

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 11, 2008

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, Judy Brandt, Ed Kaehler, Dan Johnson, Gene Loftus, Ron Pagel, Gary Pedersen, and Superintendent Bruce Klaehn. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Chris Berg, Gary Betcher, April Horne, Jane Johnson, John Ostrowski, Frank Price, Janet Price, and Dan Vrieze.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda

A motion was made by Member Brandt and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the agenda. Member Pedersen asked that Item 12B, hiring of Tom Passe and Tom Miller be separated. A vote on the motion carried unanimously.

Visitors to Address the Board

Janet and Frank Price suggested athletic team tryouts and expressed concern that players were being moved up from lower teams (i.e., bringing a 9th grade player up to 10th grade level).

Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Kaehler, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the January 14, 2008 Organizational Board Meeting Minutes.

Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Brandt, seconded by Member Andring and carried unanimously to approve the January 14, 2008 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Regular District Bills

With Chair Pagel abstaining, a motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$151,766.68.

Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Brandt and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$254,641.30.

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 \$2,893,980.81, as well as the January electronic transfers.

Finance Director Gary Betcher shared energy usage comparisons for October through December of the years 2006 and 2007. Every three months he would provide additional information including the mean temperatures per month and bus fuel usage.

REPORTS

First Reading of the 2008-2009 Board Assumptions

Supt. Klaehn explained the changes from the previous year's assumptions. He relayed that meal prices would be reviewed at a later date and staffing was increased by a school resource officer. The Board recommended a 5% increase in projected energy costs.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny had the following items to share: 1) All of the elementary teachers had their web pages up and running and Mrs. Svobodny had been receiving good feedback from parents who

were accessing the web site; 2) The District Spelling Bee for 5th through 8th graders had been held in the high school auditorium with Meaghan Bleakley placing 1st, Patrick Hicks placing 2nd and Andrew Jones placing 3rd. The Regional Spelling Bee was scheduled for February 19; 3) The Math Wizards competition had been held at the elementary and the 5th grade team took 2nd place; 4) The Regional Academic Triathlon meet will be held at the elementary on March 14; 5) At discipline and math curriculum team meetings, the elementary staff continued to address their goals in those areas; 6) Kids Against Hunger, a program where plastic bags are filled with food products, will be held on March 19 with elementary students participating from 8 AM to 1 PM and the public assisting from 3 PM to 6 PM; 7) With Valentine's Day approaching, Mrs. Svobodny shared some children's ideas about love.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) Snoball had been a fun and successful week with coronation being rescheduled for Saturday night before the dance. Compared with last year, student participation and enthusiasm had been higher, perhaps because roller skating had been added to the dance and an improvisational comedy group performing instead of the usual Friday pepfest; 2) Mr. Rowekamp talked about his pride in the way the students, staff and community responded to the death of graduate Cheryl Tri. A Hats On Day in her memory had raised over \$700 for the Make A Wish Foundation; 3) At the January 28th full-day inservice, Richfield High School Assistant Principal Theresa Rosen provided direct and practical applications for everyday interactions with students; 4) Mr. Rowekamp had attended the Minnesota Association of Secondary Principals' Winter Conference at the end of January and particularly found the legal and Response to Intervention seminars beneficial; 5) In regard to the second reading of the proposed course offerings, he relayed that the courses would provide increased rigor and an opportunity for students to obtain college credits; 6) On February 21st, several teachers, Tom Surprenant and he would be attending a workshop on Multiple Pathways to Secondary Training or College by Angie Judd of the MDE; 7) The district had hosted the Conference Math League meet that evening where our senior high team placed first and junior high team placed second. Advisors were Brian Harris (senior high) and Damon Hammel (junior high) and the state competition would be held in March; 8) The Knowledge Bowl team was also doing very well in their competitions.

Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

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

OLD BUSINESS

Tiling Project Agreement

The Board reviewed and discussed the additional changes to the tiling agreement and recommended additional changes. The agreement would be brought back to the Board after being reviewed/approved by the City of Eyota and Eugene Speltz.

Playing Time Guidelines

Activities Director John Ostrowski explained that the proposed changes to the guidelines outlined participation expectations at each grade level. He indicated that a varsity team would be reduced at the beginning of the season according to Minnesota State High School League guidelines to provide coaches with a manageable number of players.

There was extensive discussion by the Board whether or not a team should be reduced and, if so, when (at the beginning of the season, before tournament time, etc.). It was mentioned that, if there were a player reduction program, an additional activity (i.e., intramural) should be made available to those students. The discussion included the current practice of bringing a lower team member up to the "B" or varsity level. The guidelines would be revised and brought back for consideration at the next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

New Hire

A motion was made by Member Kaehler and seconded by Member Johnson to approve hiring TOM PASSE as Head Football Coach.

Athletic Director John Ostrowski relayed that four applications had been received for this position and that all individuals had been interviewed by a 7-person team. Mr. Ostrowski had researched the background of top candidate John Passe and then met with the team who made the final choice. Member

Pedersen expressed concern that an individual from within was not hired and the message that sends to current employees who applied.

A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor of the motion: Loftus, Kaehler, Johnson, Pagel and Andring. Voting against the same: Brandt and Pedersen. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 2.

It was noted that Tom Miller had moved from "B" to Head Softball Coach. Mr. Ostrowski relayed that there had been two candidates for that position, one had withdrawn and he had extensively discussed the position and expectations with Mr. Miller.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading and Approval of Recommended Changes in High School Course Offerings

A motion was made by Member Brandt, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the recommended changes in the high school course offerings.

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson relayed the processes being used to finalize the course offerings. Math Instructor Dan Vrieze talked about changes in the math curriculum and how the new offerings would fit into the high school schedule.

Supt. Klaehn relayed that this would be a budgetary item and Mrs. Johnson relayed the cost for a class of 20 students would be \$4,000 to \$5,000 per class. This would help keeping students from going PSEO and be a good investment. Mr. Klaehn commended Mrs. Johnson and the teaching staff for their time and effort in researching these classes and fitting them into the high school schedule.

Director Johnson also relayed additional offerings being proposed in the Agriculture and Family and Consumer Science areas.

Supt. Klaehn reminded the Board that the new courses would be offered; however, their implementation would depend on participation numbers.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Request for Travel Outside of the School District

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to approve the Class of 2008 request to travel to LaCrosse, Wisconsin to hold their annual senior cruise.

Consent – Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Pedersen seconded by Member Kaehler and carried unanimously to accept the following donations and direct the administration to send thank you letters: 1) Band Dept. – Piccolo valued at \$200 from DON & LORI HAMEISTER and \$100 from BRYAN & KONNIE BICKNESE; 2) High School – \$68.15 in KWIK TRIP rebates for the baseball team; 3) Elementary – \$1,200.20 from BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION; 4) Close Up – \$600 from the EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication

Superintendent Klaehn shared the following items: 1) The first meeting of the Calendar Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30 PM; 2) Technology Director Loren Kieffer had done the internal work on the new website, Carrie Rhone had donated her time developing the graphic design, and the final version would soon be published; 3) Thanked the Referendum Committee for calling voters to make certain they had accurate information and providing voter feedback to the administration; 4) Compared to the December 2000 referendum vote, there had been 490 more registered voters in this election which spoke to the growth and expansion of the voter population; 5) In regard to the elementary boilers, while one was down because it was in need of tube replacing, the other boiler quit working. Thanks to Wayne Ellringer and our heating vendor, the building was only without heat for a few hours while students were present. Mr. Klaehn indicated that it could cost \$15,000 to replace the tubes and asked the Board to consider the possibility of replacing the boiler instead; 6) In his most recent *Eagle* article, he would take a stand about sporting event conduct.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Andring – He had attended an Annual Yearly Progress session at the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference and had information to share with Curriculum Director Jane Johnson. Mr. Andring also offered to share a CD of the Minnetonka Technology Tour.

Johnson – He felt that disruptive fan behavior needed to be addressed. In regard to the Playing Time Guidelines discussed, he said that playing time was being confused with practice time. “Practice time is when coaches engage with students to develop their skills. The playing time is nice, but, in terms of opportunities for development of the kids, it has to be secondary,” he said. Member Johnson congratulated the Knowledge Bowl team and the Academic Triathlon team. In regard to the new website, he really liked it and hoped that the calendar would include academic events. Appreciation was expressed to the custodial staff for the great job they were doing, especially on busy weekends such as the past one. He added, “We have a wonderful facility and I’m glad it is being used as much as it is.” Mr. Johnson ended his report by thanking Curriculum Director Jane Johnson for bringing forward the new high school courses.

Kaehler – Mr. Kaehler felt that part of the parent problem was that the teams weren’t winning this year and he suggested that good sportsmanship rules be posted. In regard to the referendum vote he said, “The bond issue was not meant to split our community, to pit one group against another, or cause upheaval.”

Pedersen – Advised that the Calendar Committee would meet on February 19. He also expressed his hope that easy, accessible parking would be available at both voting locations the following day and was assured that such arrangements had been made. In regard to the lengthy sports discussion and short curriculum discussion he said, “Sometimes the education part of our meeting gets swept under the rug compared to sporting issues. That is not what we are all about...what you brought forward is very important to us.” Mr. Pedersen also thanked Athletic Director John Ostrowski for bringing forward the Playing Time Guidelines and added, “It is difficult to satisfy all seven members of the Board.”

Brandt – Expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to attend the MSBA Leadership Conference but did wish that they offered newer classes for seasoned Board members like herself. Ms. Brandt ended her report by saying, “I hope everyone gets out and votes tomorrow.”

Loftus – Congratulated the Senior High Math League and the Knowledge Bowl team. In regard to the Playing Time Guidelines he said, “John is dealing with a tough subject and deserves credit. I want the guidelines to also address the practice of younger kids moving up – this should not be stopped, but limited. The MSHSL rules need to be followed and it may come down to a fine line of cut or not dress.” Regarding the length of discussion of this issue and the curriculum proposal, Mr. Loftus said, “Do not let the time spent on issues determine what we feel is important.”

Pagel – Mr. Pagel expressed his feeling that athletics were a part of a rounded education and that the Board probably hadn’t spent as much time discussing the academic classes being proposed because the Board was more in consensus on that item. In regard to the MSBA Leadership Conference, he also felt that there was “room for improvement.” Chair Pagel personally thanked all of the community members that volunteered to be on the Referendum Committee and Facilities Committee, as well as the staff who had put in extra time. He also thanked the Board for agreeing to go through with the process because, “You put yourself out there for exposure and risk and also spent additional time in meetings, etc.” He ended by adding, “I truly appreciate the time and effort that everyone has put into this.”

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Kaehler and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
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