

# REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 14, 2022

Chair Ron Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:04 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Other Board members present: Tamara DeMuth, Heather Duellman, Riley Hammel, James Johnson, Shawna Seaquist and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: Jessica McFarlan. Also in attendance were High School Principal Todd Rowekamp, Teaching & Learning Director Heather Lyke, and Administrative Assistant Tara Dabelstein.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was given to Board Member Riley Hammel by Chair Ron Pagel.

## Approve the Amended Agenda

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member DeMuth, and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

## Visitors to Address the Board

Social Studies teacher Mr. John Pittenger, along with three students, Kaya Lovejoy, Lydia Lovejoy, and Isabel Wendt, shared with the school board about their recent Close-Up trip to Washington DC. Mr. Pittenger shared that Business teacher Mrs. Stephanie Holliday was a co-chaperone, the trip went from Wednesday to Sunday, and that her time and efforts during this trip were much appreciated. Some of the student's favorite things were visiting the Memorials, the scavenger hunt at Natural Science Museum, ice skating, visiting the African American museum, and the ghost tour around Lafayette Square. Mr. Pittenger shared that there were 12 students who went, and he appreciates the school board's support. He also shared that although the students were not able to meet with Congress or senate, they were able to tour the Capital Building and meet with Representative Hagedorn's staff and see his office.

## Consent – Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member DeMuth, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the February 9, 2022 Special Board Meeting Minutes, and the February 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

## Consent – Approve Regular District Bills and Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member DeMuth, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$69,277.88, and the Special District Bills totaling \$124,980.05.

## Approve the Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member DeMuth, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$5,131,798.48 and the February electronic transfers.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Assign Members for the 2022 Committees

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to adding members for the Year 2022 committees as follows:

#### Board Committees

Meet and Confer	Hammel, Johnson, Seaquist
Negotiations	Johnson, Seaquist, DeMuth
Purchasing	Hammel, Duellman, Seaquist
Legislative	Johnson, McFarlan
Policy	McFarlan, DeMuth

#### Advisory Committees/Task Forces

Minnesota School Board Association	Johnson
Minnesota State High School League	DeMuth
Assessment	Duellman

Building & Grounds	Johnson, Pagel, Duellman
Calendar	McFarlen, Duellman
Community Education Advisory	DeMuth
Crisis	Duellman, McFarlen
Curriculum Committee	Johnson
Dollars for Scholars	McFarlen
Early Childhood	Seaquist
Environmental Health & Safety	Hammel
Gifted & Talented Advisory	Johnson
Hiawatha Valley Education District	Pagel
Technology	Johnson
Wellness	McFarlen
World's Best Workforce	McFarlen, Duellman
Written & Visual Resource Review	Seaquist (Theater/Text) Pagel (District Media)

Elected Offices

Three Rivers Conference	Pagel
MSBA Delegate Assembly Representative	

It was noted that the Negotiating Team negotiates with the DEEA, Principals, and Teamsters Union. The Head Board Negotiator and Chair negotiates with the Superintendent. The Superintendent negotiates with all other groups.

Approval of the D-E Marching Band Trip to Disney World Summer 2022

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve D-E Marching Band Trip to Disney World during Summer 2022.

Second Reading and Approval of the 2022-2023 Board Assumptions

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Hammel, and carried unanimously to approve the 2022-2023 Board Assumptions.

Second Reading and Approval of the 2022-2023 School-Age Child Care (SACC) Handbook Changes

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to approve the 2022-2023 School-Age Child Care Handbook.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approve the Reduction Resolution

Superintendent Carolan advised that this annual resolution allows the district, if needed, to make changes/reductions due to student population reductions.

A motion was made by member DeMuth, and seconded by Member Hammel, and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION  
TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS  
IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFOR.**

WHEREAS, there may be a reduction in student enrollment within certain programs, and,  
WHEREAS, this decrease in student enrollment within certain programs may include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 533, as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions as a result of a reduction in enrollment within certain programs, and to make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: DeMuth, Duellman, Hammel, Johnson, Seaquist, and Pagel. Those voting against the same: none. The motion carried unanimously.

Accept Retirement: Dr. JEANNE SVOBODNY as Elementary Principal effective June 30, 2022

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to accept the Retirement of Dr. Jeanne Svobodny as Elementary Principal effective June 30, 2022.

Member Johnson shared that Dr. Svobodny has been the Principal for all three of his children, and that she has been an amazing principal who truly show her passion for the work and passion for students. He shared that she really cares for students, and staff, and she will be missed. He ended by telling her God bless and good luck. Member Duellman echoed Member Johnson's remarks and added that Dr. Svobodny has always had a great connection with both parents and students.

Consent – Accept Resignations and Hires and Donation

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

Resignations: TAYLOR SASS as SACC Aide,

Hires: ASHLY HERNANDEZ as Paraprofessional, LOGAN CLARK as Long-Term Substitute Agriculture Instructor, JORDON BEGIC-REYNOLDS as part-time student Custodian, JUDY ADAMS as Cashier, PAUL MERTEN as HS/MS Health & Physical Education Instructor.

Donations: EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION \$1,500 for Close-Up, DOVER-EYOTA EAGLES FOUNDATION \$500 for bus costs to State Wrestling Tournament.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Teaching & Learning Director Mrs. Heather Lyke recognized Mrs. Jill Magnuson for all of her help with the WIDA Testing while helping with school play and continuing to make sure her EL students are growing and learning the way they need to. She also recognized Teaching & Learning Specialist Mrs. Sarah Carlson for her work focusing on the positives and providing a lot of different ways to enforce that, not only for our student but the staff as well.

Superintendent Mike Carolan recognize Teaching & Learning Director Mrs. Heather Lyke for the presentation which they presented on at the MASA Spring Conference. This presentation was about the journey with diversity, equity, and inclusion in our district. He commented that she has done a great job tying together important issues with the community, student, and teacher groups.

Activities Director Mr. Tim Andring recognized the Dover-Eyota Wrestling team for the phenomenal job the team did at the State Wrestling Tournament. Dover-Eyota earned the 4<sup>th</sup> place title as a team, and also sent 7 individual wrestlers to the Individual State Wrestling Tournament. Of those 7 Dover-Eyota had two place in state. Brodie Kellen placed 6<sup>th</sup> for his weight bracket and Gavin Gust was named State Champion in his weigh bracket. The school held a pep fest for the wrestlers at the secondary level with all students, K-12 attending, (student in K-5 walked over for the event). There were a lot of comments that it was great to have all students together for the event. The board discussed the possibility of having more pep fests including all students to help build morale and sense of community. The administration agreed it was something worth looking into.

## **CABINET COMMUNICATIONS**

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: Absent

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) He welcomed new Student Board Member Reed Hammel, although Reed was not able to make it to the meeting due to attending the Dorian Music Festival at Luther College. Mr. Rowekamp shared that there were six students who were able to attend and this festival and represent Dover-Eyota. 2) The Agriculture teaching position has been temporarily filled with a long-term substitute, Mr. Logan Clark. However, a teacher for next school year has accepted the position and will be ready to start at Dover-Eyota for the 2022-2023 school year. FFA still has no official advisor for the remainder of this year. Mr. Rowekamp has been taking on more in that role and learning and enjoying it a lot.

It will continue this way for the remainder of the year, however, he will be coordinating with a former Dover-Eyota Agriculture teacher to get the students who qualify to the events for the remainder of the year.

Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: Absent

Teaching & Learning Department – Teaching & Learning Director Heather Lyke and Teaching & Learning Specialist Sarah Carlson shared the following: Mrs. Carlson has been looking at ways to highlight the positives in the schools. One way was to collect positive notes at the conferences. There were 231 positive notes collected (108 from the elementary, and 123 from the high/middle school). There were 60 online messages which consisted of students, parents, community members and former students. Highlighting the positives for students, particularly at secondary level is very important as well. A Google form which creates certificates from information input, was created in hopes of making recognizing the positives in students easier for the staff. These forms are emailed directly to the student and the parents.

Mrs. Lyke shared that there was a bonus professional development day added on March 3, 2022 which over 30 staff attended. They are currently working on the one professional development for March, 28, 2022. She also reminded the school board that MCA testing will begin next month.

## **STUDENT BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **REPORTS**

### Nexus Update -

Mr. Rob Brown, Ms. Margaret Bishop, Russ Schumacher, and Brent Jones, presented to the board on the facility planning provided by staff input, went over the facility condition assessment, educational adequacy of the facilities, and the funding options available to complete a project of this size. There was a discussion time along with a questions and answer session.

## **HEARING OF REPORTS**

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) Dover-Eyota hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual College/Career Fair which consisted of over 70 colleges, careers and military being represented. He shared that this event went really well with positive student feedback. 2) The PSEO presentation by Ryan McRae was held in February. This meeting is informing parents and students about PSEO as an option, as well as concurrent enrollment. 3) The strategic planning is going well, with one more formal meeting with the task force. He also shared that Dr. Thompson is doing a great job leading those meetings. 4) There was a water leak discovered and has been patched for the time being. Head custodian, Linda Oesau, found this leak after the City of Eyota installed a new meter and the water usage was much higher than it should have been. She was able to get B & C Plumbing and Heating here to do a quick patch, with more work to be done on the lines. 5) There was a student survey sent out and the student's response has been great. The students have been honest and the information they are providing has been educational and insightful to read. There were 315 responses submitted on the first day. Students are telling the administration and staff things that they need to hear for improvement, and to help continue building giving the students a voice here at Dover-Eyota. 6) He also shared that the band program is looking to purchase 2 new tubas to replace 2 that are currently being used but are old and in need of replacement. The High School Budget and DEMA along with some funds from the district, will help cover these costs.

### Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

**DeMuth** – Shared that she is excited for potential referendum project move forward, stating she appreciates Member Johnson's thoughts on the speed at which this project seems to be going, but also appreciating what Nexus does for the school board, by putting in all the leg work they have done and will do by getting input and community involvement. She stated that the school board needs to help the community understand the project and how it will affect them. She also shared that she had a meeting with Community Education Director Susan Keller-Schaefer, and that Community Education is ramping up again with programs and offerings. The most successful and well attended program was the Power Camps. Coach Hauswald will still be offering a power camp for the male students, and Mrs. Keller-Schaefer will be reaching out to a former student to see if she would be willing to offer a power camp for the female students. She also

noted that the partnership with the Spanish Club has been a success and together they have been able to offer different cultural activities. She ended with noting that gym spaced is always a challenge, and it would be nice to be able to offer the option to pay Community Education fees online at the time of registration.

**Duellman** – Shared that she is excited about the changes the referendum could bring by updating the buildings and grounds, and bringing the interest of all children into the future.

**Hammel** – Shared that he ran into two people who took part in Zoom interviews that Mr. Rowekamp, Mrs. Lyke, Dr. Svobodny, and Superintendent Carolan participated in with Winona State, and both people were very positive about the experience and left it wanting to be at Dover-Eyota.

**Johnson** – Shared he believes that the referendum is an amazing opportunity to make significant changes to school buildings. He is excited about the opportunity but believes the board still has a lot of work to do in the meantime. He appreciates and recognizes that Nexus has done a lot of work, but states that this is our school, and not theirs, so he does not want to rubber stamp an approval, and reiterated that there is still a lot of work to do in the next 60 days.

**McFarlen** – Absent

**Seaquist** – None

**Page** – Welcomed interim Board Member Riley Hammel and noted that he appreciated his input. He also shared that Superintendent Carolan, Head Custodian Linda Oesau, and himself toured Zumbrota Public Schools that afternoon to look at the project Nexus had done there. They learn about the units Zumbrota installed which would be a great option for Dover-Eyota to replace our Venmar units. He also congratulated the Dover-Eyota Wrestling Team and the seven individuals who made it to the State Tournament, noting that it is pretty awesome. He also congratulated the Dorian Music Festival attendees. He closed by thanking Dr. Jeanne Svobodny for her years and stating that she will be missed.

Superintendent Carolan asked about fireworks for during Eyota Days in our green space. The Eyota Days Committee had asked if they could use the school's green space instead of West Side Park this year. Superintendent Carolan will look into the insurance and liability and let the Eyota Days Committee know what he finds out.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM.

Heather Duellman, Clerk  
TD