

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:08 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, and Superintendent Bruce Klaehn. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Activities Director/Principal John Ostrowski, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Tracy Ebmeyer, John Sakellarios, and Jeff Seeley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda

Supt. Klaehn asked that additional resignations be added and that a closed session be added for negotiations strategy and a data procedures item.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Rieke, 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 Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the June 13, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$127,045.32.

Special District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Peterson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$223,921.03. Member Loftus wished the minutes to include his appreciation to the Band students for entirely paying their way to the New York trip.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$1,252,630.30 and the June electronic transfers.

Supt. Klaehn asked that John Sakellarios' report and the Operating Levy Referendum discussion be moved up in the agenda.

REPORTS

John Sakellarios from the Valley View Learning Center

Mr. Sakellarios, the principal of VVLC and River Valley Academy in Kellogg, explained that the Hiawatha Valley Education District (HVED) provides alternative learning centers and alternative learning programs in Kellogg and Dover. These options provide smaller class sizes, no homework (students do their work during the school day), and students focus on one or two classes (instead of four or five) which allows them to earn credits faster. Students age 13 to 21 are referred by their school district or parent, or register voluntarily and attend part time, full time, during the summer, and/or after school. It is a migratory population with the average number of students in the Dover program being 55 to 75, with last year being 62.

Supt. Klaehn advised that our school district is the fiscal host and that we rent them our building. So while we have a strong connection, it is entirely HVED's program. He added that our Early Childhood staff speaks highly of the area learning center students in the Dover building.

In response to a question about the amount of interaction the older students have with the preschool children, Mr. Sakellarios replied that only a few of the better students work with them for a minimal number of hours per week under supervised conditions. He added that the older students are very protective of the younger children and relayed that, during fire drills, the older kids form a human fence around the small children to keep them "corralled" on the playground.

In response to a question about transportation, Mr. Sakellarios advised that the HVED does not use any home school district transportation. The students find their own transportation or are transported by their home district. He added that the home districts find the students are most successful when they provide transportation to the area learning centers.

OLD BUSINESS

Operating Levy Referendum

Jeff Seeley of Ehlers reviewed a tax impact summary document with the Board looking at several operating levy options. The tax rates apply to the market value of the property. He provided the revenue and tax impact for renewing the current \$126.79 per pupil and options at \$100 increments up to \$426.79. Because of the state shut down, Ehlers is unable to access information they need from the state. Mr. Seeley said that an extended state shut down should not affect holding a referendum vote.

Supt. Klaehn asked the Board to arrive at a decision as to the amount, term and length of an operating levy, as well as the polling place, so that appropriate documents and legal work can be brought forward at the August Board meeting. He indicated that the school district currently had two polling places and the Board should decide if it wished to reduce that down to one.

Member Rieke made a motion to renew the existing \$126.79 operating levy for ten years and reduce the number of polling places to one by holding the election at the Dover-Eyota High School. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson.

Discussion followed whether or not to add a second question that would increase the amount in order to prepare for future leveling off of enrollment and for inflation. The Board determined they would only seek the renewal of the existing \$126.79 operating levy.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following members voting in favor: Loftus, Rieke, Peterson, Johnson, Pagel, Andring and Austinson. Those voting against the same: none.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp relayed the following: 1) Jody Kath has agreed to move into the lead secretarial position at the high school. Lisa Ferrell, current Health Instructional Assistant, has accepted the second secretarial position. There were 163 applications received; 2) He provided the preliminary MCA results and stated that our students continue to do quite well in 9th Grade Writing, 10th Grade Reading and 11th Grade Math. Scores continue to dip in 7th grade and then come back up in higher grades. The middle school staff is employing more strategies in an attempt to break that 7th grade trend. Mr. Rowekamp advised that he was uncertain when the remaining test results will be available due to the state shut down.

Strategic Plan Reporting

Principal Todd Rowekamp and Assistant Principal John Ostrowski reported on the results of the Middle School/High School 2010-2011 Strategic Plan.

AIM 1: *High Student Achievement Goal* to explore additional opportunities for students to earn college credit through high school courses:

- three math Concurrent Enrollment Courses (College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Calculus) have been offered for the last three years through the "College Now" program at Southwest State
- one science course (Anatomy & Physiology) will be offered in 2011-12 through the "College in the Schools" program at the University of Minnesota
- three College Level Examination Program (CLEP) courses (Honors Psychology, Honors Sociology and Honors Senior English) are offered

AIM 2: *Safe and Welcoming Learning Environment Goal* to enhance middle school components

- added a 6th grade Kindness Retreat and separate 6th grade Orientation Night
- refined Advisory to emphasize academic intervention and MCA test preparation
- improved Middle School Activity Nights
- increased parent involvement through creation of a middle school parent organization and began middle school letter
- added a Middle School Gifted & Talented program and a Middle School Academic Intervention Plan

AIM 2: *Safe and Welcoming Learning Environment Goal* to increase service learning opportunities.

- Student Mentoring: Peer Helpers and others acted as positive role models at 6th, 7th and 9th grade retreats
- Flood Clean Up: 30 members of the senior class helped with clean up of homes, churches and businesses in the community
- 7th and 8th Grade Advisory Groups: a weekly day was designated for community service projects
- Food for Kidz: the senior class helped elementary students package meals

Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

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

REPORTS continued

First Reading of the Parent, Student, Coach and Employee Handbooks

The Board held their first reading of the changes to the handbooks.

OLD BUSINESS continued

Second Reading and Approval of New and Revised Policies

Julie Austinson asked that the Board be allowed another month to review the policies. The AT will seek clarification what the Minnesota Veteran's Preference Act states in regard to use of the 100-point interview system.

NEW BUSINESS

Award Bakery, Dairy, Fuel, and Snow Removal Bids

Snow -- Purchasing Committee Member Andring advised that there was a 38% difference in the low and high snow bid. He noted that, in the past, the district has had issues with M&M's ability to push back large amounts of snow; however, he recommended giving them another chance and accepting the bid from Mike Hinrichs of M&M Construction. Member Loftus advised that M&M's list of equipment has improved from the last time they were awarded the snow bid.

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Rieke, and carried unanimously to award the low snow removal bid provided by M&M Construction.

Fuel -- Member Andring advised that Kwik Trip couldn't deliver the amount of fuel we requested and wished to be continually advised of bidding should their delivery policy ever change. They offered to provide credit cards for our drivers to fuel up at the store, which the Board did not find feasible.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to award the fuel products bid for the 2011-12 school year to Feils Oil Company of Plainview.

Dairy -- Purchasing Committee Member Johnson advised that two dairy products bids had been received with Kemps being the low bidder on most items.

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to award the dairy products bid for the 2011-12 school year to Kemps.

Bakery -- Purchasing Committee Member Loftus advised that, because the Pan O Gold and Sara Lee bids were very close, the Committee recommended delaying the bid award until Food & Nutrition Director Carrie

Frank could review them. Supt. Klaehn recommended that, rather than tabling the item, the Board direct Mrs. Frank to make the final decision.

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to defer to the Food & Nutrition Director the selection of the winning bakery products bid for the 2011-12 school year.

Approve Health & Safety Attachment #10

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Andring, and carried unanimously to approve the Health & Safety Attachment #10.

Set Date for August Board Retreat

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to set a special Board meeting for Tuesday, August 23, 2011 beginning at 6:00 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center.

Set Required Revised Lunch Prices for 2011-12

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to revise lunch prices for 2011-12 at \$1.80 for elementary and \$2.05 for secondary in order to move toward compliance with the federal regulations.

Consent - Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of LYNN BLACK as Instructional Assistant and District Office Assistant, KAYLA ANDRIST as C Soccer Coach, JOSHUA HEMMERICH as half-time Art Instructor, and CHELSEY JORGENSON as Instructional Assistant and SACC Worker.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn relayed the following: 1) Reminded the Board of the Eyota Days Parade on Sat., July 17; 2) Provided a legislative update and the effects of the state shut down on our school district; 3) Advised that the handicap accessible bus needs an estimated \$10,000 in body repairs to pass inspection. He and Transportation Director Dustin Pagel will bring recommendations to a future meeting.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Loftus – Advised that negotiations with the Dover-Eyota Education Association will be discussed during the closed session. Mr. Loftus expressed his appreciation of Principal Sakellarios presenting at the meeting and added, "It is nice to put a face to the name and position."

Rieke – Ms. Rieke advised that negotiations with the teachers would be discussed later in the meeting. She also thanked Mr. Sakellarios for attending the meeting and thanked Mr. Jeff Seeley of Ehlers for the "clear reports" he had provided about the operating levy.

Peterson – Mr. Peterson advised that negotiations were ongoing and that the Gifted & Talented Committee was attempting to set a meeting.

Johnson – He had attended the Purchasing Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting. In regard to the district's operating referendum he said, "The best we can do is, basically, maintain status quo. There are thoughts and different strategies that can be used and I'm not convinced to do the same things that are being done at all levels of government – games being played." Member Johnson advised that his daughter was going through the process of obtaining a teaching position and he found this new perspective very valuable. He added, "It makes you question some of the goals and what is really driving what we do. Are we searching for the best people or the cheapest people?"

Andring – Member Andring advised that the Southeast Service Cooperative (SSC) decided to terminate one position of the online learning program. The Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) assistance at the SSC is in

jeopardy due to unknown funding. Mr. Andring ended his report by advising that he will be attending the Minnesota Service Cooperative meeting this week.

Austinson – Mrs. Austinson expressed her appreciation to Principal Rowekamp and Assistant Principal Ostrowski for the Strategic Plan report.

Pagel – The Hiawatha Valley Education District is going into the interest based bargaining training provided by medication services. Mr. Pagel thanked Don Andring for being a “watch dog” and finding an Alliant Energy extra charge for a light pole.

Chair Pagel advised that the Board would go into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(d).

At 9:49 PM, a motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Peterson and carried unanimously to go into closed session.

At 11:27 PM, a motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Peterson and carried unanimously to end the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Rieke, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
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