle School literacy teacher, and Mrs. Tiffany Aman, Dickinson Middle School literacy teacher addressed the Board. The teachers explained the middle school's Reading Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights has seven bullets created by Lucy Calkins to encourage reading and improve writing skills.

The two literacy teachers demonstrated a wooden box they built that had multiple locks. Students find clues as they are reading to unlock the locks which has a prize inside. The students will use their critical thinking skills to recognize the answers to open the locks.

President Seaks thanked the teachers for providing unique ways to encourage the students to be engaged. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Dickinson Public Schools (DPS) Foundation Update - DPS Foundation President James Peters and Director of Development Karen Heidt addressed the Board. Mr. Peters noted the Foundation has hired a marketing director, Mrs. Marisa Armstrong. Mrs. Armstrong has created a new logo and drafts the newsletters. A Foundation newsletter was distributed to the Board members. Mr. Peters and Mrs. Heidt explained the grants that have been awarded this year. The Foundation's signature event is its

Dickinson Public Schools (DPS) Foundation Update (cont.)

annual Mystery Dinner Theater. This year, \$10,500 was received in sponsor fees from the theater. Board members thanked the Foundation for the funds they provide through grants that impact the students and provides professional development to the teachers in the District.

Consider a Request to Open Negotiations for the 2017-2019 Professional Negotiated

Agreement – At the February 12, 2018, School Board Meeting, the Dickinson Education Association requested the School Board open bargaining on section VI-D (Personal Leave) subsection 1a of the 2017-2019 Professional Negotiated Agreement. At the February meeting, the topic was tabled until today's meeting. Action was requested. Mrs. Schwartz moved to approve the request by the Dickinson Education Association to open bargaining on Section VI-D-1(a). of the 2017-2019 Professional Negotiated Agreement. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Schwartz, Wilkie, Rodakowski, Rude, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Input and Development Committee Update – The Budget Input and Development Committee met on March 28. Minutes from this meeting are available on the website under Supporting Documents. Board representatives on the committee are President Seaks and Board Member Rodakowski. Board President Seaks summarized some of the topics from the March 28 meeting. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was requested.

National School Boards Association Convention Highlights – Board Members Brent Seaks, Tanya Rude, Kim Schwartz, David Wilkie along with Business Manager Kent Anderson attended the recent National School Board Association Convention in San Antonio. Board members shared their appreciation for the District providing the opportunity for them to attend the conference. Available under Supporting Documents are copies of summary reports that have been submitted. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Bus Transportation Fees – Board Member Rude requested a discussion regarding the fees charged for transportation services in the school district. Superintendent Sullivan provided some history regarding the District's transportation fees. He noted that DPS is one of two large school districts in the state that charge for transportation service. In 1988, the Dickinson Public School District spent the time, money, and energy to take this to the Supreme Court and the school district prevailed in that case. The School Board, at that time, felt it was appropriate to charge the fees and also appropriate to take it to the highest Court. Board Member Rude felt that the District should have a sliding scale based on income regarding charges for the busing. Superintendent Sullivan explained for one child living in town, the cost is less than \$1 per day to provide transportation to and from school. For a family of five or more, the cost is \$1.11 for all the children to provide transportation to and from school. He added these costs are not close to covering the costs for the buses, drivers, insurance, fuel, etc. The remainder is subsidized by the District. President Seaks inquired how the fees are established. Dr. Sullivan responded they are established administratively on an annual basis. The fees are established around this time of year for the next school year so that letters may be sent out to parents and the registration forms can be returned before the end of the school year. President Seaks noted the Board could research this topic further and consider the fees for fall 2019. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was required.

Dickinson Public Schools

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2018; 5:00 p.m.

Central Administration Offices Board Room

Update on Superintendent Search – Board President Seaks provided an update regarding the search for the position of Superintendent of Schools. He noted finalists would be interviewed this week and Board members encouraged input from Cabinet, District employees, and the community at the meetings that have been scheduled. Input will be received through an impression form available at the designated meetings. President Seaks clarified that Dickinson Public Schools hired the firm of Ray and Associates for the superintendent search and explained the process to this point. That firm established the timeline. Ray and Associates received 39 completed applications for the superintendent position. From those 39 applicants, the pool was narrowed down to ten. On April 3, Ray and Associates reviewed the top ten candidates with the Board. On April 12, the Board met with and interviewed four candidates and determined two finalists to be interviewed. On April 20, there will be interviews for two finalists and today the Board will officially name the third finalist. On April 19, two finalists will meet with the Cabinet, District staff, and the public. President Seaks explained they are nearing the conclusion of this process and anticipated to have a new superintendent identified soon. Mrs. Rude moved that the Dickinson Public School Board officially designate three finalists for the position of Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Shon Hocker, Mr. Matthew Cheeseman, and Mr. Justin Fryer. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Rude, Rodakowski, Wilkie, Schwartz, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously.

Gymnastics Cooperative Agreement - The Flasher Public School District has requested a gymnastics cooperative agreement with DPS. The proposed agreement is posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Administrative recommendation was to approve the agreement. Mrs. Schwartz moved to approve the extracurricular cooperative agreement with Flasher Public School District for gymnastics for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding in Boys' and Girls' Swimming – The Dickinson Dolphins Swim Team has requested a one-year renewal of the agreement with the Dickinson Public Schools for boys' and girls' swimming. Action was requested. Mrs. Rude moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Dickinson Public Schools and Dickinson Dolphin Swim Team for boys' and girls' swimming for the 2018-2019 school year, as presented. Mrs. Schwartz seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Business Manager Evaluation – At the beginning of the current school year, the School Board created a Business Manager position to manage the finances of the school district. Available under Supporting Documents, is information available from the North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) regarding an evaluation of the Business Manager. Mr. Wilkie moved to direct the School Board President to organize and conduct an evaluation of the Business Manager to be completed no later than June 30, 2018. Mrs. Schwartz seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

School Board Policy Revision- First Reading – The Tobacco Prevention Program at Southwest District Health Unit in cooperation with the North Dakota School Boards Association has proposed changes to policy ABBA-Dickinson Public School District's Policy for Tobacco Use. Mr. Wilkie

Dickinson Public Schools

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2018; 5:00 p.m.

Central Administration Offices Board Room

School Board Policy Revision- First Reading (cont.)

moved to complete the first reading for revising policy ABBA-Dickinson Public School District's Policy for Tobacco Use, as presented. Mrs. Schwartz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Schwartz, Wilkie, Rodakowski, Rude, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously.

Early Resignation Incentive Applications – The following individuals have submitted their resignation before the deadline to receive the early resignation incentive: Senadee Brusich, paraprofessional at Dickinson High School (6 years of service), Tammy Mowrey, paraprofessional at Prairie Rose Elementary (2 years of service), and Vranna Quinn, paraprofessional at Dickinson High School (27 years of service). The administrative recommendation was to approve these early retirement incentive applications. Action was requested. Mrs. Schwartz moved to approve the early resignation incentive from Senadee Brusich, paraprofessional at Dickinson High School; Tammy Mowrey, paraprofessional at Prairie Rose Elementary; and Vranna Quinn, paraprofessional at Dickinson High School; with an effective date of May 25, 2018. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Other- President Seaks clarified regarding the superintendent search that two of the finalists warranted an interview. If neither of the two finalists meet expectations, the Board will have the ability to interview Mr. Fryer.

Adjournment –At 5:55 p.m., President Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.

Brent Seaks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary