

# REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 10, 2011

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:04 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 Laura Fierro. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Activities Director/Asst. Principal John Ostrowski, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Paula Braun, Sheri Crowson and Kathy Martin.

## Agenda

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

## Visitors to Address the Board

There were no visitors to address the Board.

## Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Andring, and carried unanimously to approve the December 13, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

## Regular District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$167,731.45.

## Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Rieke and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$667,038.63.

## Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$3,009,386.48, as well as the December electronic transfers.

Business Manager Gary Betcher advised that Eastwood Bank has waived charging the district fees in the past but is now required to charge the district fees. He explained a higher rate "Sweep Account" that Eastwood will set up that will, in the long run, result in additional interest earned even with bank fees being charged. In essence, any money not needed in the checking account will be placed in the Sweep Account each evening to earn a higher rate of interest. The following day, enough funds will be transferred back into the checking account to cover needs.

Supt. Klaehn relayed that around \$1,000 illegal charges were made to the school district credit card. The card was shut down immediately, the account was credited for the fraudulent charges, and a new card was issued.

## **CABINET COMMUNICATIONS**

Elementary School Principal – Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) A lot of positive comments were received about the elementary musical performances and Mrs. Svobodny thanked Mrs. Kabes for her hard work; 2) An Academic Triathlon meet was recently held in the district and one 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade team placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Math Wizards event that evening resulted in 5<sup>th</sup> grader Daniel Emiliusen and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Ben Callahan each placing 1<sup>st</sup>; 3) Elementary Instructional Assistants will be provided with first aid training and teachers will be exposed to Brain Honey during the early dismissal on January 21. The teachers will meet with consultant Peggy Vogel

on January 24 where she will expand their understanding of using common assessments; 4) The final preschool screening sessions are scheduled for February 8 and February 9 in Dover; 4) She was working on the ADSIS application which is due February 10.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp relayed the following: 1) The high school is participating in a wellness initiative with area school districts that is internally led by Brooke Bernard; 2) A recent lock down drill was the “best drill yet;” 3) That morning, the high school participated in a moment of silence for the Arizona shooting incident; 4) The end of the semester is coming fast and a “final test” schedule will be designated; 5) He distributed a letter from Betsy Wells about the spring trip to Spain. He advised that the group has been working hard on fundraisers and sought a financial donation from the Board. Member Andring wondered if the insurance purchase was necessary. The Board discussed whether or not insurance coverage was needed and the possibility of covering the insurance costs of \$149 per student for seven students. A motion was made by Member Loftus to make a 10% donation up to \$300 per traveler with the stipulation that a portion be used to cover the traveler insurance package. The motion was seconded by Member Rieke. A roll call vote on the motion resulted in the following voting in favor: Loftus, Rieke, Peterson, Pagel, Johnson and Austinson. Voting against the same: Andring. The motion carried.

#### Activities Director/Assistant Principal John Ostrowski

Mr. John Ostrowski relayed the following: 1) Twenty-three families composed of 116 people participated in the Sharing Tree; 2) IBM mentors met with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students the previous Friday; 3) Winter sports participation – Girls’ Basketball 49, Wrestling 35, Dance 19, and Boys’ Basketball 67; 4) Talked about Zero Week football; 5) Shared the upcoming weekend activities; 6) He wrote and received an IBM grant for the archery program.

#### Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

Superintendent Klaehn advised that no Customer Compliment, Concern, Complaint forms had been received that month.

### **STUDENT BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

Student Board Member Laura Fierro shared the following high school news: 1) The Boys’ Basketball team is 1 in 6 and most of the games they lost were close scores. Girls’ Basketball is 8 and 3 and have 3 injured varsity players. Wrestling won 3 matches out of 6 and has had a lot of individual successes; 2) The Dance team has mostly placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in recent competitions. They will attend their conference meet this weekend with sections and state competitions following; 3) The Choir and Band are preparing for large group contest and then solo ensembles; 4) The Knowledge Bowl placed 1<sup>st</sup> at Plainview and have another meet next Wednesday; 5) The dress performance for Drama is this weekend before a judge and in two weeks they will compete at sections; 6) The musical is coming up the beginning of March; 7) Mr. Klaehn told Laura that her A capella performance of the *Star Spangled Banner* at a recent home game was “awesome.”

### **REPORTS**

#### Flexible Learning Year - Update

Supt. Klaehn advised that the Flexible Learning Year’s premise is to start school earlier in the fall and end earlier in the spring. He met with both staffs, obtained good feedback, and sent out communication to answer questions that have developed. A FLY’s advantages include two more weeks of instruction before MCA tests in April and the first semester ending at Christmas break. The consortium has been working with the state on this proposal that must be approved by the Commissioner of Education. The Calendar Committee will recommend two calendars – regular and flexible. The Board will need to set three public meetings and decide by their March meeting whether to proceed in seeking approval for a flexible calendar.

Chair Pagel felt that the Flexible Learning Year is educationally beneficial for students. Member Andring liked the possibility of common staff development activities between school districts.

The Board set the following public meetings to begin at 7 PM:

Mon., January 31 in the DEHS auditorium

Tue., February 8 in the Dover building

Wed., February 23 in the DEHS auditorium

### First Reading of the 2011-2012 Board Assumptions

Supt. Klaehn briefly reviewed the assumptions being brought to the Board for first reading. Items mentioned included the following:

- there will be \$100,000 of job stimulus funds left over from 2010-2011
- there will be an increase in WADMS
- changes from current assumptions include
  - penalty fee of \$5 will include “other electronic devices”
  - classroom rental rates were adjusted to coincide with rates of other areas
  - media center rental rate was set at \$50
  - per hour cost for custodial, cook and lighting/sound technicians will increase \$2 per hour to \$28 per hour
- athletic fees and lunch prices remain the same
- staffing changes include the addition of a .25 FTI English Language Learner teacher at the elementary and .3 FTI Learning Readiness Program teacher

Mr. Klaehn relayed that, if the legislature reduces funding, the Board will probably need to review these Assumptions after they are approved.

### First Reading of Policy Revisions

Chair Pagel advised that the following proposed policy revisions were brought forward to meet the confines of the law and include recommendations from the Minnesota School Board Association:

- 405 – Veteran’s preference
- 410 -- Family & Medical Leave Policy
- 413 -- Harassment and Violence
- 514 – Bullying Prohibition Policy
- 526 – Hazing Prohibition

Supt. Klaehn advised that the administration tried to tie the harassment, bully and hazing policies together so that there are no discrepancies between them. The Technology Committee is working on revisions to the Internet Acceptable Use policy, which will be brought forward at a later date.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Use of Donated Funds

Supt. Klaehn relayed that the administrators feel the best approach at this point is to hold the funds until a One-to-One Computer Initiative plan is developed. The Board concurred with that recommendation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Possible Sale of Shop Class Shed

Supt. Klaehn advised that a local church has offered \$2,000 for a shed built by last year’s shop class.

Member Loftus made a motion to let sealed bids in the *Eagle*, set a minimum bid of \$2,500 and include the right to reject all bids. The motion was seconded by Member Rieke.

The motion was amended by Member Andring to reduce the minimum bid from 2,500 to 2,000. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson and a roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Peterson, Pagel, Johnson, Andring and Austinson. Voting against the same: Loftus and Rieke. The amended motion carried 5 to 2.

A vote on the motion to let sealed bids in the *Eagle*, set a minimum bid of \$2,000 and include the right to reject all bids was carried unanimously.

#### Consent - Approve Hires

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the following hires: 1) CHELSEY JORGENSON as Instructional Assistant as well as AM and PM SACC Instructional Assistant; 2) ANDREA WATSON as Instructional Assistant; 3) LEAH DESSNER as Instructional Assistant.

### Consent - Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Austinson and carried unanimously to accept the following donations: 1) Sharing Tree -- \$100 from FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH and \$50 from BOB & MARY LOVEJOY; 2) Food Service Angel Account -- \$150 from EASTWOOD BANK; 3) Band Trip -- \$20 from JULIE & JASON WHITCOMB, \$10 from DARWIN & GEORGINA JOHNSON, \$25 from LINSY PEERENBOOM, and \$25 from ROBERT & SUSAN BOYLES; 4) IBM Grants – total of \$6,000 to high school, high school music, middle school, community education, early childhood, and the elementary.

### **HEARING OF REPORTS**

#### Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn provided the following information: 1) The Minnesota School Board Association Conference attendance details were set; 2) In regard to the gymnasium sound system, he thanked Bryan Berg and Loren Kiefer for working over the holidays to move the gym speakers, improving the sound in that area. Mr. Klaehn advised that they were also exploring smaller, inexpensive ways to further improve the sound; 3) The Integration Plan needs to be written again and Spanish Instructor Marilyn Benson has been assigned as our district "champion;" 4) At the Administrative Retreat in Winona on December 23, the group reviewed last year's strategic plan, survey results, and the Baldrige feedback report. They also discussed the 2011-2012 school year, a possible flexible learning year, the Brain Honey strategy, the One-to-One computer initiative, and this year's strategic plan; 5) Meet and Confer with the Board has been set for 6 PM on Monday, February 14.

#### Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

**Loftus** – He will be attending Dollars for Scholars Committee meeting. Mr. Loftus congratulated the various athletic and academic groups and added, "It is nice to hear that the sports teams are doing well and to hear about the successes of the Math Wizards, Knowledge Bowl and Academic Triathlon teams throughout all of the grades. A big 'thanks' to the teachers who support these programs." Member Loftus welcomed new member Todd Peterson and welcomed back other re-elected members.

**Rieke** – Member Rieke expressed her interest in attending the MSBA Negotiations Seminar in February. In regard to the Sharing Tree she said, "Good job to everyone involved." Ms. Rieke relayed that the elementary musical performances were "outstanding." She was looking forward to attending the MSBA Leadership Conference and chatting with districts who have implemented the Flexible Learning Year. Member Rieke ended her report by stating that the elementary Academic Triathlon members were having a "blast" and she extended thanks to the advisors.

**Peterson** – Member Peterson thanked everyone for their welcoming words and added, "I look forward to a challenging four years."

**Johnson** – Member Johnson was looking forward to attending the next Technology Committee meeting and said, "I am glad that we, as a district, are looking at improvements (in the area of technology). Any change is liable to shake loose some different thinking. It is great that staff is willing to look for improvements and it is important for us to support them to see that it happens." Mr. Johnson relayed that, as he took the oath of office earlier in the meeting, he thought that all who serve should take heart in the fact that it is their responsibility to step up and promote their view on behalf of their neighbors and constituents. He ended his report by saying, "That is what democracy is all about."

**Andring** – Mr. Andring reminded the Board Members of the Southeast Service Cooperative Annual Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will include an optional SmartBoard training at 5 PM, followed by a meal, and the regular meeting. He added, "A lot of programs we hear about are developed by SSC." Member Andring advised that individual school district usage reports would soon be released. In relaying that the Transportation Department's new tractor had arrived, he encouraged the Board Member members to "see our new investment."

**Austinson** – Mrs. Austinson said that she was looking forward to attending the Leadership Conference and being on the Legislative Committee this year.

**Pagel** – Member Pagel would be attending a Three Rivers Conference meeting. In regard to the Hiawatha Valley Ed District, he relayed that a joint meeting had been held between the Finance Committee, Programs Committee and superintendents. Meeting discussions have included Winona’s request to exit the education district.

Supt. Klaehn relayed that a meeting regarding the PEIP Insurance Plan will be held in our district on Thu., January 27 at 4:30 PM and all interested persons are invited to attend.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk  
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