

# PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

September 26, 2016

Chair Ron Pagel called the Public Hearing of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:00 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Molly Hofschulte, Andrea Lehnertz, Linda Nelson, Todd Peterson, and Superintendent Mike Carolan. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Ed Kaehler and Jill Veerkamp.

## Approve the Agenda

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

## Public Hearing on the Proposed Closing of Dover School, located at 217 W. Center Street, Dover, MN 55929

Chair Pagel advised that the school district was required by law to hold a public hearing if it wished to close a building. Testimony would be received from the public at the end of the presentation.

Supt. Carolan presented information regarding the recent history of the Dover building use and the reasons why the building no longer served the educational needs of the school district and was not an effective use of school district resources. Items mentioned:

- The \$20,500 annual rent received by the Hiawatha Valley Education District's learning center had been used to offset utility and maintenance costs.
- In January of 2016, the district's preschool program moved to the new Dover-Eyota Elementary facilities. Benefits of that move were:
  - provided classrooms that supported instruction with up-to-date technology resources
  - provide staff with access to administrative support and professional colleagues which enhances curricular alignment and professional development
  - each preschool classroom is now equipped with bathroom facilities
- June of 2016 the learning center moved out of the building
- We do not have educational programs that would efficiently operate within the building
- Maintaining a two-building campus provides more efficient use of district personnel services and operational costs.
- By closing the Dover building, the district will save approximately \$30,000 in yearly operational costs as well as savings from future facility maintenance needs

Chair Pagel then sought any public comment. No one wished to address the Board. Chair Pagel then advised that the School Board's duty of holding a public hearing had been fulfilled.

Supt. Carolan indicated he would prepare the findings and ask the Board to take action at their October meeting to officially close the Dover building.

## Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Hofschulte, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk  
Cb