

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 14, 2010

Chair Ron Pagel called the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, Regular Meeting 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, Gary Pedersen, and Superintendent Bruce Klaehn. Absent: Molly Rieke and Student Member Laura Fierro. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Transportation Director Dustin Pagel, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Lora Allen, Kristin Hanson, Wanda Hanson, Lona & Cliff Schreier, Jeff Seeley, Alberto Vera, Deb Vosler and Nancy Whitcomb.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda

Supt. Klaehn asked that the following changes be made to the agenda:

- move the bond sale resolution to follow approval of the Treasurer's Report
- move the Staff Development Plan to a report since it does not require approval
- table Items 12b and 12c – Principals', Cabinet and District Office contracts

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

Visitors to Address the Board

Lona and Cliff Schreier relayed concerns about accommodations in one of their daughter's classes and asked that a specific teacher be assigned to provide her with independent study. Chair Pagel thanked the Schreiers for bringing their concern forward and relayed that the administrators would probably advise the Board further during their reports that evening.

Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the September 20, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$90,244.87.

Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$191,115.97.

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 \$3,079,238.87, as well as the September electronic transfers.

Resolution Awarding the Sale, Determining the Form and Details, Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Registration, and Providing for the Payment of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2010B

Kristin Hanson of Ehlers relayed that the school district bonds sold that day were refinanced cross-over refunding bonds (similar to refinancing a mortgage). Four bids were received with M & I Marshall & Ilsley Bank of Milwaukee being the low bidder with an interest rate of 1.9959%. This will mean a total savings for district taxpayers \$499,426. On an annual basis, it will reduce the Debt Service Levy by about \$55,000 effective on the Payable 2011 Levy. The district again received a AAA rating, partially due to maintaining a positive fund balance.

A motion was made by Member Andring and seconded by Member Johnson to adopt the Resolution Awarding the Sale, Determining the Form and Details, Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Registration, and Providing for the Payment of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2010B (Attachment A). A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Loftus, Pedersen, Johnson, Pagel, Andring and Austinson. Those voting against the same: none.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following in addition to his written report: 1) He expanded on Homecoming Week saying that, overall, it was very positive and he was extremely proud of how the students conducted themselves (high level of and appropriate participation in the activities). He talked about the efforts the staff made this year to make the week a success. He publically thanked Mr. Alberto Vera for the tremendous amount of work he did with the students, Mr. John Pittenger who organized the ideas brought forward by the students, and Mr. Ryan Anderson for bringing the marching band to the elementary pepfest; 2) Principal Rowekamp relayed to the Board an incident that occurred the previous week where welding class students manufactured items that resembled weapons. Law enforcement and school administration interviewed the students who were involved and five students were suspended. The teacher and principal have reviewed supervisory procedures for future welding classes. The Board discussed the suspension procedures, whether or not suspension is punitive enough, and the need for preventive steps that could be taken to avoid this situation happening again; 3) He relayed his congratulations and expressed his pride of the seniors for helping out area residents after the flooding.

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny shared the following in addition to her written report: 1) During the early dismissal in September, the classroom teachers finalized the alignment of their essential math skills from grade level to grade level; 2) The Homecoming pepfest at the elementary was “fabulous.” She thanked Cheerleading Coach Brandy Heaser, Band Director Ryan Anderson, and Instructor John Pittenger for doing a great job in organizing the event. She also expressed her appreciation to the high school students who were good role models; 3) Mrs. Chris Toft completed her last day of teaching on October 12th. Mrs. Svobodny said, “She was a phenomenal teacher of children, a teacher leader at the building and district level, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her well as she enjoys her family and friends in her well-deserved retirement.” Mrs. Svobodny relayed that Mrs. Toft had been especially welcoming when she first became the Elementary Principal; 4) The rubber mulch has been installed under the Super Nova system in the elementary playground.

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 was absent due to participating in soccer at Byron, so Supt. Klaehn relayed her report: 1) There has been a lot of positive behavior and great attitudes from the students and staff this year; 2) Homecoming was “great” with a lot of participation and school pride. The football team won against St. Charles 6-0 and this Friday will play Medford; 3) Soccer was seeded 5th in sections and became Conference Champs three years in a row. They won their first game against Red Wing (2-0) and were currently playing Byron; 4) Volleyball was currently 4-14 and had their last home game on Tuesday against Rushford/Peterson; 5) Cross Country was striving to be Conference Champs;

REPORTS

Draft Report of the June 30, 2010 Audit

Supt. Klaehn gave an overview of the June 30, 2010 audit and advised that Darwin Vicker of Larson, Allen, Weishair & Company will give a more extensive report at the November 8th Board meeting. This document will be available on the website within the October Agenda Notes. The discussion included the level at which the liability fund for severance pay should be maintained. This is called the Postemployment Benefit Fund and is

considered a liability. Up until recently, the law required districts to have two years worth of severance in reserve. The Board discussed the importance of continuing this reserve and the fact that within approximately ten years, all employees under a severance plan will have retired so this liability will eventually disappear.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Andring and carried unanimously to maintain and increase the Postemployment Benefit Fund to the \$200,000 level in the final 2009-2010 audit.

2010-2011 Strategic Plan Measurements

Supt. Klaehn relayed that the Strategic Plan has been in place and the final piece was to add specific target measurements. Curriculum Director Jane Johnson gave an overview of the measurements.

Staff Development Plan

Mrs. Jane Johnson presented the Staff Development Focus for 2010-2011, including the key initiatives from the district Strategic Plan relating to or requiring staff development.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading and Approval of the Student Accountability Report (SAR)

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson advised that the Systems Accountability Committee had met, reviewed the report, and made minor changes. Member Austinson, a member of that committee, said that the data was favorable and compared us to similar communities in our area.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Pedersen, and carried unanimously to approve the Student Accountability Report.

Examination of Quotes for Possible Purchase of Utility Tractor

Purchasing Committee Member Gene Loftus advised that five favorable tractor quotes were received. Committee member Don Andring relayed that they wished to verify differences between the pieces of equipment before making a recommendation. He added, "The money will be well spent as the tractor will have a long history in our district."

Supt. Klaehn provided a current Capital Budget and pointed out that, since the district saved money on the used mower, it was very much in the "ballpark" to purchase a new tractor, which is also on the list of needs.

The consensus of the Board was that the quotes were within a reasonable range and that it makes financial sense to move forward to purchase a new unit. They asked Supt. Klaehn to investigate whether there was a state bid process for tractors and asked Transportation Director Dustin Pagel to seek answers to the committee's questions about the units. This item will be discussed further at the November 8th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the Dover-Eyota Principals' Association Contract

This item was tabled when the amended agenda was approved.

Approve the Cabinet and District Office Staff Contracts

This item was tabled when the amended agenda was approved.

Consent – Fundraiser Requests

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the following fundraisers: 1) PAGE MASTERS Read-A-Thon February 1-28, 2011; 2) SPANISH CLUB to sell HyVee coupon books; 3) BOYS' BASKETBALL to hold their Alumni Tournament on April 23, 2011.

Consent - Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to accept the following resignations: 1) JORDAN JENSEN as 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach;

2) ALISHA FINLEY as Van Driver; 3) QUINCY MALONE as 9th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach.

Consent - Approve Hires

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the following hires contingent on a successful background checks: 1) DEEANN PEASE as Van Driver; 2) LINCOLN GERGEN as 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach; 3) TIM MAYER as 9th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach.

Consent - Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to accept the following donations: 1) Elementary -- \$130.60 from the KWIK TRIP Milk Moola program; 2) Food Service -- \$75 from the RURAL ROBINS for the Angel Account.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn communicated the following information: 1) With some Board and staff members attending various conferences in upcoming weeks and months, he sought input from the Board whether they wished to attend the National School Board Association Conference this year. It was the consensus of the Board that they would attend the state conference, but not the national conference; 2) A meeting that day between administration and the bus drivers was very productive. One topic was cameras on buses and a proposal to purchase 6 cameras at \$1,200 each and rotate them between the buses. Mr. Klaehn would proceed by setting up a demonstration with the camera vendor; 3) A very successful meeting had been held between Hiawatha Valley Education District and Dover-Eyota special education staff and they will attempt to continue the meetings on a monthly basis; 4) He has completed the Cabinet performance reviews and they are working on updating their job descriptions; 5) The previous day, he had attended the Minnesota Council for Quality Conference and made a presentation entitled "Public Engagement in the Dover-Eyota Schools." He was proud to share the many ways that the district and staff engage our public in the educational process; 6) In regard to Chris Toft's retirement, he said, "I remember Chris being a very good ambassador for DE Schools during my interview. She will be missed;" 7) Regarding the concern expressed by Mr. and Mrs. Schreier, he relayed that the administration had been working hard on the topic and that the request did not have a "clean answer." He added, "From time to time we have to make decisions in which people are not in agreement. In this case, we are providing accommodations and allowing the student to work independently, as well as supplying the software to allow the student to be read to. We made a decision that fits both the needs of the individual student as well as the entire district."

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Loftus – As a member of the Board Negotiations Team, he relayed that the contracts had been tabled because of a need for additional negotiations on the principals' contract. Mr. Loftus thanked the senior class for their work in the community during the flood clean up and added, "It was a nice idea and a good community connection." He thanked Chris Toft for all of her years of service with DE and wished her good luck in retirement. Regarding the bus cameras he said, "We (at his employment) have dealt with a lot of stationary cameras and they are high maintenance, high cost and don't last. It's a good idea to have the capability if there is a problem but to fit all buses is not my personal choice."

Johnson – As a member of the Purchasing Committee he relayed that it was interesting to see the tractor quotes received. Mr. Johnson thanked Principal Rowekamp and the senior class for their efforts at Homecoming and for providing experiences for the elementary students. In regard to Chris Toft's retirement he said, "She is one of many giants in her profession that are starting to leave our system to pursue their next phase. I wish her the best of luck." Member Johnson thanked Curriculum Director Jane Johnson and her team for their work on the Strategic Plan Measurements and Staff Development Plan. He noted how she wove parts of the Strategic Plan into staff development. Regarding suspensions he said, "Suspensions are always serious when there is something threatening involved. Law enforcement can be involved in a constructive way and I appreciate everyone's efforts." About the bus cameras, he relayed his opinion that technology is more advanced and cheaper than 5-10 years ago and felt that a determination

needed to be made whether more monitoring is required on some routes. To Mr. and Mrs. Schreier he said, "Tonight is an example of parent involvement and doing what you can for your kids. You have provided us input and it is our job to process that and decide what to do as a Board."

Andring – He will be attending a Southeast Service Cooperate meeting the following week and relayed that they are proceeding with an online learning staff person. Member Andring extended congratulations to the football team on their upset at Lewiston and to the soccer team for their success this year. To Mrs. Jane Johnson he said, "Very nice reports. I appreciate the work you do and those involved putting it together." He ended his report by reminding everyone to vote.

Austinson – Mrs. Austinson had met with Jennifer Ryg and reviewed the play script "The Odd Couple." In doing so, the committee had addressed making it more PG or PG13. She added, "Mrs. Ryg did a good job coordinating with that and responding to the feedback." Member Austinson thanked Jane Johnson for her work on the Student Accountability Report and said that it was very well put together and easy to read. In regard to staff development she said, "Staff development opportunities look solid." Mrs. Austinson extended thanks to Mrs. Chris Toft and said she will be missed in the district. Her son had been very excited about the elementary pepfest. Congratulations were given to the PATT group who grossed approximately \$66,000 during their recent fundraiser that is coordinated by two individuals. Member Austinson ended her report by thanking the Board for the opportunity to attend the T&L Conference in Phoenix next week.

Pagel – At an upcoming Hiawatha Valley Education District meeting, the group will continue negotiations with a principal. Mr. Pagel expressed his congratulations to Chris Toft on her dedication and what she has provided to DE Schools. In regard to bond sale that day he said, "It is hard to estimate what our bond sale means to this district and the average taxpayer." Chair Pagel thanked the Schreiers for bringing forward their concern and wished every parent had that commitment and dedication. He added, "We need to be accountable if staff in the district do not follow up on commitments. We need to identify areas of improvement and try to do a better job. "

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
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