

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 8, 2012

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:06 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Gene Loftus, Ron, Pagel, Todd Peterson, Molly Rieke, and Superintendent Bruce Klaehn. Absent: Dan Johnson. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Bill Lisser, Linda Nelson, Greg Olson, and Brian Todd.

Chair Pagel welcomed new Student Board Member Hannah Brown.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda

Supt. Klaehn asked that an additional fundraiser request be added to Item 12c, additional resignations be added to Item 12d, and that Potential Sander/Plow Truck Replacement be added as item 12g.

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

Visitors to Address the Board

There were no visitors to address the Board.

Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the September 10, 2012 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Andring, and carried unanimously to approve the September 24, 2012 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$185,160.56.

Special District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$86,574.47.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$2,786,922.60 and the September electronic transfers.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp relayed the following: 1) Welcomed Hannah Brown as the Student School Board Member. He enjoyed working with Hannah during Homecoming preparations. Her leadership and cohorts have set the tone for a positive school year and homecoming. A number of student groups have stepped forward with positive and fun ideas. The staff have also gotten involved resulting in a joint effort between the teachers union and the district to design and purchase shirts saying how we should treat each other and make our communities a safer place; 2) Dr. Thomas Many from Solution Tree was the keynote speaker at the September 24th Common Inservice held at DE. He emphasized the need to have dedicated time for Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) to meet and do their work. At the high school, a schedule has been

developed making every Wednesday morning dedicated for PLT meetings. The recent 2-hour dismissal provided a “kick off” time for the PLTs.

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny relayed the following: 1) The after-school SACC program is at its capacity with 35 to 40 students. The space available for SACC would be crowded if more students were accepted, so 12 have been placed on a waiting list. The before-school SACC averages 8 students per day; 2) Climb Theater actors presented anti-bullying interactive lessons to students in third through fifth grades. The program was well received by the students and teachers. Mrs. Svobodny relayed her thanks to Parents & Teachers Together for funding the two anti-bullying sessions; 3) She asked the Board’s input for the use of 100 old bricks from the old elementary school; 4) Principal Svobodny thanked the Board for allowing the hire of adult crossing guards at Bush Court. Member Rieke said that it has really helped since the guards are at their stations earlier in the morning and stay later in the afternoon.

Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints
Supt. Klaehn relayed the complaints received.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

DEHS Student Council President and Senior Hannah Brown relayed the following to the Board: 1) TALK (Teens As Leaders of Knowledge) it Up students from Dover-Eyota and St. Charles are promoting alternative activities to partying with the Whitewater Country Coalition grant. They have scheduled student events for Homecoming Week nights when the St. Council doesn’t have activities; 2) Hannah relayed that she is a senior at DE and was humbled and honored to be elected as the Student School Board Member. She transferred to DE in 7th grade and has since been involved in government activities at the school. Her goal this year is to provide a voice of concern for fellow peers; 3) The Homecoming Royalty was announced last week and the week-long activities were structured around the Hunger Games and tributes. Positive energies flowed over to Homecoming Week with activities such as Powder Puff Football Wednesday night and the pepfest on Friday; 4) When asked by her peers about the staff wearing blue t-shirts, she told them it was to promote anti-bullying in the school; 5) In regard to the lunch program, some students have expressed their opinion about decreased food portions. Hannah has discussed with Principal Rowekamp the possibility of a microwave being available in the Commons for students to warm up food they bring to school to supplement their meal; 6) She noted that the new cell phone policy allowing their use during lunch and in the hallways has been a good thing overall, but has also taken away from social interaction; 7) In regard to the new dress code, she has noticed a positive change this year; 8) Hannah received positive and negative feedback from students about signing the Homecoming letter. Some felt it was very courageous to put her name on it, while others wondered why she would sign it. She had no regrets about signing the letter. She felt that it effectively opened up the lines of communication to what Homecoming is all about. Mr. Rowekamp added that more students and staff were simultaneously thinking about how to make this a positive Homecoming.

REPORTS

Technology Demo from the Industrial Technology Department

The Board went to the Industrial Technology Department where Senior Ben Peda demonstrated two new computer-driven manufacturing devices. A 3-D model can be developed on a computer program and one piece of the equipment can manufacture it into an actual object with the use of resins. The second device, again, using a computer program, can carve shapes, letters and patterns onto a piece of wood. The Board was very impressed with the new equipment and felt the district was helping our students be more prepared for the 21st century workforce.

NEW BUSINESS

District Property Insurance

Supt. Klaehn relayed that the school district’s property valuation had increased and the property/workmen’s compensation insurance premiums had increased. He talked about the possibility of raising the property insurance deductible to reduce premium amounts.

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to move to a \$10,000 deductible on the district's property insurance policy.

School Nurse Position

Supt. Klaehn advised the Board that Nancy Horning was having medical issues and would not return to work until at least Christmas. The district hired an aide to temporarily fill in and he sought approval to advertise for a licensed nurse substitute.

A motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve a short-term replacement licensed nurse.

Consider Fundraiser Requests

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the Band frozen food sales October 16-29 and March 25-April 8, and the Girls' Basketball bread/coffee/pull-a-part sales November 9-19.

Consent - Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of KAREN MULVIHILL as Instructional Assistant, GARRETT DANIELS as 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach, and JANET LILLIE as Cook's Helper.

Consent - Approve Hires

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Andring, and carried unanimously to hire the following individuals: 1) MEGAN FAY as Instructional Assistant; 2) CHRISTINA HURSH as Instructional Assistant; 3) KEVIN KULLOT as 9th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach.

Accept Donation

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to accept the \$1,317.35 from TARGET Take Charge of Education to the elementary.

Potential Sander/Plow Truck Replacement

Supt. Klaehn relayed that Transportation Director Dustin Pagel had found an online auction of a 2000 cab and chassis with mileage of 70,000. With modifications, the truck could replace the district's sander and pickup. This item was not in the Capital Outlay Budget until next year; however, Supt. Klaehn asked if the Board wanted him to monitor online auctions to possibly replace items that are on the district's future long-range capital outlay list.

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to increase the budget by a dollar amount not to exceed \$13,500 for the possible purchase of this truck.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication -- Supt. Klaehn relayed the following: 1) Reminded the Board that they would all be considered attending the January Minnesota School Board Association Conference until they advised otherwise; 2) The National School Board Association Conference in San Diego is scheduled for April; 3) Mr. Klaehn and Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank will be giving a Farm to School presentation at the Minnesota Rural Education Association Conference November 11-13. The Board members were invited to attend the event; 4) On Mon., October 15th, the Southeast Service Cooperative is hosting a Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Working Session. The task force is looking at possibly revamping school funding, which makes it a great opportunity for districts to provide input; 5) In regard to Board questions last month about the use of a lease levy, he relayed that it can be used to add on to, or set up something temporary next to, an existing building but can't exceed 20% of that existing building square footage. The use must be for instructional purposes, can't be used for renovation of a current building, and the maximum per resident pupil unit is \$150; 6) The Board was invited to attend a Principal/Teacher Evaluation Session on Monday, October 22nd at the Southeast Service Cooperative; 7) Supt. Klaehn presented Board Member Todd Peterson a certificate for completing all three of the Minnesota School Board Association Phase trainings.

Mr. Klaehn asked the Board to nominate a member for the Southeast Service Cooperative Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Member Austinson to nominate Don Andring.

Member Don Andring had been on the board for many years and welcomed another member to apply for the position. He gave a brief summary of the workings of the Board and Member Rieke expressed an interest.

Member Austinson withdrew her motion.

Member Austinson made a motion nominating Molly Rieke to run for a position on the Southeast Service Cooperative Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously.

Supt. Klaehn continued his report: 8) Advised the members that the *Board & Administrator* publication had run a full-page of the Dover-Eyota Board Assumptions; 9) An electronic draft of the June 30, 2012 Audit would be sent to the Board at the end of October and be on the November agenda for approval. The revised budget would then be brought to the Board at their December meeting; 10) Rochester Driving School, who has provided our students with classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction for years, is failing to follow through on providing driving instruction to some of our students. Parents have been told that the school district will stand behind the agreement and get the training they need; 11) Mr. Klaehn reminded the Board that the November meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 13.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Loftus – Mr. Loftus relayed his enjoyment of having a Student School Board Member again. He added, “Hannah is a very energetic lady and very serious about the cause.” He said that he enjoyed the tour at the Industrial Arts Shop and relayed that Darcy Higgins had similar but larger equipment and, because it was new technology, struggled for some time to get the right person to run it. In regard to students across the nation protesting about the changes in the lunch program he said, “I would hate to not have Carrie here the past few years as she worked the kids into a mindset of change. Carrie took the initiative to watch how many apples were being thrown away and found that students ate more of them if they were cut up. Other schools and districts have so far to go in their lunch program. We are so lucky to be so far ahead of everybody else because of Carrie and her team.”

Rieke – Ms. Rieke relayed that the Early Learning Council was breaking off into subcommittees. She wished a “get well” to Nancy Horning and thanked Greg Olson and Ben Peda for the demonstration that evening. She added, “I like to see that what we are doing will directly affect them out in the work force. It is nice to see the things we purchase have a positive impact on the students.”

Peterson – Member Peterson said that Mrs. Frank’s responses were very good to the concerns received. He added that it was nice to see a student member on the Board.

Andring – Mr. Andring welcomed Hannah and said he would be looking forward to her reports. In regard to the lunch program he said, “Carrie has done a super job leading us down this road (of change). Whoever designed this lunch program is going at it wrong. I think we are under feeding them and creating a bigger problem. I don’t know who we should talk to.” In regard to the Southeast Service Cooperative, he relayed that the new parking lot was complete and that an open house had been held that day. The lot had cost half a million dollars due to some of the City of Rochester requirements. Mr. Andring relayed that there were “good people on the SSC Board” and that he enjoyed working with them. He hoped that Molly Rieke would be elected to the Board and receive the same opportunities.

Austinson – Mrs. Austinson welcomed Hannah and said she did a “great job” presenting and doing her homework talking to students. She thanked Jane Johnson for officially wrapping up the Student Accountability Report. Member Austinson had attended the Minnesota School Board Association Fall Regional Meeting on September 20 where attendees were updated on some of the political stances in state and nation, no child left behind, bullying, etc. The school district’s resolution was submitted after being amended so that three districts in the Twin Cities would not lose money. The Delegate Assembly would be the first upcoming meeting.

Pagel – Welcomed Hannah Brown and added, “I appreciate her input.” Chair Pagel enjoyed the tour at the wood shop and seeing Ben engaged with the new equipment. At a recent Hiawatha Valley Education District meeting, our Homecoming letter and everyone’s food service were items of topic. A lot of the member districts use a contracted service. The vendor does this as a business and didn’t prepare themselves. Mrs. Frank and our Food Service Department saw this coming and were prepared. He added, “Lunch may be the main meal for a lot of kids. This is what they depend on and it could have some lasting impacts. It really has an impact on districts with open campus.” He felt the district should research who to contact to get some action.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 PM.

Don Andring, Clerk
cb