

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2010

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:00 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 and Student Board Member Travis Schreier. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Chris Berg, Gary Betcher, Gary Franzen, Jerry Halloran, Dan Vrieze, and Elizabeth Wells.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda

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

- eliminate the Elementary Principal report
- add 11.5 – Fundraiser Request
- change 12b to **Consent** – New Hires by adding Alisha Finley as Van Driver
- move First Reading of the 2010-2011 Board Assumptions and First Reading of Policy Revisions before New Business

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Johnson 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 Austinson and carried unanimously to approve the December 14, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Rieke and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$52,443.10.

Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$358,553.28.

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 \$3,104,263.82, as well as the December electronic transfers.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp relayed the following: 1) Beginning January 28th, a University of Wisconsin student studying school psychology will do their practicum at the high school. This will be a benefit since the Hiawatha Valley Education District has had difficulty finding school psychologists to work in its member districts and our number of assessments and evaluations have increased; 2) Mr. Rowekamp extended his appreciation to everyone involved in executing the early release on January 7th. He extended special thanks to the Food Service staff for being flexible and serving the students lunch before the release. He also thanked Transportation Director Dustin Pagel for getting the Junior High Knowledge Bowl team back safely that day from their meet in Rochester. Because the group stayed and finished the competition, all four teams will now advance to regionals.

Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

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

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Student Board Member Travis Schreier shared the following high school news: 1) He had heard a lot of good comments from students about knowing the night before that school would be started late on January 8th; 2) The Peer Helpers were considering a fundraiser that might include Mr. Rowekamp's cooperation; 3) The Student Council will begin Snoball activities and hoped to obtain special entertainment (i.e., comedian, hypnotist); 4) Congratulated the Junior High Knowledge Bowl team for all four teams advancing to regions; 5) Math League has one more competition and has a "good shot at going to state;" 6) The Band and Choir are working on small group and large group contest material; 7) Winter sports are in full swing with Girls' Basketball currently 2nd in the conference and Wrestling placing 2nd in last weekend's tournament; 8) The students are looking toward the last two days of the semester when finals are given.

REPORTS

ESG Update

Mr. Jerry Halloran of the Energy Services Group apologized that they hadn't kept the energy savings project on schedule. He had met with Supt. Klaehn and Directors of Custodial Services Wayne Ellringer and Gary Franzen and reviewed each line item. ESG, along with the contractors, were developing a plan to have all work completed by the end of the January. When asked about training of our staff, Mr. Halloran indicated that Winona Heating and Ventilating is obligated to provide training and then ESG also provides it on an ongoing basis.

OLD BUSINESS

Race to the Top Grant

Supt. Klaehn relayed that the Race to the Top Grant was developed quickly and that the bottom line was that the district must choose whether or not to submit the Memorandum of Agreement by Wednesday, January 13. The general consensus of area superintendents is that, if a district doesn't commit by the deadline, they are making a decision not to participate. If they decide to sign on, they have the option to continue or discontinue by giving 30-day notice. The Education Minnesota representative talked with our staff today and did not encourage staff to agree to this proposal.

Instructor Dan Vrieze, representing the Dover-Eyota Education Association, gave their perspective. After meeting with their union representatives, they developed a list of the concerns which included: there is no QComp performance model that directly correlates with student achievement; the district is already doing a lot of quality initiatives and they didn't want to "throw out the baby with the bath water"; there will be a loss of local control; there are too many questions and not enough answers at this time; the amount of money invested in all of the required training could use up the grant money provided; and, teachers will be pulled out of the classroom for training and filling positions (such as data coach). Since the decision timeline was so near, the DEEA members were not comfortable in proceeding with the grant opportunity.

Several School Board Members expressed their appreciation of the DEEA's point of view. Member Andring stated that the DEEA's decision not to participate echoed feelings they expressed at a recent Meet & Confer. He added, "We have a good system now...a good working relationship. There are far too many unknowns in the grant." The Board also expressed concern about the time and effort that would be placed into this program compared to the possible positive outcomes. The fact that QComp was entwined in the proposal was a concern for Member Johnson but he also felt it was too early to decide not to participate. Member Austinson stated that it "rings caution" when the state can "tweak" the package to their liking and manipulate the strings of a federal package. The Board discussed not investing time or money at this time; rather, the district should just watch the developments, knowing that, at any time, they could give 30 days notice of discontinuance in the program. Member Pedersen recommended challenging the governor about the inclusion of QComp in the package.

Member Pedersen made a motion not to join the Race to the Top. The motion was seconded by Member Rieke. A roll call vote was taken and the following voted in favor of not joining: Loftus, Pedersen, Rieke, Andring, Austinson and Pagel. Those voting against the same: Johnson. The motion carried 6 to 1.

Spanish Trip

Spanish Club Advisor Elizabeth Wells relayed that 15 families attended an information meeting and several other students were interested in the trip to Spain. Principal Rowekamp told those attending that a vast amount of the money will need to come from the family because there will be minimal fundraising. The goal is to have a minimum of 6 students actually enrolled in the trip, March 15 is the enrollment and deposit (\$495) deadline, and a code of conduct will be developed. Supt. Klaehn will have the school district's attorney review the contracts, including any political unrest clauses.

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to allow the Spanish Club to pursue a trip to Spain as described, under any conditions the administration might wish to apply to the event.

Fundraiser Request

Dan Vrieze and Principal Rowekamp proposed a benefit for the Levi Lastine that will consist of having students pay a fee to drive their snowmobiles to school one day. Mr. Vrieze felt that the benefit will also be a way to educate students on the proper way of making effective change by seeking temporary suspension of school policy that no all terrain vehicles are to be used on school district property. The project will also promote the spirit of community service. Principal Rowekamp shared some of the terms and conditions by which students must abide in order to participate.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to allow the above-mentioned fundraiser.

REPORTS Continued

First Reading of the 2010-2011 Board Assumptions

Supt. Klaehn led the group through the first reading of the 2010-2011 Board Assumptions. This is the first step in the 2010-2011 budgeting process which will continue over the next several months. There was an extensive discussion regarding current and future enrollment numbers and their impact on finances and facilities. The Board had several suggested changes that will be included as this item returns on the February agenda for a second reading and possible approval.

First Reading of Policy Revisions

Changes to the following policies were reviewed and will be brought back to the February meeting for second reading and possible approval:

[208](#) – Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies (MSBA)

[404](#) – Employment Background Checks (MSBA)

[503](#) – Student Attendance (MSBA)

[509](#) – Enrollment of Non-Resident Students (Admin)

[515](#) – Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records (MSBA)

[521](#) – Student Disability Nondiscrimination (MSBA)

[615](#) – Basic Standards Testing, Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP, Section 504 Accommodation, and LEP Students (MSBA)

[618](#) – Assessment of Standard Achievement (MSBA)

[707](#) – Transportation of Public School Students (MSBA)

[708](#) – Transportation of Nonpublic School Students (MSBA)

New [805](#) – Waste Reduction and Recycling

NEW BUSINESS

Consent – Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to accept the resignations of PAM PETERSON as Cook's Helper and MICHAEL CHRISTIE as 100-Day Substitute Teacher and Coach.

Consent - Approve Hires

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to approve the hire of BRITTANI MAYER as 7th Grade Softball Coach and ALISHA FINLEY as Van Driver.

Consent - Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to accept the following donations: 1) \$3,183.16 from PATT for elementary student parties and snacks, supplies and a printer; 2) \$1,238.10 to elementary from BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION; 3) \$500 from the HIAWATHA SNO-SEEKERS for the auto engineering class; 4) \$25 from ROBERT & MARY LOVEJOY, \$75 from the RURAL ROBINS, and \$50 from FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CIRCLE for the Sharing Tree; 5) \$50 from GLS Agronomy of Eyota to the high school Special Education field trip.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn provided the following information: 1) Relayed the final Board itinerary for the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference that week; 2) The new dishwasher had been installed at the elementary and there were no bidders for the old washer so Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank contacted a local church who agreed to take the unit; 3) Sought and received confirmation which members will attend the National School Board Association Conference in Chicago; 4) Due to inclement weather, the Baldrige Summary Meeting had been rescheduled for Fri., January 15; 5) The Board **tentatively** set a retreat for Tue., January 26 beginning at 6 PM in the high school Media Center; 6) Mr. Klaehn relayed that Arbor Gardens asked for our cooperation to be their relocation site in case of a disaster. He felt it will be a "great gesture on our part to serve in that role."

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Loftus – Congratulated the Junior High Knowledge Bowl on their success. Regarding the lengthy discussions on several topics that evening he said, "This is the kind of discussion we owe the public – a lot of discussion, input and thought. That is why we are here."

Pedersen – Member Pedersen also commented on the good discussions that had been held. He added, "We don't always see eye to eye but we have good discussions." He indicated his regret at not being able to attend the MSBA Leadership Conference due to a conflict with a township event.

Rieke – Mrs. Rieke relayed that the Calendar Committee's first meeting was scheduled for Thu., January 21. She noted that the Community Education Committee has not yet met this year and would like them to do so. She ended her report by saying, "Good job, Knowledge Bowl."

Johnson – Mr. Johnson commented on the good discussion on the Race to the Top Grant.

Andring – Member Andring indicated there will be an upcoming Southeast Service Cooperative meeting and also offered to share books he obtained in Austin, TX.

Austinson – Mrs. Austinson relayed that she had been on various crisis teams over the past 13-14 years and was very impressed with the response of the DE team during a recent crisis. She had attended some basketball tournaments last weekend and said, "Our kids were awesome and well behaved but there were a couple of parents that weren't so well behaved."

Pagel – Mr. Pagel commented on the good discussions held during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Rieke and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
Cb