

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 9, 2020

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 and via Microsoft Teams. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Heather Duellman, James Johnson, Linda Nelson, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: Jessica McFarlen. Also in attendance were High School Principal Todd Rowekamp, Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny, Activities Director/Assistant Principal John Ostrowski, 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 Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Address the Board

Mr. Brandon Draper addressed the board in regards to the decision that was made for the 4th and 5th graders to move to distance learning and the decision to have the high school/middle school in distance learning to the end of the calendar year. He mentioned his concern for the mental health for the students and how he felt that with distance learning the students are falling behind in their education. He stated that this was a big concern for many of the parents, and he feels that it is especially hurting the younger grades. Although he did say that it is having a negative effect on the older students as well. Superintendent Carolan shared the decision making process on how the decisions were made.

Consent – Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the October 12, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Consent – Approve Regular District Bills and Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Andring, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$230,436.88, and the Special District Bills totaling \$383,689.94.

Approve the Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$5,336,227.38, and the October electronic transfers.

RECOGNITIONS

Activities Director John Ostrowski recognized both the Boys and Girls Soccer teams who ended up in the section championship games and who both came in as runner up. The Boys Soccer season was 14-0. The Boys' Soccer also won the conference for the first time this year. Congratulations to Mr. Pittenger and Mr. Hak and the Boys and Girls Soccer coaching staff in a great season.

Superintendent Carolan recognized the Administrative Team for making some tough decisions, along with Teaching and Learning Director Nick Truxal and Teaching and Learning Specialist Heather Lyke for the amazing job they have been doing working with teachers. He recognized Teaching and Learning Specialist Heather Lyke for the great job she has done building support systems for the teachers and staff. He also recognized Chris Eck and Todd Rowekamp for their amazing job with the contact tracing that needs to be done, as well as Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank and her staff, who really come through when the district shifted to distance learning. They figured out the means on providing food for our families, especially during the elementary food service quarantine. The high school food service staff rallied and went over help cover the elementary.

Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny concurred with Superintendent Carolan's recognitions, saying a lot of people have been working cooperatively for the good of the whole. For example, the high school food service personnel coming over to the elementary to help, paras switching duties, high

school custodians coming to elementary school, and Transportation Director Dustin Pagel making transportation adjustments. She shared that the "Word-of-the-Week" at the elementary school this week was "flexibility", and that many people were demonstrating flexibility right now.

Teaching & Learning Director Nick Truxal recognized the teaching staff stating that during all of these changes. They are taking the opportunity to do something new and or better sometimes at the cost of their family time or their own sanity. He has been impressed with their flexibility and tenacity.

Chair Pagel recognized Superintendent Carolan noting that even during these very stressful and busy times, he is able to not only keep things inline and on track, but he applied to do a presentation at the MSBA conference and was chosen. Superintendent Carolan, Teaching & Learning Director Nick Truxal, Teaching and Learning Specialist Heather Lyke and himself will be presenting at the conference. The title of their presentation is, Minimizing staff burn out while focusing on mental health wellbeing.

Member Jonson recognized Activities Director John Ostrowski for his efforts during this difficult time. Thanking him for representing this region.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) Shared that the 4th and 5th grade who recently moved to distance learning are wanted back. It is important to have the elementary students in person as long as they can be while it is still safe. The implemented safety measures, wearing masks, sanitizing, social distancing, washing hands, limiting movement around the building, learning in cohorts, and adding two more custodians for intense cleaning are all measures to try and keep students in the building. She appreciates everyone's efforts during these unusual times. 2) Preschool screening took place. They limited how many kids came per hour to two. There were 28 preschoolers were screened this year. 3) On Friday, October 23 students could wear a hat for a dollar donation. The donation went to a fellow student who has had significant medical issues and bills. They collected over \$1,000, the community really supported that effort. 4) Report cards went out last Friday. 5) Member Johnson mentioned the Veterans Day program, stating that he understands why it cannot happen, but is disappointed about not being able attend this annual program due to the pandemic. He said it was a neat thing that he looks forward to each year.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) He reflected on the path that was taken getting to the distance learning decision. He hopes the students will be able to be back as soon as possible, stating that this is not anyone's number one choice. 2) Welcome to Kalyn Kelly, who is a brand new teacher fresh out of school. She is our long-term substitute for 6th grade music, and she has taken the distance learning change in stride.

Activities Director/Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: 1) The baseball and softball field meetings with Platteville students are going well. 2) Winter sports have tentative start dates, the biggest hiccup being wrestling, and how many fans will be permitted in the gym. 3) Cross country season ended and Junior Malia Nelson would have qualified as a state participant.

Teaching & Learning Department – Nick Truxal shared the following: 1) He wanted to recognize the kudos given to Activities Director John Ostrowski, stating "he is fabulous". 2) World's Best Work Force template came out and the public meeting has been scheduled for November 23, 2020, at 5 pm via Microsoft Teams. Some of the statistics shared were; the Dover-Eyota graduation rate at 98.4% with 67 of 67 students graduating last year. The rigorous courses being taken has increased 8% as well.

DISTRICT FEEDBACK FORMS

None

REPORTS

Presentation of the 2019-2020 Draft Audit

This draft report was given by Business Manager, Gary Betcher.

COVID-19 Updates:

There has been an increase in cases that are being monitored. The county continues say the numbers are going up in our region, which will likely lead to more schools considering distance learning. Member Johnson

asked to discuss the timeline with the 4th and 5th grade and the reevaluation plan. This was discussed and parents and community will know as soon as possible (hopefully the week of Thanksgiving) if they will be returning to school or continuing with distance learning. Superintendent Carolan shared that the community and parents still need share what is happening in the communities and homes. Please continue to report any COVID-19 cases.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consent – Accept Resignations and Hires and Donation

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

Resignations: SHARI FISHER as Cooks Helper

Hires: JULIA HARRINGTON as Long-term Distance Learning 2nd Grade Substitute, KALYN KELLY as Long-term Music Instructor Substitute, REBECCA GRAHAM as Long-term part-time Physical Education Substitute Instructor

Donations:

Accept Extended Leave Request

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to accept the extended leave request of KATHY MONSON, Music Instructor.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) The district purchased some iPads for the elementary, to update some of their technology, however, they have not been delivered yet. 2) He reminded the Board of all the COVID-19 mitigation efforts and all good work being done in the district. He also stated he plans to remind families to do their best to keep their families safe in an effort get the students back in the school buildings. 3) With the high school/middle school in full distance learning, there will be some asbestos removal in a science classroom here at the secondary building. Discussion was had on the flooring and the different remodels there have been over the years. 4) The COVID-19 Advisory Council that was created has proven to be very helpful. 5) Superintendent Carolan unofficially congratulated the new board members. There nomination will not be official until the canvassing meeting is done. The board members decided to schedule the canvassing meeting for Friday, November 13th, at 3 PM via Microsoft Teams.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Andring – Asked if the staff voted on the 2020-2022 Teamster Contract. Superintendent Carolan shared that they have not voted yet. Don thanked the Administration for all of their hard work during this difficult time.

Nelson – Had to leave the meeting early and signed out at 7:08 PM

Austinson – None

Johnson – Shared he has the COVID-19 Advisory Committee Meeting but beyond that he had no other meetings.

McFarlen – Absent

Duellman – None

Pagel – Shared that all HVED programs are in distance learning now too.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk
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