

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Chair Ron Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:23 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. 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 were High School Principal Todd Rowekamp (via Microsoft Teams), Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal John Ostrowski, Teaching & Learning Director Nick Truxal (via 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 McFarlan, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Address the Board

None

Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Andring, and carried unanimously to approve the December 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Consent – Approve Regular District Bills and Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member McFarlan, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$222,010.47, and the Special District Bills totaling \$136,397.68.

Approve the Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member McFarlan, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$5,881,343.39, and the December electronic transfers.

RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent Carolan recognized the elementary as well as the high school/middle school staff. Stating that they have been very supportive of planning, changes, and preparing for students to come back to in person learning. They continue to work so hard to meet and exceed the district's expectations.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Activities Director/Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: There is a lot of discussion and planning around winter sports and allowing of fans, or not allowing of fans, to watch games and matches. Current guidelines say that no fans are allowed within 12 ft. of court or mat, and all fans have to be 6 ft. apart unless in the same family/household. Activities Directors around the area and in the conference are all trying to work out the details trying figuring out what can and cannot be done.

Teaching & Learning Department – Nick Truxal shared the following: 1) He welcomed the new board members. 2) He shared data that has been collected throughout the year that will be used in the Minnesota School Board Association presentation later this month. 3) He thanked the staff members for their engagement and their continued wish to grow and better themselves.

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) The elementary is doing a lot of mitigation strategies to lessen the potential spread of the virus. She pointed out a couple new strategies that are being implemented: The Physical Education class moving to the gym, with masks being worn at all times, and the staff will now have the opportunity to be tested for COVID every other week via saliva testing. 2) When the teachers were asked about their concern regarding students who were not engaging in distance learning, the 5th grade teachers mentioned they had only two students they were concerned about, while the

other grades including the distance learning teachers stated that each grade had one student they were concerned about. 3) Dr. Svobodny started putting out a Friday News Flash that goes home each Friday to help keep families updated on a more efficient basis. 4) She met with Special Education teaching staff last Friday and they are hoping to bring back 8 special education students in 5th grade, who have not been highly engaged in distance learning. The plan would be to bring them back when the Pre-k – 2nd grade students return. 5) There are challenges right now in trying to organizing for the next two weeks: with Pre k- 2nd grade to come back next week, how to run a school when half of the students are in session and half are distance learning. The Paraprofessionals, specialists, SACC, and CWCC workers schedules are a tough transition at this time as well. Friday Pre-k – 2nd teachers will be in building preparing for students to come back Tuesday.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) He welcomed the new School Board members, and thanked them for their courage and willingness to serve in these strange and challenging times. 2) The high school/middle school staff continuing to look for creative ways to engage students during distance learning and hybrid learning.

REPORTS

COVID-19 Updates: Superintendent Carolan shared the following: 1) There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM. This meeting will show the community what the return to school plan looks like and how the decision making process works. Superintendent Carolan shared that Dover-Eyota did utilize the Regional Support Team when working on the return to school plan. The plan is to roll out 3 grade bands at a time beginning on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 with Pre-K – 2nd grade. February 1, 2021, 3rd - 5th grade would begin back to in person. Elementary would go back to four days in school with Wednesday remaining a remote learning/deep cleaning day. The secondary level would be bringing 6th – 8th grade back beginning on Monday, January 25, 2021. They would go back to the same hybrid sessions as before. There will be no classes Monday, January 18th – January 22nd for 6-12th grade as the teachers and staff prepare for the return to school. 9th – 11th grade would then return on Monday, February 8, 2021 and 12th grade will be determined after Superintendent Carolan contacts the state to get permission to bring 4 grades back at one time. More details will be shared at the Town Hall Meeting. Visuals will be provided at that time as well. Superintendent Carolan will share the visual aids with the school board members before Thursday's meeting. 2) The COVID Advisory Committee meets every two weeks to go over data and discuss new information. 3) At this time youth sports will not be starting. With all the mitigation strategies that are happening at school, the concern of cross contaminating and spreading the virus between cohorts is too great.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consent – Accept Resignations, Hires, and Donations

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

Accept Resignations: Instructional Assistant AMY SPITZER, Track & Field Coach HOLLY CALLAHAN

Accept Hires: None

Donations: Multiple ANONYMOUS donations totaling \$1,005, GARY BETCHER \$25, MICHAEL CAROLAN \$25, JENNIFER CLARK \$30, AMY DESSNER \$100, TAMI JOHNSON \$100, GARY JONES \$100, CAROLYN PEDERSEN \$25, NICOLE POCHRON \$100, BRIDGET IDEKER \$100, TODD ROWEKAMP \$100 to the Sharing Tree; ANONYMOUS donation \$143.70 for the lunch program to help cover negative accounts, ANONYMOUS donation \$257 for overdue books.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) The new PPE was picked up today, which included new face shields and masks for adults and students. The staff are not required to wear both, however the shield are available for those who want to. 2) Saliva testing is another mitigation strategy that will be offered to those who want it. 3) Ring the Bell has been allowed to meet in the building again. 4) Bringing students back allows the district to bring some of the staff that was laid off back as well.) Shared that he will be hosting the Town Hall Meeting at 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 14th.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Andring – Had no meetings and commented that the sooner COVID is over the better for all of us. He welcomed the new members and stated that he looks forward to working with them and he stated he is glad to have Member McFarlen and Member Duellman back.

DeMuth – No meetings, but stated that she agrees with and appreciates that Dover-Eyota is doing during COVID is within the guidelines set by MSBA and or the State.

Duellman – No meetings, but commented that there are a lot of working parts when it comes to making decisions, and there is a lot of information that the community doesn't see that is behind the scenes.

Johnson – No meetings other than the COVID Advisory Council Meetings; nothing to report. He stated there needs to be a ton of grace for the decisions makers and he thanked them for what they do. He also shared that he is optimistic with the vaccine.

McFarlen – No meetings; she thanked the School District and the Superintendent for always following the guidelines that have been given to us by the State/Governor. She recognized this time is hard on families as well as all of us, but she reiterated that she has confidence in what we do and appreciates what Superintendent Carolan does.

Seaquist – Like everyone else, she stated she is ready for COVID to be over. She agreed that it is very important to have students in the school and appreciates that the School District is doing following the order of Minnesota.

Page1 – No meetings; he welcomed the new members, and welcomed Member Duellman back.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member McFarlen, seconded by Member Duellman, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM.

Heather Duellman, Clerk
TD