

BOARD RETREAT MINUTES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Chair Pagel called the annual retreat of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:17 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring (7:08 PM), Julie Austinson, Molly Hofschulte, Linda Nelson, Ron Pagel, Todd Peterson, and Superintendent Bruce Klaehn. Absent: Dan Johnson. Also in attendance were Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Principal Todd Rowekamp, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Assistant Principal/Activities Director John Ostrowski, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank, Custodial Directors Wayne Ellringer and Linda Oesau, Transportation Director Dustin Pagel, Technology Director Bryan Berg, Tyrel Clark, and Andrea Lehnertz

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve the Agenda

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

Department Reports

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson led the department heads in reporting their 2013-14 activities

- Custodial: shared survey results, schedule and staff changes, facility use process, building checklists, capital projects/maintenance repairs, budget management, staff training, and future needs.
- Food Service: continues to purchase local foods and participate in cooperative bidding, held the first apple harvest, instituted a Smartphone App for school menus, Food for Kidz event was again successful, purchased \$28,000 in new equipment, and provided 2014-15 updates (due to state funding, kindergarten breakfast is free and students qualifying for reduced meals receive free meals; also, adult prices were increased by the USDA).
- Transportation: talked about expectations of bus drivers in regard to bus cleanliness, drivers continuing to meet with principals about behavior referrals, how the new camera system assists in discipline problems, meetings and information provided to drivers about special needs children, how a good safety record is being maintained, being short one bus route driver, and grounds maintenance.
- Technology: reported on enhancing the use of GoogleApps and Calendar, maintaining and improving the website and related subsites for communication, increasing training opportunities, enhancing the 1:1 Netbook Program by adding 9th grade, improved the technology support process, reviewed the Technology Plan and updated the process, Globe Classroom training, preparing for elementary addition and move from the Dover building, continuing the use of online tools, and assisting with determining curriculum/technology needs.

Dover-Eyota Eagles Foundation

Andrea Lehnertz and Tyrel Clark shared that the foundation held a Kids Obstacle Run during Eyota Days, provided information about the foundation at the tailgate party, and placed local business ads in the school sports program. Mr. Clark shared a letter the group will be sending out explaining their goals, and talked about upcoming fundraising plans. They sought specific ideas from the Board for use of the funds raised (i.e., upgrade new elementary gym floor, outdoor bathrooms for sporting events, update score boards, enhance current athletic equipment, etc.). The School Board will plan to meet with Foundation members to further discuss options.

World's Best Workforce Report

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson explained that, over the years, the Planning, Evaluating, Reporting Report was replaced with the Systems Accountability Report, and is now the World's Best Workforce Report. The administration presented the following information:

- literacy, math and science scores, as well as college and career readiness scores
- efforts done to support literacy (staff development opportunities, Professional Learning Team meetings, continue use of Reading Interventionist, elementary Reading Target Time, Read 180 intervention at the middle school, and addition this year of a middle/high school Literacy Specialist)
- district survey results (parents, students, teachers, support staff and senior exit)

Activities Director/Assistant Principal John Ostrowski talked about use of the track this spring and the Middle School Advisory Council activities.

The Board will be asked to approve the final Worlds' Best Workforce Report at their October 13th meeting.

State of the District

Supt. Bruce Klaehn talked about the state of the district. He talked about these accomplishments:

- added a "Pre-Kindergarten Class" and 6-12 Literacy Specialist this fall
- instituted and continued the weekly one-hour Wednesday late start for use by active Professional Learning Teams
- continued to hire and maintain high quality staff with 100% licensure compliance
- installed a controlled main entry system in all 3 buildings
- a \$8.65M bond issue referendum was approved in May 2014
- in August 2013 paid off the Lease Levy for the music space in the middle school/high school
- formal principal and teacher evaluation plans were created and implemented in 2013-14 and 2014-15
- began the Life Track senior survey program
- the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance has grown to \$1,341,213 as of June 30, 2013
- the General Fund reserve is in excess of \$2,100,000
- the Operating Referendum was revised per LOR legislation

Review of 2014-16 Strategic Plan

Supt. Klaehn pointed out that many of the initiatives in the 2014-16 are already "in gear." They include hiring a Literacy Specialist, a lot of work on the English Common Core Standards, ongoing practices for PLCs, and rubrics being ordered for elementary/middle/high school for teaching the skills of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

Proposed 2014 Payable 2015 Levy Certification

The Board held a lengthy discussion about the proposed property tax levy, considering several options to address both the need for revenues and the impact on local taxpayers. It was agreed the most important factor was to leverage the greatest amount of state aid with the least amount of tax dollars and still meet the operating needs of the district. All categories of levy which carry no additional state aid were considered for possible non-levy, although such costs would need to be covered with other operating funds.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to adopt the Proposed 2014 Payable 2015 Levy Certification at the maximum amount less the non-levy of Safe Schools and Re-employment Insurance to reduce the levy by \$50,562.

Superintendent Topics

Supt. Klaehn brought forward these items: 1) Our district has joined the Olmsted County Welcome Wagon initiative. A D-E post card will be given to new residents of the county; 2) He pointed out a few revisions of the District Bullying Policy and advised the first reading of the policy will be held at the October 13th meeting; 3) Results of the School Board and Superintendent Evaluations were distributed to the members; 4) He explained the reason for, and presented a draft of, the new "Delinquent Accounts Policy," which will be brought to the October meeting for first reading.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk
Cb