

# REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 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 and via Microsoft Teams. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Tamara DeMuth, Heather Duellman, James Johnson, Jessica McFarlan (6:12 PM via Microsoft Teams), Shawna Seaquist, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: None. Also in attendance were High School Principal Todd Rowekamp (Microsoft Teams), Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal John Ostrowski (Microsoft Teams), Teaching & Learning Director Nick Truxal (Microsoft Teams), 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 Duellman, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

## Visitors to Address the Board

None

## Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Seaquist, and carried unanimously to approve the January 11, 2021 Organizational Meeting Minutes and the January 11, 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 Duellman, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$63,039.62, and the Special District Bills totaling \$85,471.44.

## Approve the Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Duellman and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$4,618,782.55 and the January electronic transfers.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Superintendent Carolan recognized Chris Eck, Elementary School Nurse, for her tremendous work with all things COVID related. When she was asked to be the COVID Coordinator, Superintendent Carolan did not realize how time consuming the job would be. He stated that it turned out to be a much bigger job than he anticipated. However, Chris has taken on this role and performed it with grace and patience and has done a tremendous job working through everything this role entails. Superintendent Carolan shared that she has been invaluable.

Superintendent Carolan also recognized, Teaching and Learning Specialist, Heather Lyle, Teaching and Learning Director, Nick Truxal and School Board Chair, Ron Pagel for their presentation at the MSBA Leadership Conference. Superintendent Carolan stated that everyone did a great job sharing their slides and walking through the presentation.

Dr. Jeanne Svobodny recognized three Dover-Eyota teachers who are being considered for the Teacher of the Year Award, Jill Magnuson, Suzette Rowan, and Tami Rhea. They are among 75 teachers that have been nominated. Dr. Svobodny shared that all three teachers do an outstanding job.

## **CABINET COMMUNICATIONS**

Teaching & Learning Department – Nick Truxal shared the following: 1) Thank you to Bryanna Anderson for piloting a new feedback based reporting system this semester. 3) Mr. Truxal shared that they have been

working with a lot of surrounding organizations on possible grant partnerships. We were awarded a grant of \$10,000 through Southeast Minnesota Initiative Foundations to purchase diverse, cross-curricular book bins.

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) The elementary staff have participated in two saliva test collections and both went very smoothly. Thank you to school nurses Chris Eck and Nicole Pochron for organizing those collections. 2) Almost all the staff that want the COVID vaccine have had to opportunity to receive at least the first dose. 3) Compared to this time last year, the elementary is seeing very little illnesses. 4) Fall Conferences are being scheduled through Sign-up Genus. The parents are able to sign up for a conference slot for either Monday, February 22 or Thursday, February 25.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> was the first day of in-person hybrid learning for the high school grades 9-12. He stated that it was great having them back. The first two weeks with middle school students went really smoothly as well, and it is nice to have students back in the building. 2) It seems like we can see normal on the horizon. The ACT planning has started, Snoball week dates have been set, and there is even talk about a tentative prom date. Things are moving in the right direction. 4) Member Johnson asked about the Not Enough Evidence in the grades. This was discussed and Mr. Rowekamp explained how it worked.

Activities Director/Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: 1) He shared the same thoughts that Mr. Rowekamp did on the students coming back. The last two weeks were just middle school students in the building; it is nice to have all grades back in the hybrid learning. 2) There was a COVID case at a wrestling triangular where a student from another town tested positive after the match. With Athletic Trainer, Shauna Hoff and COVID Coordinator Chris Eck they were able to sort through contact tracing.

#### **District Feedback Forms -**

Mike shared the compliment that was submitted regarding the student announcers being used during the live streaming of the Dover-Eyota games.

#### **REPORTS**

COVID-19 Updates: Superintendent Carolan shared that the COVID numbers in Olmsted decreasing as well as the zip code numbers are decreasing. Now that students are back in the buildings and we will have a more accurate COVID count, and the COVID Dashboard will be updated. With students back in the buildings, and the vaccine being offered and available to all staff, it is time to start to think about the next step: 5 days a week in school. One of the big factors in the move to five days in person is the immunizations. We do not have a firm number of how many staff have been able to take advantage of the vaccine, because the appointments are being offered so quickly and the system is changing so rapidly. Although some staff have opted out of the vaccine, most of the staff have been able to get their first shot and schedule their second shot. That shows real progress in this area. Member Johnson shared his thoughts on the need to get the students back in the building five days a week, stating that the teachers were placed at the top of the priority list for the vaccine to be able to get the students back in the buildings, and in front of the teachers again. There is a Mini-Retreat on February 22, 2021 and the next step plan will be discussed and worked on.

First Reading of the Draft 2021-2022 Board Assumptions

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Consent – Accept Resignations, Hires, and Donations

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to:

Accept Resignations:

Accept Hires:

Donations: EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY \$150, and ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST \$500 to the Angel Account; ANONYMOUS donation of \$25 to the Sharing Tree;

## **HEARING OF REPORTS**

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) Due to covering a lot of the information in the COVID update, he briefly discussed his report. The vaccine numbers went up so most if not all of the staff have been able to get their first vaccine and schedule their second. 2) Critical Worker Child Care is still happening on Wednesdays. 3) Saliva testing is happening. 4) We are getting closer to the point of being able to allow Community Education youth sports back in the buildings. 5) There will be a Town Hall Meeting with the distance learning parents on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:30 PM. 6) Superintendent Carolan updated the board members on the early release and remote learning days that took place the prior week. Member Seaquist shared that there has been comments and questions regarding snow days, and if they will be obsolete now due to the ability to have remote learning days, or if there will still be snow days. Superintendent Carolan shared that this year there will be a remote learning year, however, in the years to come snow days are still being addressed and worked out.

## **Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication**

**Andring** – Shared that Deputy Pagel was honored with Deputy of the Year for her life saving efforts. He also shared that he has been able to attend (virtually) some of the live streamed sporting events, he shared that the live streaming is a nice asset to have.

**DeMuth**– No updates, however she has attended several trainings with more to come.

**Duellman** – No updates, but thinks a mentorship is a good idea.

**Johnson** – No updates.

**McFarlen** – Shared that she is proud of the three teachers from Dover-Eyota that were nominated for the Teacher of the Year Award. She is thankful for all the work everyone is doing and super proud of everything Dover-Eyota is doing. She shared that she is available to the new board members if they have any questions.

**Seaquist** – Shared that she has been to a lot of trainings, and that they went well. In the trainings mentorship was discussed as an option for the new board members and she felt that having at least one contact person that is able to give advice for the new members was a great idea. Chair Pagel shared that he is always available to all new members.

**Pagel** – No updates.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member McFarlen, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:47PM.

Heather Duellman, Clerk  
TD