

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 11, 2021

Chair Ron Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:08 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Tamara DeMuth, Heather Duellman, James Johnson, Jessica McFarlan, Shawna Seaquist, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: None. 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 McFarlan, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Address the Board

Mrs. Tracy Krucker addressed the School Board relaying that she has still been unable to find data stating that masks are safe for kids. She is still waiting on data and information showing that the students are not losing oxygen and dealing with carbon dioxide. She was bringing this issue back in front of the School Board for more answers.

Ms. Alexis Batzel shared that Chatfield updated their numbers weekly with their number of cases, and she has not seen an updated number from Dover-Eyota since September 20, 2021. She shared that Chatfield does not require masks and they are at less than 1% out due to COVID-19. She also mentioned that she noticed that all preschool kids were wearing their masks while outside playing. She stated that she would hope that a staff member would remind students they are allowed to take their masks off while outside. Ms. Batzel also asked for clarification on if it was just one person who was making the decisions on who needs to quarantine. She is wondering why students are being sent home for "normal" seasonal allergies and headaches noting that we are a farming community and there are a lot of allergens in the air. Ms. Batzel finished by sharing with the School Board that a teacher told parents that only vaccinated parents are allowed on field trips and that masks are required even though it was an outside field trip. Ms. Batzel feels that it is not ok for staff to require or ask what a parent's vaccine status is.

Consent – Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member DeMuth, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to approve the September 13, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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 \$143,986.19, and the Special District Bills totaling \$273,261.04.

Approve the Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member McFarlan, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$6,603,326.11, and the September electronic transfers.

RECOGNITIONS

Assistant Principal John Ostrowski shared that both Dover-Eyota's Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer teams were seeded second therefore both teams will be playing the first round of section games this Wednesday, October 13, 2021. He also shared that the Wall of Fame induction ceremony was recently held where, Robin (Clark) Harps, Erik Ferguson, and the 2015 GBB team, the 2020 selection, along with this year's recipients, the 2010 Girls Track 4x800 relay team were all honored and recognized. Mr. Ostrowski stated that it was a great night.

Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny recognized Teaching and Learning Director Heather Lyke for doing the job of two people, which has been a lot of professional development planning, organizing, and meeting with teachers. A lot that goes on and Mrs. Lyke pulled it all together, working long, hard hours. Dr. Svobodny noted that she has been great.

Superintendent Carolan recognized Mr. Tim Andring, who is the new Activities Director. Tim has taken on the role of Activities Director as well as continuing to teach 6th grade full time. Superintendent Carolan noted that he is doing a great job, and that there is a lot to learn but that Assistant Principal, and former Activities Director John Ostrowski has been great at mentoring and supporting him.

Teaching and Learning Director Heather Lyke recognized Mr. Tom Flag and Ms. Kate Rislow for their amazing support with the Fast Bridge testing.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Teaching & Learning Department – Heather Lyke shared the following: An update on the new Teaching and Learning Specialist Sarah Carlson, she will be starting on October 25, 2021. She also shared that she is super excited about getting professional development opportunities for the staff with published authors who are donating their time to Dover-Eyota. She also shared that roughly 50% of her time has been spent in classrooms helping to co plan and/or co teaching.

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) The Flu shot clinic will be held at Elementary Monday, October 18, 2021, which is the first night of conferences. The clinic will be available for staff, students and community members. 2) Preschool screening will be happening Wednesday, October 13, 2021, Friday, October 15, 2021 and November 3, 2021. 3) She sent a survey to parents to gain insight on their feelings regarding the back to school conferences. She found this feedback very valuable. There were 270 responses, which showed that the back to school conferences remain a positive experience. 4) Open computer lab will be starting again after conferences. This will be open to anyone 3rd grade and up. 5) The scheduled conferences are next week Monday, October 18, and Tuesday, October 19 in the evening, and all-day Wednesday, October 20.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) Discussion regarding valedictorian and salutatorian. He surveyed other areas which showed that there are many districts that are moving away from valedictorian and salutatorian due to the difficulty comparing apples to apples. Many times, administration is choosing between students who may have a fraction of a grade point average difference. Mr. Rowekamp shared that over the years most districts have gone away from this and he would recommend Dover-Eyota move away from this as well, stating that Dover-Eyota would still recognize students who have high academic achievement. It was decided that this subject will be a discussion point at the November School Board Mini-Retreat.

Activities Director/Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: 1) He has started meeting with the 8th grade class in preparation for their Eagle Bluff trip. He will be holding four 15-minute meetings. 2) He also shared that he was able to maintain his position on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). He shared that MSHS had set it up to where 80-90% of their budget was dependent of state tournament revenue. This meant increasing membership fees for schools. Mr. Ostrowski thanked the board for supporting the league and trusting the increase in fees. MSHS is in a position where they would be financially sustainable even if they were shut down due to the pandemic. This is good news.

REPORTS

COVID 19 Updates- Superintendent Carolan shared that the school website was not updating the COVID dashboard properly and that is why it was not reflecting current data. He shared that the COVID Dashboard has been fixed and is now current and up to date. He also walked through /shared the statistics website and how it will be used as one factor in deciding when masks will be able to become optional. Superintendent Carolan also shared an article on COVID testing and how it may be able to be used to keep students in school when they test negative for COVID. He also shared the release form that will be used which would allow the school to test students for COVID who may be showing symptoms or have been a close contact.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the request for permanent transfer from District funds-

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member McFarlen, and carried unanimously to table this item due to incorrect figures.

Permanent transfers from District funds: Restricted/Reserved for Community Education (Fund 04) - \$10,464.06; Restricted/Reserved for School Readiness (Fund 04) - \$22,405.75; Restricted Fund Balance (Pre-School Screening) (Fund 04) - \$3,207.03; Total Permanent Transfers from Other Funds (Fund 01) - \$36,076.84.

Approve FFA National Convention Student Trip

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member McFarlen, and carried unanimously to approve the FFA National Convention Trip.

First Reading of MSBA Policy Changes

Slight MSBA changes were made to the following policies: 102, 406, 413, 425, 501, 503, 515, 524. These changes will be looked at again in November for approval.

Consent – Accept Resignations and Hires and Donation

A motion was made by Member McFarlen, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to accept the:

Resignations: None

Hires: DANIELLE HAMPEL Accounts Payable Clerk & Activities Director Secretary, LANDON DEMUTH Adult SACC Aide, ALBERTO VERA Model UN Advisor, DIANE WELCH Lead HS/MS Secretary, NICOLE WOLF, JENNA CLARK, and KRISTIN LONEY as Targeted Services After School Teacher, SHYANN ELLIOTT, and KEELI REDIG as Targeted Services After School Paraprofessional, TERRY SINN and ROSANN EISENMAN Open Lab Supervisors

Donations: PATT \$1,200 for Elementary Classroom Party Money.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) He shared that parents have been sharing their concerns with their students being quarantined and the length of the quarantine. He would like to find solutions to minimize the length so that the healthy, noninfected students can be in school. 2) He ordered tests from the State and he will help get those tests out to the community members. 3) The Cabinet met with Nexus, who introduced themselves and laid out the next steps in the possible referendum project. 4) He will be working on creating a Diversity Council. He has two parents as of now that are interested in being on this council, and he asked that if any of the board members were interested in being part of this council they contact him. 5) Superintendent Carolan shared information regarding the new signs that were posted in the school woods asking that community members and anyone who is not school staff, stay out of the woods during school hours. This is due to the school using these woods as outdoor classrooms and keeping the students safe. It was mentioned that there was a sign posted in a confusing/questionable area and Superintendent Carolan will look into that particular sign and where it was placed.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Andring – Shared thoughts from the Meet & Confer meeting that was just before the School Board meeting. There were suggestions from teachers to use some of the late starts on Wednesdays as a time to communicate and talk as a group about the stuff they are going through or dealing with as teachers and check in with each other on how everyone is coping, dealing, and working through these challenges/issues. Member Andring also shared that the football coaches have set their players up to be role models. All players have weekly progress reports, that are complete by the teachers, and have to attend mandatory study groups. This is making a big difference in those students. Member Andring shared that we have got to take care of our new teachers, stating that there is a lot of concern for the new

teachers who are learning the district, the students, families and the community while possibly teaching for the first time during a pandemic and working through a lot of behavior issues that the district is seeing this year.

DeMuth – Attended the Policy Committee meeting, which she said went very smooth and quick.

Duellman – Has no other meetings, but does have the Crisis Committee meeting scheduled that she hopes to be able to attend virtually or call into.

Johnson – Shared that he has the COVID Council meeting but had nothing to add beyond what was already discussed.

McFarlen – Had nothing to add, but shared that she is excited to hear about the new Diversity Council.

Seaquist – Shared the insight she had from the Meet & Confer meeting. She shared that the biggest concern for the teachers right now is managing the behavior issues they are seeing this year. Member Seaquist shared that she believed teachers are looking more for an ear to listen versus a problem solver to tell them what they should try. She mentioned the idea of creating a system where there is a veteran teacher pool that could potentially rotate so new teachers would have someone to talk to when they are looking for assistance, advice, or an ear to listen. She shared that the staff is looking for more social emotional tools to have in their tool box. She also shared that the teachers stated that they appreciate the administration checking in just to see how things are going. It was also stated that some staff may have a hard time asking for help, so when they are approached or asked how they are doing, it makes it easier for them to ask for help. Another idea that was discussed was a floating support staff that would be able to help with classes that may have more behavior issues than others. And finally, it was mentioned that new teachers, and even some veteran teachers are unsure of Mr. John Ostrowski's new role is and what it entails. Sending out a communication outlining the shift and his new role would be helpful and appreciated.

Pagel – Thanked the other members and administration for their cooperation and patience during the events of that evening and the delayed start time.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member McFarlen, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM.

Heather Duellman, Clerk
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