

# BOARD MINI-RETREAT MINUTES

January 23, 2017

Chair Ron Pagel called the mini-retreat of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:30 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Other Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Linda Nelson, Todd Peterson, Matt Wrubel, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: Andrea Lehnertz. Also in attendance were Technology Director Bryan Berg, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, and Administrative Assistant Chris Berg.

## Pledge of Allegiance

The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Approve the Agenda

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

## Technology Report

Technology Director Bryan Berg provided a technology update which included the following:

- The teacher technology survey had been given for several years, and he shared some results from the 2016 survey.
- The discussion included the possibility of providing CEUs to teachers who are able to share technology knowledge with other teachers.
- The MS/HS Technology Committee had been provided information on how area districts use Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). Also, a representative from Best Buy presented a computer purchase program that they could provide to families if we adopted a BYOD process. A cost analysis worksheet had been provided that included what the 1-to-1 program costs the district, and what BYOD would look like if we offered vouchers to families. Best Buy would give them several computer options from which to choose. The latest that a decision should be made if the district wanted to go with BYOD this fall, would be April 1<sup>st</sup> so that parents could purchase the computers and they could be prepared for usage in the fall. The Board would like to see what district costs would be entailed in the BYOD program.
- The Technology Integration Matrix was a tool to determine how technology tools were being used in the classroom. Amy Dewitz would assist the teachers in this process.
- A possible professional development opportunity would be where teachers, on their own time, would access self-taught, individualized learning and gain CEUs, and we could track what they know.
- He relayed how they were trying to upgrade the network backbone.
- He shared new technology ideas such as drones, robots, collaboration software, etc.

## Proposal for Start of Elementary School Year

Elementary Principal Dr. Jeanne Svobodny provided information about possible Back-to-School Conference-Assessment Days on September 5 and 6, 2017.

- Elementary students would not attend as regular school days; rather, they would attend with their parents for a scheduled time period. (Middle/high school students would have regular school days.)
- Many assessments would be scheduled for a student during those days such as vision, reading hearing, speech, etc., which would mean less instructional time would be lost later in the year for these activities.
- There would be an academic advantage of being able to personalize learning on the first day and having a better understanding of what a child's academic needs were.
- Interventionists could begin teaching students earlier since assessments were being done earlier.
- It would allow time for a connection and rapport between the teacher, students and parents,
- Transportation, Food Service, SACC, and Community Education could have tables set up to provide information to parents.
- The Elementary Site Council had gathered information from area schools who were doing such conferences/assessments the first days of school and found a lot of benefits.

- It was felt that the proposal should be brought to the next School Board meeting.

### Reading Curriculum

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson provided a K-5 reading update.

- The Scott Foresman Reading Street Program (2007) continues to be used for K-6 reading along with trade books and novels.
- Jill Magnuson is our Elementary ADSIS reading teacher and serves around 60 elementary students.
- This year, the district changed from AIMSWeb for measuring fluency to FastBridge.
- That day a workshop on “Intervention Decision Making” was held in the K-5 building.
- The English/Language Arts Committee was studying the elementary reading program and looking at ways to increase reading skills by reviewing root causes/obstacles. They talked about vertical alignment of essential outcomes, improving classroom assessments, reading stamina, and student anxiety levels. They also looked at schools that do very well on the MCA testing.
- At the MSHS, Literacy Specialist, Judi Becker, provides direct student support to a small group of sixth graders and has a “Literacy Skills Class” for 18 seventh graders who have higher reading needs. Besides providing direct instruction to students, she also serves as a literacy coach. During first quarter she rotated through the sixth grade classes. Second quarter she worked closely with Nora Olson to address needs in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For the remainder of the year she will have 2 week stints in various classrooms to provide literacy coaching and support for specific content areas.
- Administrative discussions have been held about creating a culture of readers, adjusting the MS schedule to better meet reading needs, and the possibility of assisting teachers to obtain reaching licensures.

### Miscellaneous

Chair Pagel asked if any Members wished to discuss any items from the MSBA Leadership Conference

- It was felt that the 45-15 school year concept was something that should be considered and would mean that the parents, staff, and community would need to be educated about the idea.
- They wondered about the transgender shift with the new administration coming into office. Supt. Carolan relayed that our attorney said the “brakes” are on right now as there are 2 cases in court that will set the direction.
- Member Austinson relayed that since 2013, the Policy Committee has reviewed all of the district’s policies and sought input from the Board on how to continue the process.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk

Cb