

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Chair Pagel called the special meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:33 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, and Superintendent Bruce Klaehn. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Activities Director John Ostrowski, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Tyrel Clark, Wayne Ellringer, Carrie Frank, Tim Hruska, Gene Loftus, Jon Neubauer, Jeff Seeley, Brian Todd, and Nancy Uthke.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve the Agenda

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

Chair Pagel opened the meeting to public comment but no one came forward. He went on to say that the purpose of the meeting was for further discussion about a potential referendum and projects.

Supt. Klaehn provided the Board members with a potential *Eagle* article should they decide to proceed with a bond referendum. He asked for their review and input.

Mr. Klaehn introduced Jon Neubauer of TSP Architects, Jeff Seeley of Ehlers & Associates, and Tim Hruska of WHKS Engineers.

The Superintendent provided the Board with a five-point review and reminder:

1. The first and primary issue before the Board is the future of the preschool program. It is currently located in the Dover building.
2. "Doing nothing is not an option," due to the maintenance and programming needs of the Dover building.
3. Some of the elementary space needs brought forward in the failed 2008 bond referendum have not gone away. We still have a crowded lunch room, gymnasium space limitations, and discrepancies in the kindergarten classrooms.
4. The district's presence in Dover is an important, but separate issue. There are numerous ways for a school to have a presence in a community.
5. The athletic fields are also an urgent issue, and doing nothing is not an option.

Chair Pagel advised that the Board had reviewed 8 options at their December 9th meeting and asked for further discussion, questions, and comments. He also reminded everyone that the main purpose was to address the preschool facility needs.

The Superintendent talked about the 8 options before the Board, and Jeff Selley of Ehlers provided financial information about the options:

- renovate the existing Dover building - \$2,880,000
- build a new preschool facility in Dover - \$3,750,000
- construct a separate preschool facility on the elementary site - \$3,750,000
- construct additional preschool space onto the elementary school - \$3,750,000

- renovate the existing Dover building and address additional needs at the elementary with a separate addition - \$8,860,000
- build a new preschool facility in Dover and address additional needs at the elementary with a separate addition - \$9,740,000
- construct a separate preschool facility on the elementary site and address additional needs at the elementary with a separate addition - \$9,740,000
- address preschool and additional needs at the elementary with an integrated addition - \$7,365,000

Items noted during the discussion included the following:

- The average home value in the area is approximately \$150,000.
- The school building in Dover is on a “list of interest” but there is no requirement or status that would affect the Board’s decision regarding that structure.
- Preston Euerle of RA Morton was recommended as the construction manager should the project proceed.
- The Dover building roof is the highest priority of all facility roofs, with the elementary and high school building roofs possibly needing repair/replacements beginning in approximately 5-10 years
- If an addition to the elementary building were approved, the current structure could be re-roofed for an additional \$451,000.

Member Andring made a motion to seek a bond referendum to add preschool facilities and additional space needs at the elementary with a second question on the ballot, contingent on passage of the first question, seeking approval to upgrade the outdoor football/soccer fields and a new 8-lane track. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson.

The Board discussed providing \$300,000 in District funds and fundraising toward improvement of the football fields should the second ballot question be approved.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of the proposal.

Member Peterson stated his concern that there would not be a school presence in Dover and added that the Board would still have to do something with the building in Dover. Dover Mayor Roger Ihrke had told him that the City of Dover was not going to rezone the new building purchased by the Hiawatha Valley Education District’s alternative school and they might wish to move back to the school’s building in Dover. However, Chair Pagel, a member of the HVED Board, advised that they were proceeding with plans to occupy the recently purchased building in Dover for an alternative school. He stated, “The education district’s legal counsel has told us that there are no zoning restrictions for using that building for a school facility.”

The Board discussion included the space issues at the elementary since that referendum failed, and about future enrollment possibilities should the residence population grow.

Member Austinson called for a vote on the motion.

A vote on the motion to seek a bond referendum to add preschool facilities and additional space needs at the elementary with a second question on the ballot, contingent on passage of the first question, seeking approval to upgrade the outdoor football/soccer fields and a new 8-lane track resulted in a roll call vote. Those in favor: Andring, Nelson, Austinson, Pagel and

Johnson. Those voting against the same: Peterson and Hofschulte. The motion carried with a 5 to 2 vote.

The Board discussed a possible bond referendum date. A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by member Johnson, and carried unanimously to set a vote for Wed., May 7, 2014 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Julie Austinson, Clerk
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