

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 10, 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 Commons. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Heather Duellman, James Johnson, Jessica McFarlan, Linda Nelson, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: none. 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 Johnson, seconded by Member McFarlan, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Address the Board

None

Consent – Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the July 13, 2020 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 Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$102,398.85, and the Special District Bills totaling \$103,856.75.

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 \$5,175,817.19, and the July electronic transfers.

RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent Carolan recognized the Administration team for working so hard on the return to school plans.

Mr. Todd Rowekamp recognized Ms. Deb Vosler for her 20 years' of service at Dover-Eyota and her many contributions to Dover-Eyota over the years.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) He has been spending a lot of time planning and figuring out how to make things work for returning to school. 2) The Middle School Service Learning Program was successful. He said it was neat to be invited to their last class and listen to the presentations. He shared one of the flyers as an example for the board to see. 3) Three new teachers will start at the high school/middle school this year. 4) Enrollment numbers seem good. The overall turnover seems low this year.

After significant discussion it was proposed to the board to adjust the school calendar to delay the start of school to build in planning time for teachers. It was proposed to move the first day of school from Monday August 31 to Thursday, September 3rd. The elementary would continue to have their assessment/conference days on Monday, August 31, 2020 and Tuesday, September 1, 2020 as previously scheduled. Wednesday would be an all staff planning day and all students would start school on Thursday, September 3, 2020.

Adjust the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar to have Students Start on September 3, 2020, Allowing Staff More Planning Time

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to adjust the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar.

Activities Director/Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: 1) He has been in a lot of Minnesota State High School League meetings. 2) He has been working with coaches, and working on getting back into sport seasons, safely. 3) He has been working on the return to school safety items. 4) Discussed the access to facilities priorities.

Teaching & Learning Department – Nick Truxal shared the following: 1) Teaching & Learning Specialist Peter Dodds resigned. There are a number of extremely good candidates for this position. 2) He share that the teachers continue to be incredible. 3) He has been working with the Southeast Service Cooperative, Katie Henrickson, and encouraged anyone to reach out to her if interested in getting great partnerships happening. She is working with us as well as 4 other districts.

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) She shared that she has been working on organizing the Early Childhood Program. Governor Waltz stressed we need to provide some type of Early Childhood Program. So what Dover-Eyota will do is not provide Footsteps or the Look at Me I'm 3 classes this year. Dover-Eyota will continue to offer the programs that are usually offer for the 4 and 5 year olds. 2) Summer School sessions went well. The students have been doing a wonderful job, they are all wearing masks very well. It has been different with social distancing and masks, but they have done a great job, and they have enjoyed it. Enrollment in summer school was down, but it gave them a chance to practice with the new restrictions. 3) Personnel changes in the elementary consist of: Doug Zars expressed desire to move to 4th grade, after Bretney Karsjens resigned, (he was 5th grade). Amanda Kruger, 5th grade teacher also resigned, this created two 5th grade teacher positions. The two new 5th grade teachers will be: Brittney Jarland, and Annie Bade.

DISTRICT FEEDBACK FORMS

None

REPORTS

Adopt 2020-2021 Resolution for Membership in the Minnesota State High School League

A motion was made by member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2020-2021 Resolution for Membership in the Minnesota State High School League.

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

Report on Town Hall Meeting and the Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year

Superintendent Carolan shared with the board how the town hall meeting went. Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared what the elementary return to school plan was. Superintendent Carolan briefly discussed what the SACC program would look like. SACC would only have room for 13 students and 2 adults. The SACC room is the only space available and that is all it can accommodate. The other spaces previously used by SACC are needed by the elementary. Mr. Todd Rowekamp shared what the high school/middle school return to school plan was.

Adopt Base of Learning Model for 2020-2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters Resolution

A motion was made by member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, to adopt the following resolution:

Adoption of Base Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District 533 [hereinafter the "Superintendent"] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, Superintendent;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01, which declared a peacetime emergency in Minnesota in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-82 and the Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021 (the “Safe Learning Plan”), which set forth five Learning Models (in-person learning for all, in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students, hybrid learning for all students, hybrid learning for elementary students and distance learning for secondary students, and distance learning) and authorized all school districts in the State of Minnesota to select and implement an appropriate base Learning Model in accordance with, and subject to, the Safe Learning Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding the available Learning Models, the current MDE and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students will be the base Learning Model to be implemented at the commencement of the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 533 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following base Learning Model to open the 2020-2021 school year: in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students.

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement a different Learning Model for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of a different Learning Model is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The Learning Model selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement a different Learning Model.

Section 3: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District’s efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Andring, Austinson, Johnson, Duellman, McFarlen, and Pagel. Those voting against the same: Nelson. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading and Approval of Handbook Changes

A motion was made by member Johnson, seconded by Member McFarlen, and carried unanimously to approve Handbook Changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Consent – Accept Resignations and Hires and Donation

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

Resignations: PETER DODDS as Teaching & Learning Specialist, BRETNEY KARJENS as 4th Grade Instructor.

Hires: BRITTNEY JARLAND as 5th Grade Instructor, SIDNEY SCHOTT as 7th Grade Volleyball Coach and Physical Education Instructor, CHELSEY JOHNSON as Special Education Summer School Teacher, AMANDA KRUGER, NICOLE WOLF, and GRETCHEN BRINKMAN as Summer School Teachers, KATIE KAHN, MARY HANSON, and KEELI REDIG as Summer School Paraprofessionals.

Donations: \$2,100 from BRAD & MYRA WICK for Baseball, \$500 from ST. CHARLES CHAPTER NO. 775 WOMEN OF THE MOOSE to help support kids.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) The middle school summer program went exceptionally well as did the elementary summer program. 2) Dover-Eyota will be using county's metrics as the baseline when making school decision about COVID-19.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Andring – No reports

Nelson – No reports

Austinson – Shared that she has attended the virtual summer seminar through MSBAS, "Ways School Boards Can Improve Mental Health", and "From Idea to Legislation: Help Drive Change". She felt these were both really good courses and was looking forward the next seminar on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. She thanked the teachers for their creativity, patience and willingness to show up for another year and encouraged them to continue being innovative.

Johnson – Thanked Ms. Deb Vosler for service, and recognized the work that has been happening throughout the summer from the Cabinet, Administration, and teachers.

McFarlen – Shared that she understood that no matter what decisions were made by the Administration and teachers, there was no way to make everyone happy. She stated that she felt no one else would do what Dover-Eyota is doing as well as they are doing it. She also wished Ms. Deb Vosler good luck.

Duellman – Shared that she had a Community Education Committee meeting, and during that meeting was able to speak with SACC. She shared that she felt the Town Hall Meeting was a good way of relaying information and keeping it concise.

Pagel – Congrats to Ms. Deb Vosler, she was a great asset to the team at Dover-Eyota. Kudos to the whole administration and staff for getting the back to school plan done and in Dover-Eyota style, did it to the best of their abilities.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk
TD