

# REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:12 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Dan Johnson, Gene Loftus, Ron Pagel, Todd Peterson, Molly Rieke, Superintendent Bruce Klaehn, and Student Board Member Mattie Jo Ostrowski. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Lora Allen, Ryan Anderson, Tracy Ebmeyer, Cali Salley, and Brian Todd.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Agenda

Supt. Klaehn asked that the resignations of SUE HOLGER as Cook and JULIE THEEL as Cook's Helper be added to the agenda, as well as a Band Trip fundraiser.

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 Johnson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the August 8, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

## Regular District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$219,371.28.

## Special District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$191,467.58.

## Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$2,063,026.22 and the August electronic transfers.

## **CABINET COMMUNICATIONS**

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) Shared photos of new playground equipment purchased by Parents and Teachers Together (PATT) and photos of the preschool open house; 2) Parent attendance at the elementary open house was 97% with many positive comments received; 3) Training was provided to the paraprofessionals in August to assist them in developing an awareness as well as acquire knowledge of strategies for working with children with mental health conditions. High School Special Education Instructor Sara Smith also presented strategies of working with children with behavioral issues; 4) Teacher inservices were very busy since they were reduced to two days this year. K-2 and special education teachers learned about the new Primary NWEA tests that will be administered to students in those grades this year. K-5 teachers were given a brief overview of the new language arts state standards. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers looked at data folders and analyzed last year's data. Staff also did curriculum mapping in science and health; 5) Mrs. Bobbi Waters, Mr. Dan Lecheler and Mrs. Svobodny were reminding students of the behavioral expectations in the building (walking in the hall, no weapons policy, before and during school rules, voice levels, etc.) and modeling what it looks and sounds like going through the lunch line. The students also had bus training and talked with the bus drivers; 6) There was a good crowd at the preschool open house in Dover with some LRP classes having 100% attendance; 7) Elementary enrollment this fall is: K - 89, first grade - 90,

second grade - 91, third grade – 87, fourth grade – 89, and fifth grade – 95 for a total of 541 students;  
8) Challenges this fall included scheduling paraprofessionals, special education teachers, duties, and fall assessments.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp relayed the following: 1) Teacher inservices were very good but busy with only two days scheduled this fall. In addition to the regular activities, One-to-One Computer rollout meetings were held with parents and students; 2) Mr. Rowekamp expressed his pride in all of the things that are done for students and parents at the beginning of the year and the orientation system that has been developed. He thanked Katie Johnson, Johnson Ostrowski and Tom Surprenant for all of the extra time and effort they put into these events and for meeting with new students and their families; 3) The 6-12 grade enrollment is up this year at 612 students; 4) Principal Rowekamp thanked Alberto Vera for assisting him with the first day video which resulted in good feedback from students and staff. The theme this year is choosing your attitude and maintaining a positive attitude throughout the school year.

#### Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

No Customer Compliment, Concern, Complaint forms had been received that month.

#### Student School Board Communication

Student Board Member Mattie Jo Ostrowski advised that the High School Student Council had established the Homecoming royalty and the dress up days. This week they would work on pepfest activities and pizza feed details. It was their hope to get the community more involved this year. Planned hall decorating contests this year are hoped to get more students involved in school pride and homecoming week. Miss Ostrowski ended her report by saying she enjoyed the opening day video, especially the motivational ending.

### **REPORTS**

#### Laptop Computer Distribution Update

Supt. Klaehn and Principal Rowekamp talked about the One-to-One Computer distribution. Meetings were held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights as well as some individual meetings. Mr. Rowekamp and Mr. Berg met with the students while the parents met with Mr. Klaehn. Both groups were given instructions and rules about the Netbooks. Bryan Berg, Kathy Smith, Kathy Martin, and Bev Sharp did a great job distributing the computers while Chris Berg, Jody Kath and Lisa Ferrell helped with the paperwork. Each meeting only lasted about 45 minutes.

After each of his presentations, Mr. Klaehn asked the parents what they thought and received overwhelming nods that it was a good initiative. Some individuals had a “wait and see” attitude which was understandable given this is a new idea. Regarding the Netbook protection plan, he advised that 89.6% of the parents chose to purchase the plan and 8 were still deciding. As a result of the plan purchases, the district has at least \$5,375 of revenue for repair and replacement costs.

Supt. Klaehn relayed that three teachers told him that use of the Netbooks was going smoothly. Mr. Klaehn shared with the Board the PowerPoint presentation given to parents and students.

Mr. Rowekamp was heartened by the fact that students who didn't get their computers the first day of school were tracking him down to find out how they could get one since their teachers were using them in class. In response to a question about how staff were using the computers, he relayed that it is expected there will be a different pace in each classroom. Some teachers have classes completely ready to use the laptops with their curriculum. He added, “This is a little bit different than the typical learning process in that teachers will be learning along with the students and students will have the opportunity to do some of the teaching (by showing the teachers how the computers can be used in the classroom).”

In regard to the Netbooks, Student Board Member Mattie Jo Ostrowski said that things were going really well and that she hadn't any negative drawbacks. She relayed that, because the computers have Google Apps, a PowerPoint document can be developed and several students can view and edit it online at the same time. She added, “Teachers have been able to branch out because of use of the laptops.”

Board Member Dan Johnson requested that sometime in the future a staff member show the Board examples of how the laptops are being used in the classroom.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Reschedule Board Retreat**

The Board Retreat was scheduled for Monday, September 26 beginning at 6 PM in the high school Media Center.

### **Review Informational Document and Planning for Operating Referendum**

Supt. Klaehn reviewed the informational document with the Board. It was determined to place a question/answer document in the October 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the *Eagle* and on the website. Public meetings will be held Tue., October 11 in the Dover building and Tue., October 25 in the DEHS auditorium, both starting at 7 PM. If clarification is needed after the public meetings, a document could be mailed to the public.

Mr. Klaehn talked about the flawed information in the newspaper regarding funds schools receive from the state. Various legislators are publishing figures of revenue increases to schools in articles and newsletters, some with the intention of stopping or defeating operating levy referendums. Unfortunately, the figures are not being accurately portrayed, and are from a Minnesota Department of Education spreadsheet that has been misinterpreted in some cases.

Mr. Klaehn felt that the school district needs to advise the public that a yes vote will not cause taxes to increase; however, taxes will increase due to other factors including the reduction of the homestead tax break. Mr. Loftus felt it will be necessary to stress that we are not asking for an increase and that the current amount is a reasonable amount.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Community Officer Contract Renewal**

Chair Pagel said that the next Eyota City Council meeting is scheduled for Thu., September 22<sup>nd</sup> at which time they will discuss the community officer renewal contract.

Supt. Klaehn relayed that, basically, the contract is the same except that there is a 3% increase in each of two years. The City has asked the school district to pay a closer amount between the 25% and 50%. Mr. Klaehn felt that we get more of that split of services; however, he questioned the 3% increase. Supt. Klaehn said that during the school year, about half of Officer Tracey Pagel's time is spent at the school. Many times she is doing things that benefit both the schools and the community.

No action was taken at this time.

## **REPORTS**

### **Band Trip to New York**

Band Instructor Ryan Anderson provided photos and gave some highlights of the trip:

- the Phillips buses had custom-made racks for the band uniforms
- they arrived at Rockefeller Center at 6 AM and immediately started exploring
- a few of the places they visited were Ground Zero, a September 11 make-shift memorial at a church, and the American Museum of Natural History
- chaperones and students with the same areas of interest spent a lot of time downtown which resulted in a great learning experience
- people in Times Square went out of their way to help them
- New York City's finest are the police, most brave are the fireman, and the strongest are the garbage men (who quickly cleaned up litter left on the streets)
- the music, lighting and caliber of acting at "Mary Poppins" were great
- the Rockettes at Radio City were fantastic
- at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, chaperones found names of ancestors
- at the Lewisburg, Pennsylvania parade, people were so impressed by our band that they got standing ovations at every block

When asked about the status of the school calendar, Mr. Anderson explained that the delay by the printer was due to a major illness of one of his daughter. Now that the art work is done and will be repeated each year, there shouldn't be delays next year.

### Consider Fundraiser Approval

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve the Footsteps candle sales fundraiser and Band Trip "Wake Up the Band" fundraiser.

### Consent - Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Andring, and carried unanimously to accept the resignations of: 1) CHRISTINA RYAN as Elementary Special Education Instructor; 2) SARAH MOBRY MCFALLS as Cook's Helper; 3) DOUG ZARS as Academic Triathlon Coach; 4) SUE HOLGER as Cook; 5) JULIE THEEL as Cook's Helper.

### Consent – Hires

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to hire the following individuals: 1) TERESA BROLIN as Secondary Vocal Music Instructor; 2) THOMAS FLAIG as Math Interventionist; 3) BENJAMIN HOUSE as DCD Special Education Instructor; 4) MARILYN BENSON as part-time ELL Teacher; 5) RICHARD ZEITLER, JR. as Bus Driver; 6) JENNIFER GUNTER as District Office Assistant/High School Instructional Assistant; 7) MICHAEL ECK, EMILY LOGA, KAREN MULVIHILL, HEATHER HOFFMAN, LORRIE HIDLEBAUGH, ASHLEY WALTERS, and JESSICA WEBECK as Instructional Assistants; 8) HEATHER KIEFFER and JANET MESTER as Cook's Helpers; 9) SAMUEL POLLOCK as C Football Coach; 10) JERED SMILEY as 100-Day Substitute Teacher.

### Consent – Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to accept the \$195 donation from MICHELLE WILLIAMS (matched by Wells Fargo) and \$500 from the DOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT for the Sharing Tree.

## **HEARING OF REPORTS**

### Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn relayed the following: 1) Board members were invited to join him at the Minnesota Rural Education Association meeting on September 20 at Southland; 2) Reminded the members of the Minnesota School Board Association Fall Regional Meetings on September 22 in Rochester; 3) He talked about the idea of an entire middle school class taking a trip to Washington DC next summer through a Chatfield touring company. The Board felt it was a viable possibility to pursue in the future, but not this year; 4) Opening day enrollment was up significantly to a total of 1,152 students; 5) The district was cited for a few minor violations of our bus driver drug testing process due to our contract with MacNeil Environmental Services; 6) The Whitewater Country group will be interviewing for the coordinator position and will also plan the Project Northland training for our health teachers.

### Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

**Loftus** – Members of the Dollars for Scholars group recently ran a concession stand. In regard to teacher negotiations, he relayed that the group had some good meetings and were moving forward.

**Rieke** – Thanked Ryan Anderson for the calendar update and suggested a note be placed on the website as to when they would be distributed. In regard to legislative news, Ms. Rieke said things were still "up in the air." She advised that she had been appointed to the state Early Learning Council and would attend the first meeting on September 19. Member Rieke welcomed Student Board Member Mattie Jo Ostrowski. She felt that the middle school orientation was "well done." She ended her report by recommending that Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank report on the new lunch program at an upcoming meeting and hoped that a group would "take on" the new banner machine as a fundraiser.

**Peterson** – Mr. Peterson also welcomed Mattie Jo and relayed that he had attended the new staff breakfast. A Minnesota State High School League meeting will be held soon and the Gifted & Talented Committee will be setting their first meeting of the school year. Member Peterson ended his report by relaying that negotiations were moving forward.

**Johnson** – Member Johnson welcomed Mattie Jo and extended a special welcome to all of the new staff and teachers. He said, "It is nice to see how the administration brings them on board." Mr. Johnson expressed his

excitement about the Netbook computers and would like continuing reports presented to the Board. A radio ad mentioned good nutrition and the fact that the lunchroom is a classroom. Mr. Johnson said he appreciated Mrs. Carrie Frank's time and efforts to have that happen at Dover-Eyota. He added, "It is a great program that she is running and is good for the district."

**Andring** – Mr. Andring also heard the radio ad that Carrie Frank was in, commented that it was "well done," and extended compliments to her. He will be attending a Southeast Service Cooperative meeting the following week. Member Andring welcomed Mattie. One of his employees moved into the district because one of his children was in a class that was full and they wanted to get him into the DE school system.

**Austinson** – Wondered if a Crisis Team meeting was being scheduled soon. Mrs. Austinson has been reviewing a play sent to her by Drama Director Jennifer Ryg and commented that the mystery looked appropriate and very interesting. She thanked everyone for a "good start of school year." As the mom of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, she said her child's transition went very well. Member Austinson ended her report by welcoming Mattie as well as the new staff.

**Pagel** – The Hiawatha Valley Education District was working on negotiations. He was unable to attend a Three Rivers Conference meeting. Mr. Pagel congratulated the administration and staff for a good start to the school year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk  
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