

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 14, 2014

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:07 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Dan Johnson, Linda Nelson, Ron Pagel, Todd Peterson, Molly Hofschulte, Superintendent Bruce Klaehn and Student Board Member Akeem Sunde. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Athletic Director/Asst. Principal John Ostrowski, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Dr. Greg Olson, John Pittenger, Brianna Kroning, and Alex Gruhlke.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve the Agenda

Chair Pagel advised there were two additions to the agenda:

13d – Hire Nicole Thoreson as Long-Term Substitute Special Education Instructional Assistant

13f – Consider 2014-15 Shared Nurse Contract.

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

Visitors to Address the Board

High School Custodial Director Gary Franzen paid a visit to the Board meeting and advised them of his recovery from a very serious leg injury that occurred last fall.

Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to approve the March 10, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Hofschulte, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$120,901.06.

Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$111,167.12.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$2,717,096.01 and the March electronic transfers.

RECOGNITIONS

Principal Rowekamp made note of two staff members who showed initiative. Business Teacher Brian Hasleiet applied for and received a \$6,200 grant to update his Money Management curriculum. Mathematics Teacher Becky Houghton wrote and received a district Best Practice grant to train interested teachers in the Learning Management System.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp relayed the following: 1) Staff have been working on the Strategic and World's Best Work Force plans; 2) The Robotics Team called Frostbots, consisting of eight students (two of which were girls), just finished their second season. They participated in both the VEX and the FIRST Robotics competitions this year. They are evaluating the two programs and are leaning toward focusing future efforts on VEX; 3) The high school staff are looking for more opportunities to incorporate 21st Century skills into the classroom in real-life applications that students can use in the workforce; 4) Four students were identified to participate in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) program.

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny relayed the following: 1) Sixty families (out of 82) attended Kindergarten Registration. The highlight for the children was the bus tour around Eyota; 2) The Food for Kidz packaging event was again a “wonderful” event. She added, “It was heartwarming to see children measuring things out and working with the seniors.” The students packaged 40,000 meals. Mrs. Svobodny thanked Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank for all the work she did behind the scenes before and after the event; 3) The Parents And Teachers Together group recently donated \$19,900 to the elementary. She said, “They are amazing and we really, really appreciate all they do for our school”; 4) Music Instructor Katie Kabes did an awesome job preparing the 1st and 2nd graders for their performance of “Day at the Jungle.”

District Feedback Forms

No feedback forms were received.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Senior Akeem Sunde relayed the following items: 1) The seniors are working on their graduation slide show; 2) They are also excited about having open campus 4th quarter. Akeem finds it brings the students closer together; 3) Regarding the new locked door security system, the students are finding that it isn't as bad as they thought it would be; 4) Food for Kidz was “really fun” and the seniors had a good time interacting with the younger students; 5) The musical performances will be held next week.

REPORTS

CAD Lab

The School Board and attendees viewed Dr. Greg Olson's CAD Lab.

DEMA Calendar for 2014-15

Band Instructor Ryan Anderson represented the Dover-Eyota Music Association as they sought approval to add a free-will donation envelope to the 2014-15 calendar to help defray costs. The Board felt it should be done on a one-year basis and then review its success. Bruce thanked DEMA for their continued work on the yearly calendar.

OLD BUSINESS

Final Approval for the Washington, DC Trip

Advisor John Pittenger and students Brianna Kroning and Alex Gruhlke came before the Board. This will be the third year that the trip is run by staff rather than purchased through the Close Up program. The full cost is \$920 per student; however, fundraising efforts reduced it to \$600. Dr. Greg Olson will accompany them on the trip and give a veteran's aspect as they visit the various sites.

A motion was made by Member Hofschulte, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to grant final approval of the Washington, DC trip and donate 10%.

Further Referendum Planning

Supt. Klaehn provided a draft presentation for the April 28th public meeting, which will focus on what will be gained if the referendum is approved. The Board provided input and discussed areas of the presentation of which they would be responsible. Mr. Klaehn advised that *Eagle* Editor Iris Clark-Neumann did a “great job” with the next issue focusing on the second referendum question. He also said that he has distributed referendum flyers to area businesses.

Update of 2014-2015 Board Assumptions and Preliminary Budget

Supt. Klaehn pointed out several items in the assumptions: possible 1% increase in funding, lunch prices will increase by 5 cents, charge added for color print copies, SACC fees are currently the same, maintenance budgets were increased, and the addition of a new 6-12 Literacy Coach/Teacher. He also talked about the Preliminary Budget and Capital Budget items.

Principal Todd Rowekamp talked about the research and rationale for adding a 6-12 Literacy Specialist. Curriculum Director Jane Johnson advised that they had looked at various reading programs in area schools. The standards have higher and higher expectations for our students and a specialist would be very beneficial. Mr. Rowekamp and Mrs. Johnson also provided a proposal and parts of the job description for this new position.

Supt. Klaehn commended Mr. Rowekamp and Mrs. Johnson for the amount of research they had done to get to the point of making a recommendation to the Board. He added that a current 6th grade teacher is just finishing her

license in this area would be moved into this position, which addresses a need that the district has had for some time. Mr. Klaehn explained that part of the position will be paid by the Integration Plan.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to approve a new 6-12 Literacy Specialist position.

Teacher Evaluation Plan Approval

Supt. Klaehn talked about the committee of teachers and administrators who worked very well together to devise the evaluation plan. He advised that the Dover-Eyota Education Association has approved the Plan.

A motion was made by Member Hofschulte, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Teacher Evaluation Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Integration Plan

Supt. Klaehn thanked Curriculum Director Jane Johnson for formulating the Integration Plan. Mrs. Johnson explained that, instead of just integration activities, the new plan is more achievement based. She went on to give more details about the plan, which will be a working document.

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

Approve Auditing Contract with LAWCO

A motion was made by Member Hofschulte, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the auditing contract with LAWCO.

Resignation

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Nelson, and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of CHELSEY MLENAR as Instructional Assistant.

Consent – Approve Hires

A motion was made by Member Hofschulte, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve hiring JULIE THEEL as the LRP Bus Route Driver, JORDAN AUG as Long-term Substitute Social Studies Instructor and 8th Grade Baseball Coach, and NICOLE THORESON as the Long-term Substitute Special Education Instructional Assistant.

Consent – Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to accept the following donations: 1) Elementary -- \$19,900 from PARENTS & TEACHERS TOGETHER (PATT); \$90 WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM (Michelle Williams) and \$495 from MICHELLE WILLIAMS from June through March; 2) High School - \$200 from DEBORAH VOSLER for a volleyball record board; 3) Washington, DC Trip -- \$500 from the EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION.

2014-15 Shared Nurse Contract

Christine Eck had done a great job when she substituted for School Nurse Tammy Kreidermacher. The two have collaborated on details of a job share and sought approval from the Board.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve a 2014-15 shared nurse contract.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication -- Supt. Klaehn relayed the following: 1) At the Minnesota Association of School Administrators conference, he learned about EdLeader 21, which is a national network of school and district leaders focusing on critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity; 2) The Administrative Team has held three sessions to work on the Strategic and World's Best Workforce Plan. A committee has now been formed including parents and members of the community, and they will hold their first meeting April 24th. A draft of the Plan will be brought to the Board's May meeting, with approval being sought at the June meeting; 3) Mr. Klaehn advised that not all of the west property owners had returned the property use agreement. He was working on connecting our lawyer with a lawyer who is advising neighbors not to sign the agreement; 4) There is a slow water drip at the elementary building; 5) Mr. Klaehn publicly thanked Bryan Berg, John Ostrowski, and Jeanne Svobodny for their

work on the referendum videos, which are now available on the school's website; 6) The Crisis Team will address the concept of "flee versus hunker", which is currently a very controversial subject in crisis planning for a shooter situation.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Andring – Mr. Andring thanked the High School Student Council for meeting with the Board and sharing the activities they do all year. In regard to Gary Franzen visiting, he said "It was nice to see Gary at the meeting. His recovery has been a long time in coming." Member Andring indicated he had a good feeling about the referendum passing and has seen very little negativity. Prior to the meeting, Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank shared with him why high school students were currently using plastics "sporks", how students bend forks into various artwork, and that 570 silverware disappeared in one month. Mr. Andring asked if the Board would meet on election night to obtain the results and it was decided they would gather at 9 PM in the District Office Conference Room on May 7th.

Nelson – Mrs. Nelson stated, "Food for Kidz is a wonderful event." In regard to Gary Franzen's visit to the Board meeting she said, "It is awesome to see Gary and I'm glad he is up and walking around." In response to the Board's viewing the CAD Lab that evening, she said she "loved" that class and that it was very good for her son.

Austinson – Member Austinson thanked Mr. Vera and the Student Council for meeting with the Board that evening and added, "It is nice to hear the kids' perspectives." She said it was good to see Gary Franzen "up and about." The Worlds' Best Workforce Committee will meet on April 24th at 6:30 PM in the DEHS Media Center.

Peterson – Mr. Peterson said, "It is nice to see Gary is feeling better." In regard to Dr. Olson's class, he stated, "We saw Dr. Olson's projects when he started them a few years ago, and it is great to see how it has evolved. It is nice to see he is taking it another step and continuing to improve it. Kudos!"

Johnson – Mr. Johnson said he was glad to see Gary Franzen that evening. "It has been a long process and I am certain he is thrilled at the progress." Member Johnson appreciated meeting with the Student Council and added, "It is always a good experience and I appreciate the opportunity." The Technology Committee is discussing social media and how/if the district should use it as a school district. Mr. Johnson expressed his desire that the Board continue to support the CAD program. In regard to the Literacy Specialist, he felt it was a great idea and added, "Is there something at the elementary level we can do to feed into the high school program?" Member Johnson appreciated the professionalism of the staff in moving forward and trying to continually improve with the Teacher Evaluation Plan. PATT is "tremendous" in what they do for the elementary students. He ended his report by saying that his son, who is currently in Afghanistan and loves football, was excited when the school district installed new football lights and was impressed with the referendum video about outdoor field needs.

Hofschulte – Mrs. Hofschulte welcomed back Brad Hak. The Early Learning Council is attempting to define school readiness. The Southeast Service Cooperative's new building is nice and open for renters and meeting opportunities.

Pagel – Mr. Pagel appreciated meeting with the Student Council. He indicated it was "great" seeing Gary Franzen that evening and added, "We miss him more than he misses us." He will be attending a Three Rivers Conference meeting on April 16th. The Hiawatha Valley Education District contract was unanimously ratified by the union. The HVED is also in the process of interviewing for a North Cluster Director to replace Amy Adams.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk
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