

# REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 9, 2021

Chair Ron Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:03 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Tamara DeMuth, Heather Duellman, James Johnson, Jessica McFarlan (6:10 PM), Shawwna Seaquist, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: None. Also in attendance were Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny, Teaching & Learning Director Nick Truxal, 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 Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

## Visitors to Address the Board

Amy Ninas – COVID-19 School – Ms. Ninas reiterated that with the length of the pandemic, the virus is not going away, and stated that she felt we need to figure out how to live with the virus and live our lives as safely as we can. She stated that the number one thing is that children need to be in school. Five days a week, full time, physically in the school buildings. She also stated that she feels we need to stop isolating healthy children and people. Ms. Ninas shared with the School Board that she has a relative who has children in the Menomonie Wisconsin school district and that district was open, in person throughout the school year, they never shut down, and none of the kids or teachers got severely ill or died. She stated that she fears that we are going down the same road as last year and she hopes that the School Board can focus on what is happening here, in our community, and not what the media is saying. She reiterated that the number one priority is that the kids should be in school.

Elizabeth Draper – COVID 19 School plan – Ms. Draper thanked the School Board for the opportunity to speak before them. She stated that she has two students in the district, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and 9<sup>th</sup> grader. She implores the School Board to look at the research that is available that supports schools fully reopen. Stating that if you were to look at the regional data and case numbers that the Delta variant is affecting the older and most vulnerable of the population and Olmsted County has one of the highest vaccine rates in the state. Ms. Draper stated that ultimately, we need to stop tightening the screws on the children, and she encourages the School Board to keep looking at research and regional data, and to be advocates for the children to be in school with as little disruption as possible.

Tracy Krucker – COVID 19 School plan – Ms. Krucker is a mother of two and one of the owners of Little Eagles Childcare. Her biggest concerns are that the School Board decisions be made local information and not solely off recommendations or national websites. Stating that we need to step back and make decisions as a community with community involvement. Ms. Krucker advocated for students to be in school 5 days a week, stating that it can be done, it may not be easy, but it can be done. Ms. Krucker also stated that she backs the School Board when decisions are made when the community and the students' best interests are in the center of the decision. She closed stating that this virus is not going away and we need to figure out how to live in it.

Chair Pagel addressed the crowd stating that Superintendent Carolan has been very open about his COVID Advisory Group and that he is looking for input from community and parents. Chair Pagel believes we will be in school full time, requiring masks is the question and dilemma now.

Superintendent Carolan shared the new quarantine exception, stating that if all people are wearing a mask, any close contact does not have to quarantine, only the sick need to quarantine. He also shared that we will be working with Olmsted County to offer vaccines for the students.

## Consent – Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the July 12, 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 McFarlen, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$101,059.39, and the Special District Bills totaling \$131,441.64.

### 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 \$6,204,866.02, and the July electronic transfers.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Superintendent Carolan recognized Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank for being inducted as the President of the Minnesota School Nutrition Association last week. Stating that she is a great role model for other school nutrition specialist throughout the state. Superintendent Carolan also recognized Teaching and Learning Department Nick Truxal and Heather Lyke, along with Chair Pagel for their amazing job presenting during the MSBA fall conference which was held August 5, 2021.

## **CABINET COMMUNICATIONS**

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: Absent

Activities Director/Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following – Absent due to Athletics Meeting

Teaching & Learning Department – Nick Truxal shared the following: 1) Met with Amit Sood and InSciEd, and it went incredibly well. The kindergarten staff are eager to try this out, offers great social emotional opportunity for kindergarten students and their parents. 2) He is working with a number of staff on a website that offers 96 different pages/tools and things available for staff to utilize in their professions. 3) This will be his last board meeting. He has enjoyed working with the easiest, and the best School Board, stating he highly recommends all of them. Dover-Eyota is a fabulous crew. Chair Pagel stated that he appreciates the comments he has heard regarding Mr. Truxal and his work and what Mr. Truxal has provided for the Dover-Eyota School District.

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) July and beginning of August has been a lot of organizing, interviewing, hiring and letter writing. She has been busy with major back to school planning, and safety procedures that will be used in school. She was happy to learn that the elementary can safely have lunches for each grade level in the cafeteria. She has been busy determining the building schedule, safe morning arrival and afternoon dismissal, organizing the back to school conferences, finalizing parent student handbooks, and monitoring enrollment. 2) She has been working with PATT to recruit volunteers to help paint fun things on the newly resurfaced black top in the playground area. 3) Working on her staff development. 4) She will be attending the Southeast Minnesota Elementary Principal Academy again this year. 5) She shared that the early childhood numbers are up, and that they will be bringing back Footsteps. There will be two Look at Me classes, two morning LRP classes, one afternoon LRP class, and one Transition class (which runs three full days a week). 6) Summer school had been going so well until the exposure during the last week. 7) Couple major reports coming up ADSIS and Title 1.

## **REPORTS**

**COVID-19 Update** – The new quarantine rules were discussed. The recommendation for the elementary students and staff to wear masks was discussed. The verbiage of the resolution was discussed at length.

### Approve the Health and Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year Resolution

A motion was made by Member Seaquist, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adopt the Health and Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year Resolution.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Second Reading and Approval of Handbooks –

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the 2021-2022 Handbooks.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Call for Abatement Hearing

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to call for the Abatement Hearing on September 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

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

### 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: DUSTIN PAGEL Transportation & Grounds Director, DAVE EHLENFELDT Bus Route Driver, ZACH DUERWACHTER Assistant Football Coach, JENNA SKRUKRUD SACC Coordinator, NICK TRUXAL Teaching & Learning Director, CHRIS STUART JH Football Coach, BRYCE SCHMIDT JV Boys Basketball Coach

Hires: LINDA NIGON as Cook's Helper, POLLY JOHNSON as High School Cook, JORDAN MEYERS as 7<sup>th</sup> grade Volleyball Coach, MEREDITH CLARK as 8<sup>th</sup> grade Volleyball Coach, BRYCE HEIM as Assistant Football Coach, AMY RENKEN as Food & Nutrition Operations Manager, JON HAUSWALD as 8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys Basketball Coach, MYCHAL REDIG as 4<sup>th</sup> grade Instructor, NICOLE EINSMAN as Footsteps Child Educator, IKE VESEL as Elementary PE Teacher, ERIC AESCHLIMANN as .5 FTE Elementary PE and .5 Elementary Dean of Students

Donations: None

## **HEARING OF REPORTS**

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) He held the most recent COVID Advisory Council meeting this week. 2) He is working with the Building and Grounds Committee to get together possibly Wednesday, August 11, 2021 in the morning to discuss different projects. 3) He held the interviews for the .5 FTE Elementary Dean of Students position and he feels the team made a great choice with Eric Aeschlimann. With that being said he stated that there were two very good candidates to consider and he asked the School Board to consider moving Mr. John Ostrowski to a full time Assistant Principal position here at the secondary level. Mr. Ostrowski in part would be the building champion to get MTSS off the ground here at the secondary level. The School Board fully supported this move and the posting of the .5 FTE Activities/Athletic Director position.

### Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

**Andring** – Shared that he saw that the Homecoming game had been moved from Friday to Saturday which conflicts with the Dover-Eyota Eagles Foundation auction. He mentioned possibly scheduling the game in the afternoon vs at night. He shared that he will be part of the Building and Grounds meeting this week, and that the Negotiations Committee is working on getting those meetings going again this month.

**DeMuth** – Shared that she is also part of the Negotiations Committee and they are working on dates.

**Duellman** – Stated that she is part of the Building and Grounds Committee who will be meeting this week and that she was part of the COVID Advisory Committee who met earlier. She wanted to assure people that the COVID Advisory Committee is a group of good minds trying to interpret sometimes ambiguous language but that everyone at the meeting has the intention of keeping the students in school and doing what is best for students and staff

**Johnson** – Shared that he was part of the COVID Advisory Committee meeting this past week and let the public know that he is available if they wanted to discuss any concerns. He is also part of the Negotiations Committee which is getting ready to start those meetings again, stating that they are trying to schedule two meetings this month with the goal of having the contract settled before school starts.

**McFarlen** – Has no meetings, and has none coming up

**Sequist** – Shared that she has had no meetings and none coming up, but thanked the other members and the public for great discussion.

**Page1** – Shared that he was part of the .5 FTE Elementary Dean of Students interview team and that there was great discussion for what is best for Dover-Eyota and the district. He stated that Dover-Eyota is losing some great people: Dustin and what he does and his dedication, Jenna over at SAAC and certainly Nick and his enthusiasm and the great things he has been hearing from the teachers. He also shared that he enjoyed MSBA presentation he was a part of and reiterated that Dover-Eyota needs to take care of the staff we have and support them. He finished by thanking everyone for coming and sharing.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Heather Duellman, Clerk  
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