

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 13, 2010

Chair Ron Pagel called the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, Regular Meeting to order at 7:07 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Dan Johnson, Gene Loftus, Ron Pagel, Gary Pedersen, Molly Rieke, Superintendent Bruce Klaehn (7:12 PM) and Student Member Laura Fierro. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Technology Coordinator Bryan Berg, Technology Director Loren Kiefer, Todd Peterson, John Pittenger, and Kelly Schuette.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Austinson, 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 Pedersen, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the November 2, 2010 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 \$101,078.69.

Special District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$153,699.10.

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 \$3,289,988.26, as well as the November electronic transfers.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following in addition to his written report: 1) Congratulated the Lego Robotics Team who took first place in one of their categories at the regional competition at RCTC. He also thanked IBM employees Laurie Williams and Ray McKenzie and Advisor Mr. Dan Vrieze who assisted the students; 2) That day, several high school teachers attended a data retreat and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) planning sessions led by Leslie Hauser of the Southeast Service Cooperative and Curriculum Director Jane Johnson. The event focused on middle school data with the goal being to improve test scores; 3) Mr. Rowekamp talked about PLAN test results and historical data tallied by Mr. Tom Surprenant that had been previously provided. Mr. Rowekamp gave more information and answered questions from the Board about this test taken by 10th graders. He noted that the trend over the last 5 years has been very strong as all of our classes have done very well; 4) Six students plan to attend the trip to Spain. Due to this past weekend's weather, Barnes & Noble will credit our students with online sales this week and hold the postponed event next weekend. The group is planning a salsa dance in late January with instruction the first hour for the public followed by a student dance. Mr. Rowekamp asked the Board to consider a donation of purchasing the insurance package of \$149 per student.

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny shared the following in addition to her written report: 1) Provided information on the FBI Internet Safety Challenge award presentation to 4th graders and shared photos and the trophy they received. The Board also viewed a video of the media coverage received; 2) She had met with the “small but mighty” new teacher group on December 1 to review the meaning of Response to Intervention (RTI) and how it is used in our district; 3) In regard to the influenza vaccination clinic, she advised that 380 students and 59 adults had participated; 4) The 5th and 6th grade Academic Triathlon Team placed first at their Winona meet. The cross trainer team of 7th graders placed second in their division and all five teams performed well; 5) Mrs. Svobodny ended her report by extending thoughts and prayers to Dana Schott and her family on the recent death of Tom Schott. She said, “Although not a paid employee (of the district), he contributed a lot to our school.”

Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

Superintendent Klaehn shared the Customer Compliment, Concern, Complaint forms that had been received.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Student Board Member Laura Fierro’s report consisted of the following: 1) Sports update – Boys’ Basketball lost three games, no victories for the Wrestling team but several individuals have done well, Dance placed 4th in one of their meets, Girls’ Basketball is 6-0 and the only undefeated conference team so far, and the Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball teams play Wabasha/Kellogg this week; 2) The Band had an “awesome” concert and the Choir concert is on Thu., December 16; 3) The Drama Club performed the “Odd Couple” and are now practicing for their One Act Play; 4) The Art Club membership has doubled this year and they are again working on the mural; 5) The Student Council collected a lot of items during their food drive and will start planning for Snoball; 6) The Spanish Club will be holding fundraisers to support their trip; 7) Math League placed 1st and 3rd in recent competition; 8) Page Masters are working on their Timberwolves project, December reading awards, and recently donated a cash register to the concession stand.

REPORTS

Whitewater Consortium Grant

Supt. Klaehn explained that this Northland Project grant could provide DE and St Charles Schools with \$200,000 per year for 5 years to provide education and activities to address underage alcohol consumption. He noted that student survey results have not indicated a large concern in our school districts; however, there is a concern county wide, and always room to improve with our students.

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson said modification of curriculum could include the health and science areas. She explained that this highly-researched, evidenced-based program would be given in 6th grade with a strong parent focus, given in 6th and 7th grades and involve youth training, and given again later in high school in the form of mock trials, class action activities, etc..

Supt. Klaehn extended his gratitude to Cindy Tri for bringing this opportunity to our attention, setting up parameters, and giving us advice. He added that the consortium would hire a coordinator to help with implementation of the program. One of the outcomes is that we would offer the DARE program through 5th grade and then the Northland Project would start in 6th grade.

Student Board Member Laurie Fierro said that the younger kids look up to older peers and she truly believes that it would be beneficial if we have more peer activities providing good influence. Older role models that 6th graders can talk to would reduce the number of them developing bad habits.

Supt. Klaehn said that we are awaiting notice if the grant was approved, hoping to have an answer by mid-January.

Technology / Online Learning Considerations

Supt. Klaehn said that the district is in the early stage of discussion on technology and online learning in the classroom and at home. This will involve quite a commitment with the next step being the involvement of staff.

Technology Director Loren Kiefer and Technology Coordinator Bryan Berg provided information on the following topics:

- One-to-One Initiative
 - netbooks with 10" screens would be purchased for grades 6-12 (this size laptop is currently being used in grades 3-5)
 - the initiative may be financially doable in a 3-4 year implementation
 - benefits could include electronic or online textbooks, better preparation in 21st Century skills, increased depth to curriculum, increased availability of rooms (current computer labs converted to classrooms), possible increase in test scores, etc.
 - a commitment would need to be made to either textbooks or computers because the budget would not allow purchase of both

The Board directed Mr. Kiefer to perform a more in-depth study on the One-to-One Initiative.

- Online learning in the classroom through the use of BrainHoney
 - this is a learning management system provided by the Southeast Service Cooperative
 - it provides online availability of coursework, tests, quizzes, all tied together by state standards
 - benefits could include a built-in gradebook and ease of use for teachers
 - cost is \$76 to \$93 per teacher/per year and requires minimal training
- Gymnasium Sound System
 - a professional tested the space and equipment and found acoustical, intelligibility and space noise concerns
 - the no-cost remedy for ambient noise would be to preheat or pre-cool the space and then turn off the air handling system during events
 - remedies for reverberation concerns included installation of sound dampening material at an estimated cost of \$10,000 for materials only
 - remedies for intelligibility concerns in the bleacher areas would be to take the current speakers and move them out and above the audience (this could possibly be done by our technology staff)
 - the floor space sound concerns could be resolved by adding more speakers over the floor at a cost of \$24,000 for equipment and installation

The Board will take these recommendations under advisement.

Flexible Learning Year – Southeast Consortium

Supt. Klaehn talked about this possible flexible learning year consortium that would require approval by the Commissioner of Education. Items noted:

- primary goals are improved test scores due to more instruction days prior to MCA testing, common sharing/training between staffs of member districts, and the semester ending just before Christmas break
- everything would begin two weeks earlier (inservice/workshop days, school)
- member districts would have a set number of common inservice days and early releases
- negative factors would be that DE could possibly lose end-of-quarter time and schools would lose loss of local control
- public and staff input and buy-in is necessary (3 public meetings are required before the March deadline)
- 40 southeast Minnesota schools are considering this consortium
- each district would contribute a certain dollar amount to a common staff development fund

The Board had a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of this proposal. Mr. Klaehn will find out how long a commitment is required (i.e., one year, three years).

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Dover-Eyota Principals' Association Contract

Supt. Klaehn said that the total principals' package increase over two years is a total of \$10,377 and 3.94% over the current contracts.

Head Board Negotiator Gene Loftus relayed that a considerable amount of time was spent in developing a contract since this was a new group that had previously negotiated as individuals. He added, "There was a lot of good discussion and thought process on both sides and we have reached a good and fair agreement." Mr. Loftus made a motion to approve the Dover-Eyota Principal's Association contract. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson.

Several Board Members thanked Head Negotiator Gene Loftus and the Negotiations Team for their work in this process. They also expressed they would vote in favor of approval, however, they had reservations about the end result. Mr. Loftus respected the opinions given and said that the district is in good financial status compared to a lot of other schools, partially because of how it is run by these individuals. He also thanked the Board negotiators and principals for their efforts in the settlement.

Member Pedersen requested a roll call vote which resulted in the following voting in favor: Loftus, Pedersen, Rieke, Johnson, Andring, Austinson and Pagel. Those voting against the same: none.

Approval of Cabinet and District Office Staff Contracts

Supt. Klaehn recommended the approval of these contracts and explained that the Cabinet contracts were at a 2% increase each year and the District Office contracts at 2.5% each year.

A motion was made by Member Rieke and seconded by Member Austinson to approve the Cabinet and District Office Staff contracts. A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Austinson, Rieke and Johnson. Those voting against the same: Loftus, Pedersen, Pagel, Andring. The motion failed.

The Board discussion included the feeling that the Cabinet contracts should not increase at a larger percentage than the Principals' contract. Supt. Klaehn advised that the Cabinet contract increase had been based on the expected increase for the principals and that the District Office contracts were less than the Teamsters received. Since they did not wish to approve the contracts as presented, Mr. Klaehn sought direction from the Board regarding these contracts.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen that the Cabinet contracts should be at the same annual percentage as the Principals' contract.. The motion was seconded by Member Rieke and a roll call vote resulted in the following voting in favor: Loftus, Pedersen, Rieke, Pagel, Andring and Austinson. Those voting against: Johnson.

Further discussion resulted in Member Loftus rescinding the first motion and Member Johnson seconding the retraction.

A motion was made by Member Loftus that the District Office contracts be set at the same level as the Teamster negotiations of 3.6% the first year and 1.6% the second year. The motion was seconded by Member Rieke and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Honoring Gary Pedersen

Chair Ron Pagel read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION HONORING GARY PEDERSEN

Whereas GARY PEDERSEN has served with distinction as a member of the Dover-Eyota School Board for 8 years,

Whereas GARY PEDERSEN has given of his time unselfishly for the students and parents of this district,

Whereas GARY PEDERSEN will end his service to the School Board on January 3, 2011,

Be it therefore resolved that he be publicly commended for his contributions to the Dover-Eyota Public Schools.

A motion was made by Member Andring and seconded by Member Johnson to adopt the Resolution Honoring Gary Pedersen. A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Loftus, Pedersen, Rieke, Johnson, Pagel, Andring and Austinson. Those voting against the same: none.

Supt. Klaehn expressed his appreciation for Mr. Pedersen as he was the Board Chair at the time of becoming Superintendent for the district. He added, "I appreciate you as a Board member and will miss you." Member Pedersen replied, "I have enjoyed my years here."

Certify Final Levy for Taxes Payable in 2011

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to certify the Final Levy for Taxes Payable in 2011 (Attachment A) at a reduction of 8.6% from the previous year.

Additional Late Start

The administration sought an additional late start to be used for staff first aid training. Mr. Klaehn explained that part of the staff would be trained on one late start and the remaining staff on another late start. He also advised that he will ask five volunteers from each building to attend a CPR course.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve an additional Late Start on Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

Tentative Approval for a Student Trip to Washington, DC

Advisor John Pittenger said that the cost of the Close Up trip has increased to \$1,800 per student and requires a minimum of 10 students. A trip outside of the Close Up program is estimated at \$950 per person and 14-16 students may be able to attend due to the reduced cost. Other motivations are that they would miss only 2 days rather than 5 days of school, and the trip can be more tailored to more prep classes the students would be required to attend. Mr. Pittenger stated that it was, "a greater experience for the kids for less money." He added that the Board chaperone policy is 12 students to 1 adult; however, he is more comfortable with an 8 to 1 ratio.

A motion was made by Member Andring and seconded by Member Johnson to grant tentative approval for a student trip to Washington, DC from March 26 through March 30, 2011.

Several Board Members thanked Mr. Pittenger for his commitment to providing this experience to DE students.

A vote on the motion carried unanimously.

Consent - Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to accept the resignations of KAREN KRAMER, KAREN DOTSON and DAYNA WINKELS as Instructional Assistants.

Nonrenewal of Contract

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to not renew the Varsity Volleyball Coach contract of JESSICA STELLMAKER.

Consent - Approve Hires

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Pedersen, and carried unanimously to approve the following hires contingent on a successful background checks: 1) HARRY ZEITLER as Dover Custodian; 2) ita After-School Paras – KIMM OLSON, JENNI HORMAN, LISA MICKELSON, HOLLY THOMPSON; 3) TIM MAYER as 9th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach; 4) JERED SMILEY as 7th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach; 5) BRAD MORGAN as Assistant Wrestling Coach.

Consent - Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson and carried unanimously to accept the following donations: 1) Sharing Tree - \$500 from DOVER FIRE, \$75 from the RURAL ROBINS; 2) High School - \$174.33 in KWIK TRIP rebates; snare drum valued at \$300 from the JACK & LAURIE WILLIAMS FAMILY; used snare drum and case valued at \$125 from the TERRY HERBERS FAMILY; \$60 from PATT for Band members helping at the carnival; 3) Elementary - \$1,200 from PATT for classroom parties.

A motion was made by Member Rieke and seconded by Member Andring to accept the \$4.10 from the QWEST for Education rebate program and \$25,000 donation from BRAD JENDERSEE.

Supt. Klaehn explained that Mr. Jendersee wished to make this donation to his alma mater. The Board briefly discussed uses for the funds including the One-to-One Initiative and addressing the sound issues in the high school gym. Mr. Klaehn was directed to send a letter to Mr. Jendersee thanking him for the generous donation and indicating the Board was considering how to use the funds.

A vote on the motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn communicated the following information: 1) The School Board will receive a District Award of Distinction and Member Daniel Johnson will receive a Directors' Award at the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference in January; 2) He handed out ballots for the Southeast Service Cooperative Board of Directors elections; 3) Discussed the MSBA Leadership Conference details with the Board Members; 4) The Board set Mon., January 10 at 6 PM for the Board group and individual photos; 5) Mr. Klaehn reported that carbon dioxide measurements at the elementary have decreased since changes were made in the heating and ventilating system; 5) Advised that the Winona School District is preparing to pull out of the Hiawatha Valley Education District; 6) Reminded the Board Members that three superintendent evaluations had not yet been returned.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Loftus – In regard to the Lego robotic competition, he asked if demonstrations were given to fellow students and was told by Principal Rowekamp that it was used in a couple of classes. Mr. Loftus congratulated the Math League and the 4th and 6th graders on their accomplishments. He thanked the Board Negotiations Team, the principals, Business Manager Gary Betcher and Supt. Klaehn for their assistance during negotiations. To outgoing Member Pedersen he said, "Gary, I have enjoyed being on the Board with you and have learned a lot from watching and listening to you. Your dedication to the district has come through many times, whether it was questioning the cost of a project or the results of test scores, or complimenting the students or the employees of the District. You have represented all the people of this district very well. Thank you for your service to the community."

Rieke – Member Rieke also thanked Mr. Pedersen and added, "We appreciated your work." As a member of the Community Education Committee, she reported that donations to the Sharing Tree included \$500 from Dover Fire and \$75 from the Rural Robins. Ms. Rieke expressed her sympathies to the Schott family on their loss. In regard to the robotic competition, she hoped more students would become involved. Her son's first experience as an Academic Triathlon team member was "fantastic." She thanked everyone for their help with negotiations and added, "It was tough, but we came through it."

Johnson – Congratulated the elementary students on the FBI award and added, "They can now say they actually met someone from the FBI." Mr. Johnson extended his thanks to all working on the Whitewater Consortium Grant. In regard to technology he said, "Everyone is an expert until you have to implement it. It is important to make sure everything works towards a common direction." Member Johnson saw many advantages to a flexible learning year such as the semester break at Christmas and the value of "cross pollination" with other districts. Mr. Johnson thanked the negotiators for their efforts. He ended his report by referring to the final levy adopted that evening and said, "I can't remember too many times where we voted to shrink what our taxpayers are asked to provide."

Andring – Mr. Andring invited the Board to attend the annual Southeast Service Cooperative membership meeting on January 26. He extended special thanks to Brad Jendersee for his donation and added, "Someone in this district did something special for him over the years and made a good influence on him." Member Andring expressed his appreciation to outgoing Member Pedersen and added, "For eight years it has been a pleasure (working with you). You have supported the students and taxpayers of this district very well."

Austinson – Mrs. Austinson noticed the type of community in which we live – from Gary's donation of time and support of the district, teachers going above and beyond like Mr. Pittenger taking students across the country, teachers spending their own time and weekends to put together a grant, to past students coming back to donate and say thank you. She added, "That is generous on so many levels and it is great to be part of this community." Member Austinson had a lot of feelings about the flex year proposal and was excited about its potential. She also thanked the Board Negotiations Team and added, "Those are difficult meetings and there

are a lot of emotions on both sides of the table.” Mrs. Austinson attended the 5th Grade Explorer concert which she felt was very well done. She will attend a Systems Accountability Committee meeting in January.

Pagel – Mr. Pagel also thanked the Negotiations Team. Hiawatha Valley Education District news included a tentative agreement with a principal and the possible withdrawal of Winona from the group. He would be attending a Three Rivers Conference Governors Board meeting the following day. Chair Pagel attended the FBI presentation and was impressed that a man in charge of three states and the individual coordinating the program had taken time out of their schedule to present awards to our students. He ended his report by saying, “Gary, thanks for your years of service to the district...they are well appreciated.”

Pedersen – Member Pedersen thanked everyone and stated that he had enjoyed his eight years on the School Board. He continued by saying, “I learned a tremendous amount by being on the Board and it would be nice if more people took the time to serve and learn what the district is all about. I thank all of the Board members including those served earlier on...Ed Kaehler, Nancy Kieffer, Judy Brandt, Scott Pennington, and Iris Clark. I appreciate that we have a good functioning Board and I have always been proud of that.” In regard to the Superintendent selection he said, “We went through a very detailed process and we got a very good selection. The Superintendent matches the district and I am happy with the choice.” Mr. Pedersen also thanked Chris Berg, Gary Betcher, Jane Johnson, Todd Rowekamp, Jeanne Svobodny and John Ostrowski for their contributions to the district.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
Cb

Minnesota Department of Education
Levy Limitation and Certification Report
2010 Payable 2011

District Number-Type: 0533-01
District Name: DOVER-EYOTA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Home County: OLMSTED

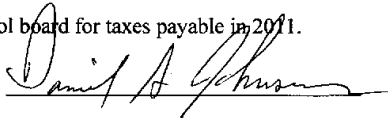
Date Printed: 12/15/10
Limits Updated: 11/18/10
Certified Submitted: 12/15/10

	LIMIT	PROPOSED	CERTIFIED
SUBTOTALS BY LEVY CATEGORY			
GENERAL - RMV VOTER - JOBZ EXEMPT	69,563.21	69,563.21	69,563.21
GENERAL - RMV OTHER - JOBZ EXEMPT	119,059.34	119,059.34	119,059.34
GENERAL - NTC VOTER - JOBZ EXEMPT	0.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL - NTC OTHER - JOBZ EXEMPT	265,838.71	265,679.01	265,838.71
COMMUNITY SERVICE - NTC OTHER - JOBZ EXEMPT	19,558.72	19,558.72	19,558.72
GENERAL DEBT - NTC VOTER - JOBZ NONEXEMPT	1,076,562.13	1,097,922.57	1,076,562.13
GENERAL DEBT - NTC OTHER - JOBZ NONEXEMPT	150,679.82	151,282.96	150,679.82
OPEB DEBT - NTC VOTER - JOBZ NONEXEMPT	0.00	0.00	0.00
OPEB DEBT - NTC OTHER - JOBZ NONEXEMPT	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUBTOTALS BY FUND			
GENERAL FUND	454,461.26	454,301.56	454,461.26
COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND	19,558.72	19,558.72	19,558.72
GENERAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	1,227,241.95	1,249,205.53	1,227,241.95
OPEB/PENSION DEBT SERVICE FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUBTOTALS BY TAX BASE			
REFERENDUM MARKET VALUE	188,622.55	188,622.55	188,622.55
NET TAX CAPACITY	1,512,639.38	1,534,443.26	1,512,639.38
SUBTOTALS BY TRUTH IN TAXATION CATEGORY			
VOTER APPROVED	1,146,125.34	1,167,485.78	1,146,125.34
OTHER	555,136.59	555,580.03	555,136.59
TOTAL LEVY			
TOTAL LEVY	1,701,261.93	1,723,065.81	1,701,261.93

The school district must submit the completed original of this form to the home county auditor by December 29, 2010. A duplicate form must be submitted to Minnesota Department of Education, Program Finance Division, 1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113, by January 7, 2011.

The certified levy listed above is the levy voted by the school board for taxes payable in 2011.

Signature of School Board Clerk



Date of Certification

December 13, 2010