

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 10, 2009

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:05 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Dan Johnson (7:08 PM), Gene Loftus, Ron Pagel, Gary Pedersen, Molly Rieke, and Superintendent Bruce Klaehn. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Chris Berg, Gary Betcher, Judy Brandt, Mick Hinrichs, John Ostrowski and Al Schumann.

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 Rieke and carried unanimously to approve the July 13, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$192,190.11.

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 \$739,923.07.

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 \$3,475,609.31, as well as the July electronic transfers.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) Thanked Peace Lutheran Church members for weeding, trimming and removing bushes by the elementary entry as part of their service project. Supt. Klaehn explained that, because of snow removal difficulties, all of the bushes will be removed and replaced with portable flower boxes that will be stored for the winter; 2) Thanked Elementary Custodians Wayne Ellringer, Bob Potter and Greg Blake for their hard work in the elementary building this summer; 3) Indicated she was getting excited about the new school year and was preparing for the staff workshops and working on class placement. Kindergarten enrollment is at 87; 4) Supt. Klaehn and she had worked on a layout of the new elementary parking lot for publication. Mrs. Svobodny said that several elementary staff members have indicated how nice the new lot is. Member Rieke said that she liked the new signage and wondered if crossing guards should be available at the bus exit for the safety of the children using the path; 5) Member Austinson thanked Mrs. Svobodny for publishing the school supply list earlier this year.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) Extended his appreciation to the high school custodial staff saying that they had the busiest summer ever and had done a "fantastic job;" 2) New teaching staff will be attending training at the Hiawatha Valley Education District. He also explained some of the other activities planned for the New Teacher Workshop.

Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

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

OLD BUSINESS

Snow Removal Bid Discussion

Mick Hinrichs came forward to express his concern about the snow removal bid process. Purchasing Committee Member Gene Loftus explained the process used by the committee to eliminate who did not meet the specifications (i.e., listing the equipment to be used and including a certificate of insurance). Mr. Hinrichs claimed that his bids were accepted in the past without those items. Supt. Klaehn said that, with six bidders this year, the committee was expected to follow the rules which included the requirements of proof of insurance and size of equipment. Member Rieke said that perhaps the requirements were not clear and that the Board should rebid the snow removal contract. Member Pedersen and Andring both stated that, in their bidding experiences, quotes are not accepted if proof of insurance is not included. Chair Pagel ended the discussion with no action taken.

REPORTS

Al Schumann Abatement Letter

Al Schumann, owner of the Eyota Market, said that his taxes were \$2,000 in 2008 and close to \$25,000 in 2009. At his request, the Eyota City Council had lowered the evaluation for 2009 and 2010. Mr. Schumann was asking the school board to abate \$1,339 worth of taxes on this property.

Discussion by the Board included the fact that Mr. Schumann should have brought to the city's attention a year earlier that the property was over-valuated rather than waiting until the tax had already been collected. The city and county are allowed to participate in the assessment process but the school board does not have that capability. Supt. Klaehn explained the difference between **an abatement** (a mistake is made and the state reimburses the district in a prorated manner) and a **voluntary return of taxes** (which is what Mr. Schumann was requesting and the district is not reimbursed by the state).

Chair Pagel advised that the Board will consider the request and determine whether or not to take formal action at their next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading and Approval of 2009-2010 Handbooks

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the following 2009-2010 Handbooks:

Elementary

- Staff Handbook
- Parent/Student Handbook
- Paraprofessional Manual
- Substitute Teacher Handbook

High School

- Faculty and Staff Handbook
- Student Handbook for Middle and High School
- Coach's Handbook

Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policies

Supt. Klaehn quickly reviewed the changes to the policies and one new policy being brought back to the Board.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Rieke and carried unanimously to approve revisions to the following policies:

- 410 – Family and Medical Leave
- 511 – Fundraising
- 524 – Internet Use
- 613 – Graduation Requirements
- 709 – Student Transportation Safety
- 1002 – School Closing, Late Starts and Early Releases
- 590 – Special Education Records Retention and Destruction

NEW BUSINESS

Consent – Accept Resignations

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to accept the following resignations: MACKENZIE LUND as C Volleyball Coach and JOANNE GILES as Van Driver.

Consent - Hires

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Andring and carried unanimously to approve the following hires: 1) RHONDA MILLER, BROOKE FERRIER and JORDAN JENSEN as Summer School Instructional Assistants; 2) JESSICA STELLMAKER as Varsity Volleyball Coach; 3) CHAD OHL as 9th Grade Football Coach; 4) ZANE MERRILL as Transportation & Grounds Assistant; 5) CALI SALLEY as 6th Grade Instructor; 6) AL TROGSTAD as Bus Route Driver; 7) VINCE MCCONNELL as Van Driver.

Supt. Klaehn indicated that Deb Vosler had been the head volleyball coach and had stepped down two years ago. Since then, she successfully coached the B volleyball team. Mr. Klaehn noted that this level of sports has playing time guidelines and that Ms. Vosler is skilled in coaching 7th through 9th grade students and will be an asset to the program.

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Austinson to approve hiring DEB VOSLER as 7th Grade Volleyball Coach. A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Johnson and Austinson. Those voting against the same: Loftus, Pedersen, Rieke, Pagel and Andring. The motion failed 5 to 2.

Accept Donation

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Andring and carried unanimously to accept the \$8,000 donation from PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE SERVICE for elementary playground equipment.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn provided the following information: 1) Remaining parking lot issues include the color of the light posts and where the curbing ends by the driveway; 2) Mechanical work is moving along in the Media Center and the new system will be started on August 17. Some control work will be done after the building is occupied; 3) The state's interpretation of the number of egresses required in the crow's nest has been resolved and work will continue; 4) The high school Media Center and adjoining areas were completely carpeted on Saturday, August 8; 5) He will be attending the state superintendent's conference Wed., August 12 and the Minnesota School Board Association conference on Thu., August 13; 6) Our district will host a Minnesota Rural Education Association meeting on Thu., August 20 at 5:30 PM; 7) Reminded the Board of their Retreat on Tue., August 25 beginning at 6 PM, where they will receive 2008-2009 goal reports and discuss future planning; 8) Both elementary and high school staff start their workshops on Mon., August 31, so the opening meeting and continental breakfast will be held that morning; 8) Don Lyke donated items from the old elementary building including a plaque, the light that was mounted over the plaque, and the last flag that flew on that property. Mr. Klaehn sought and received recommendations from the Board on displaying these items.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Loftus – The next negotiations meeting with the teacher association will be on Mon., August 17. Mr. Loftus said, "The custodial staff has had a full bucket all summer and should be commended for what they have accomplished." As a member of the Purchasing Committee Member Loftus had this to say in regard to Mr. Hinrichs' concern about the snow removal bids, "We reviewed all of the information and brought the appropriate recommendation to the School Board. He (Mr. Hinrichs) was not the only one that did not fulfill the categories requested."

Pedersen – Negotiations with the teaching staff were ongoing. The Negotiations Committee wishes to bring the topic of freezing wages to the Board. If the Board wishes to discuss this option, there will be several contracts to consider (2 unions, administration, bus drivers, Cabinet, etc.). Mr. Pedersen said, "If the Board is going to consider a freeze, it will have to do so in a unified way to encompass all employees at the same time."

The Committee is bringing forward this concept for consideration and wants the Board to know that, if it wishes to 'go down that road,' it will need to be determined soon."

Rieke – Relayed that she had also been involved in negotiations with the teaching staff. Mrs. Rieke thanked the custodial staff for their work, Peace Lutheran Church for their work on the elementary grounds, and Mr. Schumann and Mr. Hinrichs for coming forward to the Board.

Johnson – Regarding the snow plow issue he said, "It is too bad that things turned out this way but we still have to make decisions to the best of our ability and run the district. Our process was valid and fair. Not providing all of the information when submitting a bid would be considered an 'incomplete assignment' by teachers." In regard to Mr. Schumann's request he stated, "I feel for Mr. Schumann's case but we are tied as a Board to follow the county evaluation. I would like to see the grocery be successful; however, legally we have to be responsible to everyone in the district." Mr. Johnson ended his report by saying, "Everything is looking great for the start of the new school year. I hope we can get all of the critical things tied together."

Andring – Mr. Andring relayed that the administration was doing a good job keeping on top of the many summer projects. He added, "You are a good team and I thank you." He had attended the Minnesota Regional Service Cooperative and shared some technology ideas with the Board and administration (i.e., computer tables for preschool and kindergarten children, audio equipment for classrooms, magnets for SmartBoards, etc.). Mr. Andring expressed his disappointment in the Southeast Service Cooperative legislative forum and added, "It was obvious a couple of the legislators were running for office again." In regard to Mr. Schumann's request he said, "He is trying to do something great for the community and the Board should consider his request."

Austinson – The Student Accountability Reporting Committee will meet on Wed., August 27 at 5:30 PM. Mrs. Austinson noted that there had been a lot of "orchestration" between the building employees during the summer projects. She ended her report by wishing good luck to the sports teams.

Pagel – At their last meeting, the Hiawatha Valley Education District Board discussed the stimulus money. Mr. Pagel said, "The more you read (about it), the less you know. There was a lot of discussion on what the state will approve and even the Minnesota Department of Education is not clear on that. HVED is taking a cautious, conservative approach on how the money can be used." In regard to the snow removal bid discussion he said, "We may see something in the media and need to remember that bid guidelines were set and not always fulfilled." Regarding Mr. Schumann's request he said, "We must understand that this will be a 'gift' back to AI and we won't recover that cost. The county auditor and the Minnesota School Board Association have never heard of a school district doing something like this and cautioned against setting precedent."

The School Board came to the consensus that Supt. Klaehn will send a letter of regret to Mr. Schumann.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:27 PM, a motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to hold a closed session to discuss negotiations strategies. A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to end the closed session at 10:14 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Rieke and carried unanimously to reopen the general session at 10:15 PM.

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
Cb