

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 8, 2021

Chair Ron Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:02 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Tamara DeMuth, Heather Duellman, James Johnson, Jessica McFarlan, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: Shawna Seaquist. Also in attendance were High School Principal Todd Rowekamp, Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny, 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 Johnson, seconded by Member DeMuth, and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

Consent – Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member McFarlan, and carried unanimously to approve the October 11, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Visitors to Address the Board

Mrs. Amy Ninas, a parent of 3 students in the district shared that she is disappointed in the School Board and the Dover-Eyota leadership regarding the decisions that have been made and she is worried about direction Dover-Eyota is headed. She feels that the school board and Dover-Eyota leadership have focused less academics and more on social and/or political issues. She shared that she felt that last year was not handled well, especially when Dover-Eyota chose to continue to take academic school days away from students by having the four-day week versus a five-day week at the secondary level. She stated that what she has witnessed is not what focusing on education looks like. She continued by stating that it is not the school's responsibility to contact trace or be the mask police. She shared her concerns regarding curriculum changes, the potential of not teaching spelling at the elementary, doing away with the AR reading program, and talk about getting rid of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. She also mentioned the Zoom meeting that Mr. Rowekamp discussed in his board report about social justice and asked if social justice would be brought into the classrooms. She ended her time stating that now that the COVID vaccine is available to all that want it, it is time to make a shift in the Covid restrictions and policies. She said the administration and school board need to put its focus back on educating our children and leave the health issues to the parents.

Mr. Keith Haskel addressed the board and quoted some of the Constitution. He claimed that the school board didn't like to hear noise about parent groups, and would try to stifle people. He accused the school board of not answering questions during an open forum and stated that the school board had zero legal or constitutional right to make people wear masks.

Former Superintendent Bruce Klaehn addressed the board to show his appreciation to the school board for doing their best to keep all students as safe as possible. He appreciates the responsibility they have in maintaining prudent policies for students and children, by creating and maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all. Dover-Eyota's legacy is to air on the side of caution, maintaining maximum student safety. This has been Dover-Eyota's approach dealing with Covid as well. He stated that he believed that if the inconvenience of wearing a mask saves just one student, it is worth it. He also shared that if the Mayo Clinic is under a mask mandate he believes it prudent for Dover-Eyota to be too. He closed by saying that on behalf many appreciative parents, grandparents, and community members, thank you.

Mrs. Sara Halvorson addressed the school board as a parent of eight children who have either participated in Dover-Eyota sports or will be going through Dover-Eyota. She addressed the school board regarding the current football situation. She shared that there is a lot of concern among the parents about the program's leadership. She shared that the current football leadership has shown a lack of respect for the players, and they instill fear of retaliation in the students and parents. There is a lack of communication or willingness to change. She stated that there has been an unanswered decline of the overall program, not only at the high school level but in the younger levels too. The pride and the school

spirit has dwindled, enjoyment of the sport is nonexistent, and if this environment is left to continue on this path, the program will not be here much longer. She ended by stating that change needs to occur, and she doesn't want this to fall on deaf ears.

Mr. Bryan Cornell addressed the board regarding the Dover-Eyota football program as well. Stating that there is a large concern, and that many parents feel the same way. The current culture is toxic. Fear, retribution, and lack of respect for the players. He stated that the fun is gone, and that he hears, "I want to quit" often. The players are dejected and uninterested in the sport. The lack of communication from the leadership makes it difficult for families to plan, and creates a high level of frustration. He closed by saying Dover-Eyota has tremendous athletes that work hard.

Mr. Doug Sherr addressed the board making claims that issues have been falling on deaf ears. Stating there have been important questions from parents that have gone either unanswered or not answered fully. He stated that the CDC recommends, not strongly recommends, just recommends masks. He suggested we can change the verbiage in our policy to recommends or even strongly recommends. He also shared that he thought we were wearing the masks so we wouldn't have to quarantine, yet there are lots of students being quarantined. He closed by telling the board to get rid of the mask requirement and to let the kids and parents decide.

Mr. Paul Wendt also addressed the school board with concerns with the high school football leadership. Stating that he is disappointed in the way they treat the kids. He cannot stress enough that we need to make a change there. The negativity and frustration from the kids has taken all the fun out of football. He stated that he doesn't want to see 12-year-old quit. He shared his that having no follow up from the football leadership shows they don't care. He closed by sharing that kids are singled out on a daily basis, which is out of line, and he doesn't want to see that continue.

Mrs. Nicole Thoreson addressed the school board as a parent of two students in the district. She stated that the school board and administration provided some level of protection with masks when the vaccine was not available to all. Now that it is available to all who want to get it, there is nothing more the school board and administration can do to protect. She stated that what was meant to protect (masks) can now do harm. She closed by stating that the school board and administration responded the best they knew how. That option is now obsolete in regards to the children, and they need to make masks optional to provide the best comprehensive protection Dover-Eyota needs.

Mr. Aaron Gust addressed the school board as a parent of two children in the district and also as a member of the football and wrestling staff. He asked if he could talk to families who were there as well as the school board. He asked the families, "which coach is next?" He stated that fans on the side swearing, and yelling is embarrassing to Dover-Eyota. The coaches show up every day with game plan, and not everything is on the coaches, some of the blame needs to be on the students as well. He shared that the complaints by other families was frustrating to him, stating that he has put a lot of time into this town through sports. He is there at practice every day, kids seem to be having fun playing football, maybe not all the time, because they are losing, but all these parents ganging up against the coaching staff is bold.

Mr. Chad Duellman addressed the school board regarding the football leadership in the varsity program as well. He noted that the concerns were not about the entire football staff just leadership of one individual. He stated that Mr. Aaron Gust was right, and he has done a ton for all the sports here at Dover-Eyota. He then went onto read and email that was sent to Activities Director Mr. Tim Andring. The email asked how complaints were handled, how positions were posted, and how does the hiring process work? He stated that coached should foster sportsmanship, and he was curious on what credentials and references were checked. He shared that the parent's concerns are overlooked or muffled by the football leadership and excuses are made. He ended by saying that is it not all about wining, but winning needs to be something, and when the record is 19 losses with 2 wins over three years, something needs to be looked at.

REPORTS

Student Update & Report on FFA National Convention – FFA Chapter President Kaya Lovejoy and FFA member Maggie Smith present on their trip to the FFA National Convention which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana. They shared that there were roughly 50,000 people there from all over and that their favorite part was the opportunity to meet and talk to so many new people. They would highly recommend this trip for other FFA members.

COVID 19 Updates- Superintendent Carolan shared the following: 1) Dover-Eyota had a recent spike in Covid cases, which did lead to some quarantine. One case at the secondary level, which required some quarantine, did create some concerns and complaints due to errors in understanding the contact tracing requirements. 2) Dover-Eyota is piloting a new program, trying every way possible to reduce quarantine. They will explore 7-day quarantine, and are trying this 7-day quarantine period now with the most recent quarantine group at the secondary level. 3) Superintendent Carolan will be exploring hiring people to help as contact tracing and Covid testing. One agency has expressed interest in working with Dover-Eyota on this already. 4) Member Johnson asked Superintendent Carolan about the 75% vaccinated, and where that number came from. Superintendent Carolan shared he is trying to thread the needle a bit and used 75%, with 7th – 12th grade at 59% vaccinated right now. 5) Member Duellman asked about what happens when teacher gets COVID. Substitutes are a big problem right now. When teacher is identified, they need to stay out and with the substitute shortage, Administration has been in the classroom subbing. At the secondary level, there are some teachers who are willing to comp their time and help cover classes. 6) Member McFarlen shared that she doesn't like masks either, but there are things we can do and things we cannot do. We need to focus on what we can do, come together as a community. Do things about what we can do things about. We have to trust that we are doing the best that we can. Member McFarlen encouraged community members to get the data, meet with someone one to one and debate both sides. She reiterated that the school board is doing the best that they can. She stated that it is only going to get better when we, as a community, as a school district, can get along better. She ended by encouraging the community to talk about other things, such as how to keep our community together. 7) Chair Pagel asked the principals what the schools are doing for students who are quarantined. Mr. Rowekamp responded by stating that the teachers are asked to use Google classroom and to keep the student involved and included with classwork. Teachers are also asked to give students some flexibility. Dr. Svobodny stated that the lower elementary grades get packets sent home, and in the older grades some teachers will allow live streaming of class, while others will send work home.

Presentation of the 2020-2021 Audit by Clifton/Larson/Allen

Luke Greden of CliftonLarsonAllen gave a quick summary of the 202-2021 Audit Report. A summary of the fund balances:

- Fund Balances: General Fund Unassigned Balance was \$1,235,833 (down), Restricted was \$255,993 (up), Operating Capital was \$247,236 (up), Long-term Facilities Maintenance was \$912,312 (up), Food Service was \$248,490 (down), Community Services was at -\$87,992 (down), and Debt Service was \$346,428(up).
- The General Fund Revenue consisted of 86.30% from state sources, 8.61% from local property taxes, 2.03% from other sources, and 3.07% from federal sources.

A complete audit report will be available in the Superintendent's Office upon request.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member McFarlen, and carried unanimously to accept the 2020-2021 Audit.

Nexus Solutions Update – Ms. Margret Bishop, Project Developer, shared the progress Nexus has made towards identifying areas in need of improvement in regards to the potential referendum.

Dr. Thompson, of Nexus presented to the school board in regards to building a strategic plan, and how Nexus would work with Dover-Eyota, the community, the staff, and the student to create a new strategic plan.

Consent – Approve Regular District Bills and Special District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member DeMuth, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$78,992.80, and the Special District Bills totaling \$418,387.56.

Approve the Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member DeMuth, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$5,876,694.87, and the October electronic transfers.

RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent Carolan recognized Mr. John Pittenger for being selected as the Section 1A Coach of the Year. He also recognized Mr. Ryan Anderson for receiving the 2021 Bravura Award. Mr. Ryan Anderson was honored with this award at the SEMYO's (Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras) annual It's Instrumental Gala on October 29th.

Assistant Principal and former Activities Director John Ostrowski recognized Morgan Wehseler for being named First Team All-State, and Madison Harden for being named Second Team All-State, both in Girls Soccer.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) The after school targeted services group 1st – 3rd grade started last Wednesday and went really well. The 4th and 5th grade will start this week, and they are expecting approximately 48 students to participate. 2) They had a wonderful inservice this morning on math alignment. She stated that is was really great inservice, that was rich in discussion. She thanked Teaching and Learning Director Heather Lyke and Teaching and Learning Specialist Sarah Carlson for planning this stating that they did a wonderful job. She shared that she thinks the teachers really appreciated the variety of activities, sharing that they were engaged in the work this morning, and she feels it was time well spent.

Member Johnson asked Dr. Svobodny about spelling and AR since it was brought up during the visitor communications. Dr. Svobodny shared that spelling will be looked at more, and that last year during Covid spelling was dropped a little due to time allowance. She also stated that spelling is all part of the literacy system as well. She also stated that with AR there have not been any decisions made. It has been talked about for about 6 years, and they are weighing the pros and cons with AR and collecting a lot of research on this. She stated that if it is taken away, it will be replaced with something.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: That there had been an error in the contact tracing process which resulted with students being misidentified. He explained to the board how it happened and there was discussion on quarantine and how to keep the students in school as well as how to get the students back in school sooner.

Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: The annual 8th grade trip to Eagle Bluff happened last week. They were there Wednesday to Friday, and it was a great opportunity for the students. One of the greatest values of this trip is bringing the grade/the students together. Mr. Ostrowski wanted to thank the staff that went with and made it possible, Mr. Blake Julian, Ms. Shauna Groski, Mrs. Rachel Thoma, Mr. Steve Moericke, Ms. Anne Buezis, Mr. Ryan Anderson, Mr. Tim Andring, Mr. Alex Kvanli, Mr. Xavier Riser, and Mr. Eric Aeschlimann.

Teaching & Learning Department – Heather Lyke shared the following: 1) There was a great in service today. It had highly engaging conversation, and ED camps which were teacher led. 2) Teaching & Learning Specialist Sarah Carlson has been amazing. While other staff members were at Eagle Bluff with the 8th grade, and there being such a shortage of substitutes, Ms. Carlson volunteered to go into a couple of classrooms to teach, making it possible for those classroom teachers to attend the Eagle Bluff trip. Heather stated that she is really proud of Ms. Carlson and that she believes she will be a great asset to our team.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading and Approval of MSBA Policy Changes

A motion was made by member Johnson, seconded by Member DeMuth, and carried unanimously to approve the following policies: 102; 406; 413; 425; 501; 503; 515; 524.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Nexus Strategic Plan Agreement

A motion was made by Member McFarlen, seconded by Member DeMuth, and carried unanimously to approve the Nexus Strategic Plan Agreement.

Tentative Approval of Student trip to France April 2022

A motion was made by Member McFarlen, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to tentatively approve the Student Trip to France.

Tentative Approval of Close-Up trip to Washington DC January 2022

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to tentatively approve the Close-Up Trip to Washington D.C.

First Reading of the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar (Attachment A)

Superintendent Carolan shared the draft 2022-2023 Academic Calendar and discussed some of the details regarding this choice.

Consent – Accept Resignations and Hires and Donation

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

Resignations: None

Hires: PAM WALSH as Targeted Services Paraprofessional, LOGAN CLARK as Long-Term Substitute 5th Grade, CHRIS MATEJKA as 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, GRACE SCOTT as Targeted Services After School High school helper

Donations: None.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) Olmsted Public Health sent out a simple survey gauging the community's interest in having a vaccine clinic at the school. 2) He attended the Ratwik Law Seminar on Friday, November 5, 2021. He will send information to the board if they are interested in any of the information that was discussed at this seminar. 3) The Diversity Council held their second meeting. Superintendent Carolan shared that there is a likelihood of reaching out to an outside group for help and guidance. The Diversity Council is comprised of a great group of people with good discussions.

Chair Pagel asked Superintendent Carolan about concerns regarding the football program that were brought up during the Visitor Communication. He asked what the process is and what the board needs to do to address these concerns. Superintendent Carolan shared that it would start with a conversation between him and Activities Director Tim Andring to discuss what the next steps to address these concerns. A meeting with the coaching staff would follow. Chair Pagel stated that he will expect to hear something regarding this situation and concerns.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Andring – No meetings, but shared that he believes that the Diversity Council is a good thing. He also shared that he will be resigning at the December board meeting. His resignation is due to life changes and he will be moving out of the district so cannot remain on the school board. He thanked everyone and stated that he is proud of Dover-Eyota.

DeMuth – Nothing

Duellman – No meetings, but shared that she is enjoying being part of the Diversity Council, and she is excited about what can be created here in the community. She also shared that she is sensing a lot of toxic feelings directed towards the board members, and reminded the group of the need to run meetings in the way they have been structured to run.

Johnson – Mentioned that the Teamster Representative sent him an email requesting a sit down.

McFarlen – Nothing

Seaquist – Absent

Pagel – Had no meetings, but shared that he certainly appreciates the community input, stating that the School Board will take it in, and try to find solutions and address some of the concerns out there. He stated that the School Board will continue to keep doing the best they can.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM.

Heather Duellman, Clerk
TD

Draft Nov 8,

No School for Gr K-5 on September 6 & 7 due to scheduled conferences/assessments

Dover-Eyota Public Schools

2022-2023 Calendar

Student contact days: 175
 P/T conference days (24 hours)
 Inservice Workday
 8/29 8/29
 8/30 8/30
 8/31 8/31
 9/1 9/1
 4/5 4/5
 Work / Inservice days may be adjusted by the individual building.
 Q1 = 46 days
 Q2 = 45 days
 Q3 = 46 days
 Q4 = 38 days

KEY:
 NS = No School
 I = Inservice for teachers
 W = Workday for teachers
 EO = Early Out (EL @ 12:55, HS @ 1:07.)
 LS = 1-Hr Late Start
 = vacation or holiday
 = bldgs. closed
 Graduation 3/28

July 2022					August 2022					September 2022							
				1	1	2	3	4	5				1	2			
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	5	NS Labor Day Bldgs Closed	6	6-12 First Student Day	7	8	9	
Bldgs Closed														10	11	12	
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	12		13	14	15	16		
													LS				
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	19		20	21	22	23		
													LS				
25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31			26		27	28	29	30		
					W/I	W/I	W/I						LS				
October 2022					November 2022					December 2022							
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2			
		LS					LS										
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9			
		LS					LS		News Day End of 1 st Quarter			LS					
17	18	19	NS	20	NS	21	NS	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16
K-12 PM Conferenc es	K-12 PM Conferenc es	K-5 Conferenc es		MEA				NS W/I		LS					LS		
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23			
		LS					NS	Bldg Closed Thanksgiving	NS Bldgs Closed			LS					
31					28	29	30			26	NS Bldgs Closed	27	NS	28	29	30	
							LS			NS Bldgs Closed		NS	NS	NS	NS Bldgs Closed		
January 2023					February 2023					March 2023							
2	NS	3	4	5	6			1	2	3			1	2	3		
Bldgs Closed		School Resumes	LS					LS					LS				
9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10			
		LS					LS					LS					
16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17			
Martin Luther King Jr. Day		LS					LS					LS					
23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24		
		LS		EO/W End 2 nd Quarter		K-12 PM Confer- ences		LS	K-5 PM Confer- ences	NS			LS				
30	31				27	28				27	28	29	30	31			
												LS					
April 2023					May 2023					June 2023							
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5				1	2			
	End 3rd Quarter	NS W/I	NS	NS Bldgs Closed Good Friday			LS						EO/W End 4 th Quarter	W/I			
10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9			
School Resumes		LS					LS										
17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16			
		LS					LS										
24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23			
		LS					LS	Last Day for Seniors									
					29	NS Bldgs Closed Memorial	30	31		26	27	28	29	30			