

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:02 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Judy Brandt (7:05 PM), Dan Johnson (7:05 PM), Ed Kaehler, Gene Loftus, Ron Pagel, Gary Pedersen, Superintendent Bruce Klaehn and Student Board Member Aaron Wiederhoeft. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Gary Allen, Chris Berg, Art Brookings, Gary Betcher, Wes Bussell, Jane Johnson, Judy Laures, Deb Rathman, Gene Speltz, Stacy Warner and Floyd Whittaker.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Member Kaehler, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Address the Board

Judy Laures addressed the Board about the drama program, mentioning concerns she had and suggestions she had made for its improvement.

Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Kaehler, seconded by Member Brandt and carried unanimously to approve the September 10, 2007 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Member Brandt, seconded by Member Andring and carried unanimously to approve the September 20, 2007 Special Board Meeting Minutes as presented in second draft form.

Regular District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Kaehler and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$205,551.28.

Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Kaehler, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$145,823.44.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$3,709,010.32, as well as the September electronic transfers.

REPORTS

Tiling Project

Area landowner Gary Allen and Olmsted County Soil Conservation Officer Floyd Whittaker provided information on the proposed tiling project on the east side of the school property flowing under County 142 onto neighboring land. Area landowner Gene Speltz and tile contractor Art Brookings joined the discussion. It was determined that installing 10" tile versus 8" tile would mean an additional cost of approximately \$4,200, plus the cost of tiling under the road. The Board had previously committed a total of \$5,000 toward a tiling project. The tiling project was proposed to be done in conjunction with a waterway project being done by the area landowners.

Eyota Mayor Wes Bussell relayed that the city was doing an infiltration study that might show that water that was previously going into the sewer system (i.e., sump pumps) would now be contributing to surface or ground water concerns.

A motion was made by Member Kaehler that the school district proceed with the tiling project with the installation of a 10" tiling line on the property of Gene Speltz and boring under the road to get it properly connected. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson.

A lengthy discussion ensued with the Board supporting the project; however, some members felt that the project should be postponed until after release of the city's report which might affect the final scope of the project. Gary Allen and Gene Speltz were comfortable waiting for the city's report. In the meantime, Member Pedersen recommended that the Board Chair and Superintendent develop an agreement between the parties regarding future responsibility of the tiling (maintenance/updating/etc.).

A vote on the motion to proceed with a 10" tiling line and boring under the road resulted in a split vote. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Kaehler and Johnson. Those voting against the same were: Loftus, Pedersen, Pagel, Andring and Brandt. The motion failed with a vote of 2 to 5.

A special Board meeting was tentatively set for Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 7 PM to further discuss the tiling project once the city's infiltration study was available.

Supt. Klaehn asked that the discussion on the new bond issue date be presented after the school liaison officer item.

School Liaison Officer

Supt. Klaehn relayed that he had met with superintendents from Byron and Stewartville on two occasions. They had determined that the community officer concept worked better than several schools sharing one liaison officer. The City of Eyota had committed to paying 50% of the officer's salary. Supt. Klaehn provided a statewide summary and stressed that safe school levy funds could be used for this purpose. Sheriff Borchardt would take a proposal to the county that they pay 25% of the officer's salary; therefore, the school district would participate by contributing the final 25%. Mr. Klaehn indicated his expectation that the officer would be half-time in the schools and added that the liaison officer would handle situations that were currently taking up valuable principal time.

A lengthy discussion followed with Member Pedersen making a motion directing the Superintendent to advise the parties involved that the school district was interested in spending up to 25% of the salary for a community officer and to move forward with the concept. The motion was seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

New Bond Issue Date Consideration

Stacy Warner and Deb Rathman of the DLR Group architectural firm distributed a 2007-08 elections calendar and a lengthy discussion resulted regarding a possible referendum date with some questions left unanswered. Supt. Klaehn provided information regarding the capitalization of the proposed bond issue.

Based on the information available, a motion was made by Member Kaehler to set a referendum vote for Tuesday, January 29, 2008 for \$9.1 million. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson.

Member Johnson talked about the need for additional funding of the project and amended the motion to \$9.2 million. Three times Chair Pagel asked for a second for the amendment and, hearing none, the amendment failed.

A vote on the motion to set a referendum for Tuesday, January 29, 2008 for \$9.1 million resulted in a split vote due to unanswered questions. Those voting in favor: Kaehler, Johnson, Pagel and Brandt. Those voting against the same: Loftus, Pedersen and Andring. The motion carried with a vote of 4 to 3.

Supt. Klaehn indicated that a formal resolution with confirmed information would be presented at a subsequent meeting.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Elementary Principal – Jeanne Svobodny had the following items to share: 1) During the 2-hour late start on September 26, Kathy Martin had led a workshop on the accelerated reading program, Loren Kiefer had provided training on use of laptops and Kathy Smith had worked with the staff on designing web pages; 2) The first lockdown drill on October 4 had been much smoother than previous drills, partially due to the new walls and doors installed which made for less movement of students; 3) The elementary picture day had been held on October 10; 4) Elementary students had participated in Homecoming activities with a pepfest and by

watching the parade on Friday; 5) Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences were being held that evening and would continue the following evening and all day Wednesday; 6) A Special Education Parent Advisory meeting would be held the following Thursday evening; 7) Teacher Expectation Student Achievement (TESA) training would begin the next week and provide an opportunity for the new teachers to discuss how their year was progressing; 8) The Parents and Teachers Together (PATT) would hold their fall fundraiser on November 3; 9) Staff would work on analyzing math test specifications and update their web pages on the half-day inservice on November 9.

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) He was pleased with the high school Leadership Team’s continuous improvement training and processes. At a recent session with Leslie Schellenberg from the Southeast Service Cooperative, the team had developed a school-wide goal focusing on reading. Work is also needed on math, but the faculty believes that the reading goal will also lead to improvement in math and other subjects. Also, the Math Department selected and just started using a new curriculum (textbook series) called College Prep Math. They need time to get used to the new curriculum and see how well it works. At the September 26 late start, the Leadership Team had led the departments in developing their own action plans to work on the school-wide reading goal and their own content area goals; 2) Relayed that Homecoming activities within the school had gone well and complimented the Student Council and senior class for their part in making the week fun and successful. At the same time, there had been an increase in negative behavior around the community by a few students which was dealt with by excluding those students from Homecoming activities; 3) In regard to the Drama Department, Mr. Rowekamp had held a two-hour “open and honest conversation” with members and Ms. Denise Strosahl. Current members had been encouraged to invite new and previous members back to the cast. Demands made by some members were not honored and resulted in those members not returning; 4) Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences held the previous week had been well attended and would continue that Wednesday morning. A grief and loss session by Seasons Hospice resulted in only two people attending; 5) Mr. Rowekamp pointed out the new computer furniture in the Media Center; 6) Advised that Mrs. Amanda Mecum and her husband, David, had a new baby girl and that references were being checked and an offer would soon be made to a long-term substitute for Amanda.

Curriculum & Assessment Director – Jane Johnson had the following items to report: 1) New Assessment Assistant and Substitute Teacher Karen Frye was “a joy to work with” and was being trained in AimsWeb. With the teachers accessing and using data more, she and Mrs. Frye were being kept very busy. Mrs. Johnson added that the teachers had received assessment results to share with parents at conferences; 2) Bev Sharp was the new Junior High Knowledge Bowl Advisor and, during their first competition, they came in 1st, 3rd and 7th out of 14 teams; 3) Academic Triathlon letters had been sent to 5th through 8th graders and Coach Lona Schreier would be advising at least three teams this year; 4) The Teacher to Teacher program held in Plainview was focusing on math. The discussion at their October 11 meeting was about standards and assessments, and strategies to help students do well on tests.

Customer Compliment, Concern, Complaints

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

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Performance

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson relayed that the only change to the report was the newly determined bond referendum date.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to approve the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Performance.

Construction Administration Selection

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Kaehler and carried unanimously to hire a third party project manager for the proposed building project. Supt. Klaehn would research the interview process and bring information back to the Board.

Response to ESG Report

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of the June 30, 2007 Financial Audit (Draft)

Supt. Klaehn reviewed the draft financial audit with the Board and advised that the full audit would be provided at a subsequent meeting. He advised that Business Manager Gary Betcher and Accounting Assistant Chad Ohl had successfully saved the district \$14,000 on workmen's compensation insurance premiums, due to Chad's insurance experience. Business Manager Gary Betcher had found that the copier machine vendor had overcharged the school district and a \$1,800 rebate was received due to his diligence.

FFA Request for Travel Outside of the School District

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Kaehler and carried unanimously to approve the FFA request for travel to their national convention in Indianapolis October 23-27, 2007.

FFA Donation Request

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to donate 10% of the total cost of the FFA trip to their national convention.

Approve Fundraiser Requests

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the following fundraisers: Band to sell frozen foods and kitchen items October 16-29, 2007; FFA to hold a Corn Drive October 18, 2007; and, FFA to hold a fruit sale October 22 through November 18, 2007.

Consent – Approve New Hires

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Kaehler and carried unanimously to approve the following new hires: 1) JOYCE WILLIAMS as Footsteps Instructional Assistant; 2) JULIE THEEL as Bus Driver; 3) ANN OESLAGER as Bus Driver; 4) JOYCE WILLIAMS as PM SACC Worker; 5) STACY BOX as 300-Hour Substitute Instructional Assistant; and, 6) ERIN HUCKLEBERRY as 100-Day Substitute Teacher.

Consent – Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to accept the following donations and direct the administration to send thank you letters: 1) Elementary - \$310.55 from KWIK TRIP, INC. in Milk Moola funds; 2) Community Education -- EYOTA DAYS donated \$200 for youth basketball and \$1,000 for youth football and SCHOTT DISTRIBUTING donated \$1,000 to youth football; and, 3) High School -- \$200 from EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION to boys' basketball.

HEARING OF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report & Communication

Superintendent Klaehn shared the following items: 1) He had attended a superintendent conference where a number of useful topics had been addressed; 2) The school district recently learned that \$11,702 of \$13,000 in water damage expenses submitted to FEMA would be reimbursed; 3) The final elementary wall project cost was \$36,392; 4) Commended Principal Jeanne Svobodny and her assistant Rachel Thoe, and Activities Director/6th Grade Administrator John Ostrowski on their newsletters; 5) Commended Principal Rowekamp for expertly handling three tough situations that had occurred this fall; 6) The Minnesota Rural Education Association meeting had been cancelled; 7) He had attended a Minnesota School Board Association legislative update where it was relayed that districts should expect little or no new money from

the 2008 legislative session. Supt. Klaehn had shared at that meeting the district's debt equalization dilemma for their discussion; 8) Thirty-three teacher settlements had been reported to MSBA on their new system. Our district's calculations had been done the "old way" and, when turned in to MSBA, came out at a lower percentage, smaller to what other schools have experienced.

Student Board Member Communications

Student Board Member Aaron Wiederhoeft relayed that the Student Council had been pleased with the outcome of Homecoming Week activities.

Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

Brandt – She had attended a Systems Accountability Committee meeting where the group reviewed the report. Ms. Brandt commended Mrs. Jane Johnson on the report. She had also attended Homecoming coronation and said that it had been a "nice event" that had gone well. She commended Mr. Rowekamp and relayed her support of his handling of the drama issues.

Andring – The Southeast Service Cooperative was in the process of reducing their board from 12 down to 10 and had several openings. Mr. Andring had attended the several Homecoming events including coronation and the parade and relayed that many floats had been very nicely done with the sophomore float being "exceptional." Expressed his concern about computer and email glitches mentioned in administrative meeting notes and was assured by Supt. Klaehn that the only issue yet to be resolved was the removal of old email accounts from the system. Member Andring thanked Principal Rowekamp, Principal Svobodny and Curriculum Director Johnson for "meeting the challenges" they had faced so far this school year.

Loftus – In regard to the Drama Department, Member Loftus commended Principal Rowekamp for how he handled the situation. He relayed his full support and thanked him for "having the willingness as a first-year principal to bring a red flag forward and for having the backbone to stand up" in order to do the best for the students and the district.

Pedersen – Thanked Principal Rowekamp for the good job he was doing and relayed his support.

Kaehler – Mr. Kaehler had been unable to attend the Community Education meeting. He commended Principal Rowekamp on his response to the drama and other situations that had arisen. It was his hope that the students got the point that we won't tolerate bad behavior at athletic events. Mr. Kaehler also commended Gary Betcher on finding the \$1,800 copier vendor overcharge.

Johnson – Mr. Johnson would be attending a Technology Committee meeting on October 25.

Pagel – Mr. Pagel had been unable to attend the Hiawatha Valley Education District meeting. The Dover-Eyota Food Service Department had provided an "excellent" meal for the Three Rivers Conference annual meeting. Member Pagel also relayed that hotel information was now available for the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference in January.

CLOSED SESSION FOR NEGOTIATIONS

A closed session began at 11:10 PM to discuss the Superintendent contract negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Brandt, seconded by Member Kaehler and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 AM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
CB