

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2017

Chair Ron Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:00 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Andrea Lehnertz, Linda Nelson, Todd Peterson, Matt Wrubel, Student School Board Member Kalli Schaefer, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Principal Todd Rowekamp, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Activities Director John Ostrowski, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Transportation Director Dustin Pagel, Technology Director Bryan Berg, Eric Aeschlimann, Tyrel Clark, Taylor DeFrang, Kendra Hansen, Dan Johnson, Sharon Michelfelder, John Pittenger, Reid Seelhammer, and Steven Tauer.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve the Agenda

A motion was made by Member Lehnertz, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Address the Board

Eric Aeschlimann came before the Board on behalf of the Dover-Eyota Eagles Foundation (DEEF) to thank the community for their donations, support, and attendance at the recent Specialty Auction. The event raised \$23,700, which will come back to the school district and community. Recent donations from their grant program included \$2,000 for playground equipment in Viola; \$1,500 for school district batting cages; \$1,500 to the Post Prom group, \$700 for elementary concession stand equipment, and \$600 for elementary summer school transportation.

Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Lehnertz, and carried unanimously to approve February 13, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$112,671.27.

Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$101,173.81.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$3,549,789.09 and the February electronic transfers.

RECOGNITIONS

Activities Director John Ostrowski introduced two state tournament wrestlers – Taylor DeFrang who placed 5th at 106 lbs. and Reid Seelhammer who was the 220 lbs. state champion. Reid was our 11th state champion, a place winner last year, and would wrestle in college.

Principal Todd Rowekamp introduced Art Teacher Sharon Michelfelder who talked about D-E art recently displayed at the SE MN Art Show and the Rochester Art Center. Kendra Hansen was at the meeting accompanying her eagle painting, which was displayed in the Principal's Office. Mrs. Michelfelder also relayed that students from the Art Club and Independent Art students went to the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Elementary Principal – Dr. Svobodny shared the following: 1) In trying to address the reading gap, she and Curriculum Director Jane Johnson had led a day with teaching staff aligning the standards and having conversations between grade levels; 2) Kindergarten registration would be held March 23. The current kindergarten numbers were in the low to mid 80s; 3) Preschool Halfway Scholarships in the amount of \$43,000 were awarded to the elementary over the next two years to cover scholarship currently being paid by the school district. It was felt that this grant would help make the preschool program more fiscally balanced; 4) She thanked

the physical education teachers for leading the Jump Rope for Heart event that raised \$7,900; 5) The generosity of our community was also shown in the Pennies for Patients drive which raised almost \$2,000.

High School Principal – Mr. Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) Technology Director Bryan Berg did a “fantastic” job of leading the HS/MS Technology Committee and the teachers in the group also did a “great” job. The committee focused on investigating a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program; 2) He and Counselor Ryan McRae had met with the Southeast Minnesota Perkins Consortium representative and suggested developing experiential learning opportunities for our students; 3) Mr. Rowekamp thanked the Parent Teacher Organization for purchasing waffle supper tickets for teachers during evening conferences; One Senior High Knowledge Bowl team did well at sub-regional competition and would now advance to regionals on March 20.

District Feedback Forms

Supt. Carolan shared the compliment received by the Food Service Dept.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Student School Board Member Representative Kalli Schaefer reported the following: 1) She gained a lot from attending the Town Hall Strategic Planning meeting and enjoyed having the students’ opinions heard; 2) The Band Concert would be held on March 17 and the Choir Concert on March 21. The Band and Choir would compete the following week against other schools in a large group contest; 3) She congratulated wrestlers Reid Seelhammer and Taylor DeFrang; 4) The Minnesota Honor Society would be serving a meal at Hope Lodge; 5) The conferences and waffle supper had a “huge” turnout.

REPORTS

Transportation Report

Transportation Director Dustin Pagel gave a PowerPoint presentation indicating the need for a new bus garage. The three new buses cannot be stored in the old garage due to the height limitation, it has a dirt floor and no drainage, the block walls have shifted and left gaps, and there is no overhang to keep the snow away from the doors. Mr. Pagel provided a drawing of a proposed, steel sided building (minimum of 45’Wx150’L with 12’ garage doors). He also talked about the need for an additional structure south of the new building (gravel floor) to store other equipment out of the weather. Costs for the buildings could range from \$200,000-\$350,000, depending on options chosen.

Supt. Carolan talked about how Mr. Pagel had cleaned the roof in his new shop building and relayed, “Dustin takes care of business, his space and his buses. They are in great shape because of his work.”

Mr. Pagel also talked about future transportation/grounds needs: replacing the handicap accessible van (\$25,000-\$40,000 depending on options/availability), and replacing the John Deer Gator (\$7,500-\$12,000). He also encouraged the Board to stay on schedule with purchasing with a minimum of one every other year so that the fleet stays up to date. The oldest bus is now a 2001 model and the second oldest is a 2005.

Technology Update on Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program

Technology Director Bryan Berg shared information from a recent HS/MS Technology Committee meeting regarding the BYOD concept, which would include phasing out the existing 1:1 computer program. The school district would offer a stipend/voucher of \$100 to assist in purchasing each device. A proposed plan of BYOD for grades 6-9 the first year would cost the district \$46,000. Each year thereafter, the 6th grade would be BYOD at a cost of \$10,000. Other, varied roll out plans would be investigated (i.e., BYOD for 9th grade only the first year) by Mr. Berg and shared with the Board. Mr. Berg would like a Board decision by the May meeting for a fall rollout for implementation the Fall of 2017.

The discussion included the need to provide more technology training to staff before rolling out the program, providing computers for students who could not afford to purchase them, and factors that could increase the projected costs.

First Reading of the Draft 2017-18 SACC Handbook

Supt. Carolan relayed new items in the handbook:

- added language about serving students with high needs (SACC cannot be a 1:1 program)
- the addition of more behavior expectations
- the annual registration fee increased from \$25 to \$35 and the summer session half day charge increased from \$18 to \$22 (drop in charge increased from \$20 to \$22)
- the other big change was the 1-week cancellation notice increased to a 2-week notice to better facilitate scheduling of staff

Mr. Carolan noted, “Susan Keller-Schaefer and Megan Carrels have done a tremendous job with the handbook.”

School Board Meeting Start Time and Length

Supt. Carolan relayed that, over the past year, the average Board meeting was 2.5 hours in length, but had gone much longer at times, especially when a closed session was held. The Board talked about limiting meetings to 2 hours and/or having an earlier start. The discussion would continue at the next mini-retreat on April 24.

OLD BUSINESS

Final Approval of the Student Trip to Washington, DC

Since the School Board could no longer make direct contributions to student trips, Supt. Carolan recommended that they consider providing transportation to and from the airport using a school district vehicle.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to grant final approval of the student trip to Washington, DC April 1-6, 2017 and provide transportation to and from the airport using a school district vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations for Reductions

Chair Pagel advised that the resolution was a precautionary move needed at this time to direct the administration to make recommendations in programs and positions, should they be required.

A motion was made by Member Peterson, and seconded by Member Nelson to adopt the Resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations for Reductions. A roll call vote resulted in the following members voting in favor: Andring, Nelson, Austinson, Pagel, Peterson, Lehnertz, and Wrubel. Those voting against the same: none. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve the Achievement & Integration Program Plan

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson relayed that the achievement part of the Plan was to look for gaps in our student achievement, and the integration part was to connect our students with more diverse students. Equitable practices were also part of the plan, which include surveying parents/caregivers and teaching staff. Mrs. Johnson talked about ways that the plan would be implemented.

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to approve the 2017-2020 Achievement & Integration Program Plan and Budget.

Class of 2017 Open Campus Request

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve open campus to the Class of 2017 during the 4th quarter of the school year.

Fundraiser Request

A motion was made by Member Lehnertz, seconded by Member Wrubel, and carried unanimously to approve the Color Fun Run fundraiser sponsored by DE Soccer and the DE Physical Education Dept.

Leave of Absence Request

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve the leave of absence of RACHEL WEESS from approximately April 11, 2017 through the end of the school year.

Consent – Accept Retirement Resignations

A motion was made by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Lehnertz, and carried unanimously to accept the retirement resignation of KATHY MARTIN (21 years) and KAREN FRYE (10 years).

Consent – Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to accept the resignations of RYAN SCHEEVEL as Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, and ERIC MCCABE as High School Special Education Instructor at the end of the school year.

Consent - New Hires

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to hire REBECCA PETERSON as the Long-Term Substitute Physical Education Instructor, CADEE MILLER as Preschool Instructional Assistant, REBECCA RUDQUIST as Assistant Golf Coach, and RYAN SCHEEVEL as Head Softball Coach.

Consent Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Lehnertz, and carried unanimously to accept the following donations: 1) Clay Target - \$300 from the Eyota American Legion and \$200 from the Dover Fire Relief Association; 2) Close Up - \$375 from the Dover Fire Relief Association; 3) Softball - \$1,000 from the Hiawatha Valley Sno Seekers.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Supt. Carolan relayed the following: 1) He and Chair Pagel had met with the City of Dover negotiating team and have agreed that the City would purchase the building for the cost of the closing and legal fees (approximately \$3,000). The district would have no net cost for exchange of the building. The timeline would be as soon as it could be accomplished. A sales contract protecting the district would be developed by the district's lawyer; 2) There was good discussion at the Strategic Planning Town. He was now working with the Administrative Team to provide a plan for Board review; 3) Removal of the Long-Term Facility Maintenance funds was a brief threat, but the legislature decided not to change it; 4) A little library made by the Carpentry class was sold at the Dover-Eyota Eagles Foundation Auction and three others would be built to place in the communities.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Andring – In regard to reducing the Board meeting times, he suggested more consent agenda items or pulling items from the agenda to shorten it. Mr. Andring appreciated the young people that attended the Town Hall Strategic Planning Meeting and provided good input. The first negotiations with the Dover-Eyota Education Association would be held on April 27.

Nelson – Mrs. Nelson expressed pride in Kendra Hansen, all of the art students, and Art Teacher Sharon Michelfelder.

Peterson – Mr. Peterson would be attending the first negotiations session on April 27.

Lehnertz – Member Lehnertz thanked everyone who supported the DEEF auction and said, "I am proud of the support of our community and staff." She also relayed pride in the art students and staff, and the wrestlers who advanced to state competition.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Wrubel, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk
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