

# REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2019

Chair Ron Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:01 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, 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, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal John Ostrowski, Teaching & Learning Director Nick Truxal, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Tara Dabelstein, Tom Flaig, Dom Kellen, and Tyrel Clark.

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

No visitors addressed the Board, however; Supt. Carolan did introduce his mentor Dr. Gail Pletnick, who shared how excited she was to have had Supt. Carolan show her around the district and tour the school buildings. She stated that she was impressed with our district, leadership, and staff and appreciated the support the staff is given by the School Board Members and community.

## Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to approve the August 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the June 27, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

## Consent – Approve Regular District Bills and Special District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$202,773.40, and the Special District Bills totaling \$381,093.39.

## Approve the Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$5,366,623.49, and the August electronic transfers.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

1) Activities Director/Assistant Principal John Ostrowski recognized Mr. Tim Mayer for his 29 years of coaching in the Dover-Eyota school district. 2) Dr. Jeanne Svobodny recognized Ms. Gwen Ahern stating that she will be officially retiring at the end of the month after doing a wonderful job for 29+ years here at Dover-Eyota. Dr. Svobodny stated that Ms. Gwen Ahern is a true professional who was dedicated and hardworking, with a special interest in reading. She has done a phenomenal job working with that Teaching and Learning Director Nick Truxal, and Teaching and Learning Specialist, Peter Dodds, with implementing the Fountas and Pinnell this year. 3) Teaching and Learning Director Nick Truxal seconded Dr. Svobodny recognition of Ms. Gwen Ahern. He also recognized Ms. Rebecca Rudquist, Mr. Steven Tauer and Mr. John Pittenger for their amazing work helping with the 6-12 grade reading gurus. He also commented all staff with the middle school schedule transition.

## **CABINET COMMUNICATIONS**

Activities Director/Assistant Principal – John Ostrowski shared the following: 1) The Section Football Committee met to discuss the schedule. With La Crescent leaving the section, Dover-Eyota will more than likely be paying a zero week, which means we will start around August 12<sup>th</sup>, which is approximately one week earlier, but this will allow Dover-Eyota to play eight games. 2) Dover-Eyota hosted the MSHSL Soccer Officials training on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. 3) The 6<sup>th</sup> grade open house was held on August 27<sup>th</sup> and was

well attended and went great. 4) Mr. Ostrowski met with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students and parents on August 28<sup>th</sup>. During this time, School Social Worker, Katie Johnson, shared a video presentation from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Courage Retreat. This is something Ms. Johnson has done for the last two years and has done a very nice job with it. 5) Mr. Ostrowski met with the new teachers along with their mentors to reiterate the importance of the Mentor/Mentee Program.

Teaching & Learning Department – Nick Truxal shared the following: 1) Audrey Betcher, from Rochester Public Library, has been talking with us about some new partnership opportunities surrounding Orton Gillingham reading intervention training. 2) The Fountas and Pinnell material is late again. 3) There is a World's Best Workforce Meeting scheduled for December 2, 2019.

Elementary School Principal – Dr. Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) They have been busy with Back to School Conference Assessment Days, which seemed to go really smoothly. She has heard comments about parents enjoying the time and being able to meet the teachers. She appreciates the community and the parent support on this set up with the additional commitments on their part. 2) A small group consisting of, Dr. Svobodny, Superintendent Carolan, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Early Childhood Administrative Assistant Vicki Koehler, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Tara Dabelstein got together and worked to refine the Early Childhood payment process, with the goal to be more proactive in collecting overdue payments and not allowing accounts become delinquent. Part of this plan was to incentivize families to use automatic payment or payment in full with a discount on the monthly tuition. Even with this new system in place, the district will continue to work with all families as best as we can to keep accounts in good standing.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) Stated that there was a smooth start to the school year, and he was amazed with the new schedule and that few glitches there were. He noted that it was not completely without glitches, but stating that the staff have worked really well together to make things work. Students seem to have respond well to the new middle school schedule, adjusting well to the shorter class time and the shorter passing time. 2) Mr. Rowekamp circled back to the open campus discussion, reminding the Board that is had been discussed previously to offered open campus to the seniors all year, versus only fourth quarter as it has been in the past. Mr. Rowekamp wanted to be sure that the School Board was still on board with this idea before he officially opened it to the senior class. The School Board agreed that open campus seems to work out well, and the School Board agreed they were ok with the full year.

## **REPORTS**

### 2018-2019 MCA Results

Teaching & Learning Director Nick Truxal provided the MCA results, as well as the hypothesis as to the changes, and the actions being taken to improve results.

### Preliminary Information on the 2019-2020 Levy Limitation and Certification

Supt. Carolan advised that the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has posted the levy information; however; they needed to be provided with information to facilitate corrections. He would be attending a levy meeting at the Southeast Service Cooperative with Tom Melcher of MDE on September 19, 2019. The proposed levy must be approved by September 30.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Approve 2019-2021 Dover-Eyota Public Schools #533 and Dover-Eyota Education Association Master Agreement

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the 2019-2021 Master Agreement.

### Approve 2019-2021 Dover-Eyota Public Schools Bus & Van Driver Master Agreement

A motion was made by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the 2019-2021 Master Agreement.

### Consent – Accept Resignations, Hire

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

Accept Resignations: SCOTT CORK as JV Boys' Basketball Coach; TIM MAYER as Head Boys' Basketball Coach; SCHINDHANDOWI KONKEL as regular van route driver; KAYLA BRIGGS as HS Instructional Assistant;

Accept Hires: Building Assessment Coordinator SARAH KLAEHN; High School Cooks Helper JACQUELINE DIERKING; Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Coach ALBERTO VERA; Assistant Cross Country Coach CHAD NELSON; Assistant Football Coach ZACH DUERWACHTER; Bus Driver RICK TROGSTAD;

### **HEARING OF REPORTS**

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) Dover-Eyota is boosting up the college credit opportunities, by creating partnerships with MSMU, Riverland Community College, U of M, as well as the partnership with Winona State. 2) Once the weather improves, the bus garage should go up and progress should be able to be seen rather quickly. 3) The district is still in need of sub and extracurricular bus drivers, and regular van route driver. 4) Supt. Carolan shared the he has placed a publication in the *Eagle* stating that persons who are interested in filling the vacant School Board Member spot should submit a letter of interest to the Superintendent's Office by Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. So far one letter of intent had been received. 5) Supt. Carolan shared the new Dover-Eyota School District flyer that Nick Truxal had created and printed for distribution within the community to help tell our story. 6) Supt. Carolan will be holding a baseball/softball meeting with community members to discuss the field project and work on a strategic plan for that project.

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

**Andring** – Member Andring shared that he had no meetings but was glad to hear that the school year was off to a good start, and that he had heard good things about the way the elementary had their scheduled conferences/assessments the first two days of school. He congratulate Ms. Gwen Ahern on her official retirement, stating that she will be missed. He also thanked Mr. Tim Mayer for all he as done for Dover-Eyota sports program over the years.

**Nelson** – Member Nelson stated she has not meetings to report on.

**Austinson** – Member Austinson stated that she had no meetings and thanked Ms. Gwen Ahern for all her hard work.

**Johnson** – Member Johnson shared that one of his daughters had Ms. Gwen Ahern for a teacher and he appreciated her professionalism and passion for her work. He wished her good luck and gave kudos to the staff for surviving the initial weeks of the school year, stating that he was impressed with the teachers already.

**McFarlen** – Member McFarlen stated that she had no meetings, but wanted to recognize Coach Ricky Smith. She had an issue concerning the team he coaches, and he was supper supportive, Member McFarlen stated that she felt heard and that it was a good interaction. She also says congratulations to all those who have retired, and thanked Supt. Carolan for keeping the baseball/softball vision going. Stating that she is glad that we keep moving forward and plan to have more conversations moving forward all while still being fiscally responsible.

**Pagel** – Chair Pagel shared that there was a tentative agreement at HVED with voting being held at the end of the month. He also congratulated Ms. Gwen Ahern on her official retirement.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member McFarlen, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:33PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk  
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