

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 13, 2022

Chair Ron Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:00 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Other Board members present: Heather Duellman, Riley Hammel, James Johnson, Jessica McFarlan, Shawwna Seaquist, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: Tamara DeMuth. Also in attendance were High School Principal Todd Rowekamp, Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny, Assistant Principal John Ostrowski, Teaching & Learning Director Heather Lyke, Business Manager Gary Betcher, and Administrative Assistant Tara Dabelstein.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve the Agenda

A motion was made by Member McFarlan, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Address the Board

Community Member Kristina Kurtz addressed the school board regarding the reconsideration committee and the process that it went through. She shared that she believes this to be a positive step and appreciated the outcome of this committee. She feels that this is allowing transparency and parents to be informed about material. She shared that there is always room for improvement and this process will help in that. She is frustrated that there was not an opportunity to ask questions or offer counter ideas from the community during the Reconsideration Committee Meeting. Stating that the community members had to rely on committee member to bring issues up and she feels that all of the issues were not brought up. Some of the issues she felt were missing from the final document, were that the book is at a lower reading level for the grade it is used in, it is not noted that there were four parents who opted out of their children reading this book, and she would like to see the fact-finding chart created by one of the committee members included in the final document. She asked the School Board for an addendum for these reasons. She shared that the process itself was really well done overall and she appreciated that they can dialogue and have respectful conversations. She feels that great conversations are happening and she is looking forward to more positive change and transparency with parents.

Ms. Katherine Larsen addressed the school board regarding open enrollment and the 2nd grade cap. She shared that she is moving to Rochester this summer and would like to open enroll her children in Dover-Eyota. She has four elementary students this year. Three of them were accepted, while the 2nd grader was put on a waitlist due to the enrollment cap. She shared with the School Board that she also has two younger children who would be attending Dover-Eyota when the time came.

Community Member Beth Hoffman addressed the school board about the reconsideration process. She thanked the board for the opportunity to speak tonight. She shared that it was her and her husband who initially challenged the book. She would like the decision to be expanded to all books with similar content. She felt that there was some confusion on what their ask was, which was requesting the book not be required for 8th grade reading, not to ban the book from the school. They just feel that it is not appropriate for the grade level it is currently being used in. She would also like to see the process updated to allow challengers to speak at the final discussion. She would also like to see a future change which would allow for an update to the challengers on the final fact-finding document, (she felt that some information is missing). She would also like to see an update which would allow the committee members more time for final reading before signing off on the final decision document. She felt it was rushed and that they were not given enough time to read all information provided. She would also like documentation to be given to the party that is challenging the book. She shared that they did not receive any information until they asked for it. She also feels that the timeline of the process should be given to the person who filed the challenge. She felt that the Committee asked the facilitator a lot of questions which was a bit frustrating as the facilitator was not supposed to interject or share their feelings/thoughts.

Community Member Nick Young addressed the board regarding parent transparency and the book challenge, stating that his main concern was regarding the content of this book and knowing when it is appropriate for adults who are not the parents to discuss or share sexual content with students. He asked that the teachers let the parents know what is being read, discussed and shared so that they are aware.

He felt that teachers need to be more forthcoming with the parents. Teachers should be more proactive vs. the parents finding out through the grapevine what is being read in school. He shared that he didn't think the book was presented to the kids as something to discuss with their parents and he felt it should have been. Teachers should share that there are topics in the assigned reading that parents should discuss with their students at home, too.

Consent – Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Seaquist, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to approve the May 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, and May 5, 2022, May 16, 2022, and May 23, 2022 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

Consent – Approve Regular District Bills and Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$52,822.90, and the Special District Bills totaling \$147,638.15.

Approve the Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$6,492,406.01, and the May electronic transfers.

RECOGNITIONS

The School Board noted the employees honored at the Employee Recognition Breakfast on Monday, June 6, 2022.

Dr. Svobodny recognized Superintendent Carolan for all of his support and help throughout his tenure at Dover-Eyota. She also thanked the School Board, especially through the pandemic which was extremely hard, stressful, and time consuming. She thanked them for hanging in there and always staying focused and making the best decisions they could. She thanked them for their support of thorough the years, and shared that she really appreciated their professionalism and the ability to discuss things. She also wanted to recognize District Office Assistant and *Eagle* Editor Laura Kase for all the stuff she does especially in May with all the activities and pictures she takes.

Member Seaquist recognized Administrative Assistant Tara Dabelstein for all the meals she arranged, all of her organization and extra work she has done over the past couple of months with all of the extra meetings.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Teaching & Learning Department – Heather Lyke Director of Teaching & Learning shared the following: 1) Her department is working on research driven professional development for the summer. She shared that they will be reading and discussing four different books. She shared the different books that they can chose from and gave a brief synopsis on each book. 2) Mrs. Lyke shared that there are five staff who are currently are going through LTRS training. 3) The summer school programing at the high school level remains program based. She thanked Teaching and Learning Specialist Sarah Carlson for really increasing and developing the middle school summer school program. 4) She will be creating a learning page to increase transparency as a department, with the goal being to create a space where curriculum information is all in one spot for staff and parents.

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) It was a good ending to the school year. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to have a "normal" school year and end to the year. It was nice to be able to have all of the end of the year events again. 2) Summer school will be starting next week, with approximately 70 K-5th grade students. Preschool summer school has approximately 10 registered students in it and the new offering this summer, Kinder Camp, will be held in August and has approximately 56 students registered for that. 2) She is working on state reports and trying to wrap those up, and will be working with incoming Elementary Principal Mr. Ben Midge with the transition and getting him familiarized.

Chair Pagel presented Dr. Svobodny with a card and jacket as a token of appreciation and best wished on her retirement.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) The graduation ceremony went very well. He congratulated the class of 2022 sharing that this class was one of the larger classes. He stated that it was great to look out into a gym that was full. He also thanked the elementary staff for organizing and allowing the graduate parade. 2) The final week of school went smoothly. There was a minor senior prank with crazy parking of their vehicles. 3) He gave a hiring update, stating that there are interviews scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022 for English position and that there were four other postings that went live today and that they were posted in a way that they might possibly appeal to a larger pool of applicants and offer maximum level of flexibility. 4) He finished with studies constantly show that student success and school success is not about the building, or about the schedule, or the calendar, or colors, or the mascot, etc....the number one factor is the staff. He recognized Dr. Svobodny for her constant support and inspiration, both personally and professionally. He recognized and thanked her for everything she has done for the district and for himself, stating that Dr. Svobodny is one of those humans that make a huge difference.

Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: 1) The Middle School Awards were on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Approximately 99 students recognized that day. He shared that it was great to experience that, and it was an honor to have a 2018 graduate Valorie Ziemer as the special guest speaker for the event. 2) He held 5th grade tours, on Monday, May 23, 2022 and sent an email to all 5th grade parents letting them know there was a tour and that the 6th grade orientation will be on August 30 at 6:00 pm. He also shared that the middle schools supply list has been updated and shared with parents.

REPORTS

Report of Reconsideration Committee – Teaching & Learning Director Heather Lyke shared the decision the Reconsideration Committee came to regarding the book that was under review. The Reconsideration Committee met on May 26, 2022.

Mrs. Lyke suggested the district look at updating the policy and procedure regarding book reconsiderations. The idea behind updating the policy would be to get Dover-Eyota more aligned with area districts.

After discussion among the Board Member and Mrs. Lyke, it was noted that Mrs. Lyke will create an addendum and present it at the July 11, 2022 Board Meeting. She noted that this process was 6 weeks of hard work and detailed information and she thanked the committee members for their time and efforts.

Chair Pagel shared that the district will strive to be more visible and transparent with families regarding books being read in the classes. Mrs. Lyke shared that Teaching and Learning Specialist Sarah Carlson is working on a template that will be available to staff to help outline what each syllabus needs to include.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of the Revised 2021-2022 Revenue & Expenditure Budget –

A motion was made by member McFarlen, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the Revised 2021-2022 Revenue & Expenditure Budget.

Business Manager Gary Betcher made slight changes and went over those changes with the Board.

Approval of the Draft 2022-2023 Preliminary Revenue & Expenditure Budget –

A motion was made by member McFarlen, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the Draft 2021-2022 Preliminary Revenue & Expenditure Budget.

Business Manager Gary Betcher updated a few numbers and went over those areas with the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorize User Access to MDE Secure Website

A motion was made by member Johnson, seconded by Member McFarlen, and carried unanimously to name the Superintendent of Schools as the authorized user for our local education agency.

Approve School Board Election Filing Dates

A motion was made by member Johnson, seconded by Member Hammel, and carried unanimously to approve the following School Board Election Filing Dates:

**NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 533
DOVER-EYOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 533 shall begin on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, and shall close at 5 o'clock PM on Tuesday, August 16, 2022.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. At that election, four (4) members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk designee, Tara Dabelstein, Dover-Eyota Public Schools, 615 South Avenue SW, Eyota MN 55934. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same general election. Affidavits of candidacy must list the term the candidate is seeking.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5 o'clock PM on August 16, 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ _____
Heather Duellman, School District Clerk
Dover-Eyota Public Schools
Independent School District No. 533
June 13, 2022

Set Future Mini-Retreat Dates

A motion was made by member Johnson, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to set the following Mini-Retreats to begin on Mondays at 6 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center: August 22, 2022; November 28, 2022; February 27, 2023; and May 22, 2023.

South East Minnesota United Purchasing Coop

A motion was made by member McFarlen, seconded by Member Hammel, and carried unanimously to approve the participation in the South East Minnesota United Purchasing Coop.

Let Bids for Dairy Products, Fuel Products, and Snow Removal for 2022-23 School Year

A motion was made by member Johnson, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to let bids for dairy products, fuel products, and snow removal for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

Administrative Reassignment

A motion was made by member McFarlen, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the Administrative Reassignment of High School Principal Rowekamp moving to Elementary Dean of Students.

First Reading of Policies Requiring Annual Review

There were no changes; the Board will revisit the policies again in July.

Consent – Accept Resignations and Hires and Donation

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Hammel, and carried unanimously to accept the:

Resignations: HS Food Service JUDY ADAMS, Elementary Physical Education Instructor IKE VESEL, Assistant Track Coach ERIC AESCHLIMANN, Groundskeeper/Custodian NORB NOVOTNY, Assistant Cross-Country Coach CHAD NELSON, Elementary Custodian GREG BLAKE

Hires: EMILY ZINCK as Science Instructor, AIMEE HAMPTON as Choir Instructor, ZACH MAGNUSON, TYLER SASS, ERIN BUNGE, and BROOKS ANDERSON as SACC Aides, LYNN WEINSCHENK as Building Substitute, BREANNA MACLEOD as Elementary Office Assistant, GRACE MAGNUSON as End of Year Paraprofessional

Donations: DOVER EYOTA EAGLES FOUNDATION Roller Skate Helmets to the Physical Education Program, AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY \$100 to 5th Grade School Patrol for Bowlocity Trip, PATT \$500 for the 5th Grade Field Trip, PATT \$4,000 for the Elementary Skate Program, EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION \$100 to School Patrol

HEARING OF REPORTS

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) The Fitness Center Committee met and their recommendation is to not open the facility up to the public on an open basis but to work with the community and Community Education to offer times when it will be open and have scheduled supervision. 2) Custodians are needed. Dover-Eyota is in severe need of custodial staff. The department is going through a shift with Elementary Lead Custodian Wayne Ellringer and High School/Middle School Lead Custodian Linda Oesau both retiring. The plan would be to move High School Custodian Larry Anderson to the Elementary to cover Wayne's hours and to move High School/Middle School Custodian Harry Zeitzer to cover Linda's am shift at the HS/MS. There are discussions happening with Maintenance & Grounds Director Dustin Pagel to extend his title to Building, Grounds, and Transportation Maintenance Director. 3) Superintendent Carolan ended by thanking the School Board and the community for allowing him the opportunity to serve as their Superintendent for the last seven years.

Chair Pagel presented Superintendent Carolan with a card and pullover as a token of appreciation and best wished on his retirement.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

DeMuth – Absent

Duellman – No official Board meetings to update on, but she was part of the Fitness Center Committee and shared that there is a lot of good input from all stakeholders regarding the facility. The committee's vision is aligned with what the community would like. She is looking forward to future discussions to get the Fitness Center where the vision of the district and community see it.

Hammel - None

Johnson – Stated that they are still working on setting up the Negotiations Committee Meeting, which seems like it will happen on June, 29, 2022 for the Teamsters contract.

McFarlen – None

Sequist – Shared that she was part of the Reconsideration Committee and she felt the meeting went pretty well. She stated that is was great that they were able to go through the reconsideration process and that good things are happening and that good discussion took place. She appreciates the community members' involvement and stated it was good to hear their feedback.

Pagel – Shared that incoming Superintendent Jeremy Frie and his family were here on the May 27, 2022 to tour the building and they were able to get the students registered for classes. Chair Pagel shared that is was a good visit. He also shared that graduation went well, and that there was a great turn out. He stated that he had attended the Employee Recognition Breakfast and that it was kind of sad to say good bye to people who have given so many years of their life to the district, but that it is also exciting to welcome the new staff coming on.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Hammel, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Heather Duellman, Clerk
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