

MINI-RETREAT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2021

Chair Ron Pagel called the Dover-Eyota Board of Education Mini-Retreat, District #533, to order at 6:05PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center and via Microsoft Teams. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Tamara DeMuth, Heather Duellman, James Johnson, Jessica McFarlan, Shawwna Seaquist, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: none. Also in attendance was Business Manager Gary Betcher, and Administrative Assistant Tara Dabelstein.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve the Agenda

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

Reports/Discussion Items

Asbestos Project-Thad Dahling, Sr. Project Manager with IEA, presented to the board the asbestos mitigation projects on the second floor of the high school/middle school building. There are 4 classrooms plus the FACS classroom that have already been done, however the rest of the second level, including the corridor and classrooms on both sides still need to be done. The timeline would be tight to finish before school starts. Essentially the projects is two months from start to finish. Which would mean we could start no later than the beginning of July. It was discussed to potentially hold off to get bids in for next June instead of trying to finish in such a rushed time line.

Financing Options – Jeff Seeley, Senior Municipal Advisor with Ehlers Public Finance Advisors addressed the School Board about 3 bonds that are outstanding and still being paid on but will be coming due soon, and how this can be used to benefit the school by allowing some larger projects to get done. He shared that health and safety projects can be approved by the school board, whereas other projects would need to be voter approved by a referendum. After much discussion Mr. Seeley told the School Board that there was an option to take out the health and safety levy, for items such as the asbestos mitigation and parking lot work, this would be a one year adjustment which would give the district more time to communicate with the community about the referendum options and what projects would likely be covered if the referendum were to pass. With this option the district would let Minnesota Department of Education know what health and safety projects they will be doing and this levy extension would be approved during the Truth in Taxation meeting in December. All the health and safety projects that are decided on and covered under this levy would be done over the 2022 summer break.

The School Board discussed what the next steps would be. The district will figure out the one year stop gap levy extension which would allow the school board time to build a plan for larger projects. The district will work on getting numbers on the health and safety projects that would get don under this one year levy extension. The school board will need to officially approve the levy extension, and a Referendum Committee will be formed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:58PM.

Heather Duellman, Clerk
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