

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 9, 2009

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:26 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. Also in attendance were Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Chris Berg, Gary Betcher, Marty Hinrichs, Jane Johnson, Rebecka Myers, Dustin Pagel and Darwin Vicker.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda

Supt. Klaehn asked that an item be added to the agenda: 12g – Fundraiser Request.

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

Visitors to Address the Board

Rebecka Myers and Marty Hinrichs expressed concern about a student/teacher conflict their children had relayed to them. Assistant Principal John Ostrowski said that the incident had been thoroughly investigated and was a situation where two boys were going to hassle another student and a teacher stepped in. Supt. Klaehn indicated that Principal Rowekamp will look further into the matter and contact the two parents with the results.

Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the October 19, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$144,470.48.

Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Pedersen, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$178,856.46.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$3,492,285.63, as well as the October electronic transfers.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) The former Teacher Expectation Student Achievement (TESA) program had been renamed the Dover-Eyota New Teachers' Academy and the components had been revised. The group held their first meeting on October 26, will have another session the end of November, and will hold three more sessions during the school year; 2) The first mock lockdown at the elementary was successful; 3) The Parents and Teachers Together (PATT) fundraiser cleared almost \$25,000 and it was the group's intention to donate \$20,000 to the elementary in various fashions; 4) Elementary students will enjoy inflatables this week during gym class; 5) The Title I Family Fun Night is scheduled for Thursday, November 12; 6) Holiday concerts in December include the 5th Grade Recorders and Music Explorers presentation on Wednesday, December 2 at 2 PM; 3rd & 4th Grade Holiday Concert on Wednesday, December 9 at 2 PM; and the 5th Grade attending Orchestra Hall on Thursday, December 3. New Music Teacher Kathryn Kabes is enthusiastic, has a lot of energy, and is enjoyed by the children.

Transportation Director – Dustin Pagel provided an update of the Transportation Department vehicles and equipment. He also talked about equipment he purchased to diagnose problems with the newer vans and indicated he would like to acquire similar diagnostic equipment for the newer buses. This will mean some lower repair bills as he will be able to make the repairs rather than sending the buses to a vendor in Rochester.

Supt. Klaehn suggested that the Board consider setting aside additional funds for new equipment in the future. Member Loftus asked that the Superintendent and Transportation Director bring forward a prioritized list that includes replacement estimates.

High School Principal – Principal Rowekamp was unable to attend the meeting due to illness so Supt. Klaehn pointed out additional information provided by Mr. Rowekamp.

Activities Director – Activities Director John Ostrowski made the Board aware of the following items: 1) Fillmore Central will not have “B” or 9th grade girls’ basketball this winter and asked that the schedule be changed to accommodate a combination of transportation of their remaining girls’ basketball teams. We will now have our 8th grade competition with them starting at 5 PM, our 7th grade competition will start at 6 PM and the varsity teams will play at 6:15 PM. 2) Wisconsin is talking about putting their schools in sections rather than conferences for football. If they do so, Onalaska Luther will no longer be in the Three Rivers Conference and DE will play Medford in instead of Luther for the next two years. Chair Pagel added, “No doubt the cards will be shuffled even more in upcoming years as budgets are cut;” 3) The winter sports meeting was held last week, dance has started their practices, girls’ basketball will start next week, and boy’s basketball and wrestling will start on November 23;

4) The high school is moving forward with the middle school idea. Last March, the staff (including those who don’t teach middle school) asked for more middle school staff development. In response to that request, Monday’s staff inservice included a presentation by Michael Mann of the National Institute on Media and the Family who talked about the adolescent brain to high school teachers.

Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

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

REPORTS

Representative Andy Welti joined the meeting to relay to local units of government what is legislature is facing now and in the future. Points he made included the following:

- the state expects a \$4.8 billion shortfall in this biennium
- planning estimates for 2012-13 show a gap of \$4.6 billion between revenues and expenditures
- this recession is much more severe than those of 1990-91 and 2001
 - it will take 3 years to get back to the level of GDP that we were at prior to the recession
- Minnesota’s recovery will be slower than after recent downturns
 - It will take 3 to 4 years to get back to the level of employment we were at before the recession
- the 2007-09 recession permanently reduced the base for future revenues
- Minnesota saw a 30% jump in workers turning age 62 in 2008
- budget pressures will change – there will be more 65+ than school age by 2020
- Minnesota is in a fiscal trap
 - State revenue growth will slow and efforts to increase it will be met with increasing resistance
 - state and local spending will shift from a focus on education, higher education and infrastructure to care and support for an aging population
 - the level of state/local revenue (taxes) as a percent of personal income is 2% less than it was in the early and mid-1990’s (from 17.5% down to 15.5%).

Mr. Welti advised the School Board to be aware of the demographic changes and the affects they will have on the school district over the next 4 years. He said, “Budget at the level of spending where you are at now. Don’t expect increases in funding from the state. “

Representative Welti noted that the school district did a good job in having residents lobby against a possible fund balance recapture. He didn’t anticipate a movement in that direction since there is a lot of resistance by legislators.

Member Pedersen suggested the state legislature allow districts to determine when they will start school in the fall and Supt. Klaehn recommended they consider relief in the special education requirements.

Chair Pagel thanked Mr. Welti for sharing the state's financial outlook with the School Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading and Approval of the June 30, 2009 School District Audit

Darwin Vicker of LAWCO provided a summary of the June 30, 2009 school district audit. Items noted:

- Fund balances ended at: Unreserved/Undesignated - \$996,752; Reserved - \$482,792; Operating Capital - \$218,810; Health & Safety - \$19,390; Other Reserved - \$482,792; Designated - \$384,148; Food Service - \$151,384; Community Service - \$105,026; and Debt Service - \$316,080.
- General Fund revenues are obtained from local property taxes (4.7%), state sources (89.3%), federal sources (1.1%), and other sources (4.9%).
- The district is below the state average for per pupil costs in nearly all categories of spending. The lone exception was in Capital Expenditures due to improvements made last summer such as the elementary parking lot, flooring replacements, etc.
- Overall, the district is in good financial shape as we move forward into very difficult state finance times.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the June 30, 2009 School District Audit.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of the Revised 2009-2010 Budget

Supt. Klaehn provided the revised 2009-2010 Budget, which does not yet include the DEEA contract settlement, for the Board's first reading.

Consider Changing the Date of the April Board Meeting

The Board will be returning from their national convention in Chicago on the regularly scheduled meeting date of Monday, April 12th. A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to change the April Board meeting to Monday, April 19th.

Leave of Absence Request

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to grant DAMON HAMMEL a paternity leave of absence from March 31 through June 7, 2010.

Consent – Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to accept the following resignations: KATIE MARREEL as Cook's Helper and JORDAN JENSEN as C Baseball Coach.

Consent - Hires

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the following hires: 1) LYNN BLACK as Instructional Assistant/District Office Assistant; 2) TOM SIEBENALER as 9th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach; 3) RYAN FOGARTY as 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach; 4) LISA MICKELSON as Instructional Assistant; 4) JULIE BAYLOR and MARYROSE KELLER as after-school ita Teachers; 5) MELANIE KEEFE as after-school ita Instructional Assistant.

Consent - Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to accept the following donations: \$1,429 from the DE STAFF and \$500 from DOVER FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION for the Sharing Tree; \$500 from the DOVER-EYOTA MUSIC ASSOCIATION toward the purchase of a piano; and \$20 from CHATFIELD LUMBER for the Automotive Engineering Dept.

Fundraising Request

The Girls' Basketball team was requesting permission to hold a pizza sale. Concern was expressed about the lateness of the request and so the advisor will be given feedback about the standards in submitting fundraiser requests.

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson, and carried unanimously to approve the Girls' Basketball team request to hold a pizza fundraiser November 23-30.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn provided the following information: 1) An influenza update had been provided with the Board Agenda and Supt. Klaehn relayed that the school district was doing exceptionally well in this concern. The peak of illness was the Monday and Tuesday before MEA in October. He added, "A lot of people are making a lot of effort. The teachers are stressing hand cleaning and there is more cleaning of equipment being done. I commend the staff for working so hard." Mr. Klaehn noted that staff absences have also been low and the district has been "especially sensitive" to additional cleaning duties in the Dover building since it holds the younger children who are the most vulnerable. The district has not exceeded the 3.5% student absence reporting mark; 2) The Baldrige visit was complete and the team will return in early December to meet with the Cabinet, three members of each building leadership team, and a Board member; 3) The school district will allow the Olmsted County Health Department to use our facilities for an influenza clinic.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Loftus – He was unable to attend the Dollars for Scholars Committee meeting but did relay that the group has been working to obtain a donor so that they can get some "real money" started. In regard to teacher negotiations, Mr. Loftus relayed that the Board team has held several meetings with the group and the talks were ongoing.

Johnson – Mr. Johnson expressed his appreciation of Representative Welti "telling it like it is...the facts speak for themselves." He went on to extend his appreciation to the Board team in their negotiations with the teachers.

Andring – Mr. Andring also thanked Mr. Welti for providing information to the Board. He added, "These are gruesome numbers but things we need to know. He is representing the district well by doing so."

Austinson – Mrs. Austinson advised that a Meet & Confer meeting will be held when negotiations are complete. In regard to Mr. Welti's message she said, "I agree that information he shared may help negotiations wrap up sooner than later."

Page – The Hiawatha Valley Education District was working to complete budget and negotiations items before the end of the year. Mr. Page pointed out that education districts can't obtain aid anticipation certificates and, last year, the HVED at times had difficulty making payroll. He added, "As budgets get tighter and districts pay bills, the education districts might be the last ones to get paid which will affect their cash flow."

Supt. Klaehn commended Business Manager Gary Betcher for the extra work required from him during budget and audit months. He added, "He does his job extremely well."

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Austinson, seconded by Member Pedersen, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
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