

BOARD RETREAT MINUTES

Monday, August 20, 2007

Chair Pagel called the Board Retreat of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 6:30 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring (7:04 PM), Judy Brandt, Dan Johnson, Ed Kaehler, 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, Wayne Ellringer, Carrie Frank, Gary Franzen, Jane Johnson, Loren Kiefer, John Ostrowski and Al Trogstad.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Supt. Klaehn distributed an amended agenda. A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to approve the revised agenda.

Supt. Klaehn advised that, as a result of the weekend storm and flooding, water in the tunnels under the high school Commons was being removed and the roof had leaked in expected areas. At the elementary, water was penetrating into one classroom as fast as it could be removed and water infiltration in another classroom was being controlled. The administrators had devised an alternate plan for classrooms should it become necessary.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2007

Superintendent Klaehn provided a summary comparing current data with last year's "State of the District." Several Cabinet members came forward to provide additional information.

Elementary Principal Jeanne Henning relayed that projected kindergarten enrollment was at 87 with 1 additional pending. She provided kindergarten class size data from area school districts and recommended that class size be under 20 students. Supt. Klaehn added that resources were available to add a fifth kindergarten section and discussion ensued regarding that possibility.

A motion was made by Member Johnson to add another section of kindergarten. The motion failed for lack of a second since the Board wished to discuss other financial matters before making a decision.

Supt. Klaehn relayed that the Food Service fund balance was expected to be \$15,000 below the expected amount. He added that our lunch prices were well below area schools and the district would be justified in increasing them. Other adjustments would be made in an attempt to increase the fund balance and an update and possible recommendation to increase meal prices would be provided in future months. Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank came forward to participate in the discussion with the Board on this subject. Supt. Klaehn relayed that he was impressed with Mrs. Frank's knowledge of the finance portion of Food Service.

REVIEW OF 2006-07 GOALS

Led by Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, the Cabinet provided the results of their 2006-2007 goals. Cabinet members included: Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Transportation Director Al Trogstad, Custodial Director Gary Franzen, Custodial Director Wayne Ellringer, Food & Nutrition Director Carrie Frank and Technology Director Loren Kiefer.

SET SEPTEMBER SPECIAL MEETING

Supt. Klaehn relayed that a September special meeting include a discussion with Energy Service Group representatives regarding the overall facility analysis and meeting with construction managers and general contractors in regard to the proposed building project. It was agreed that Supt. Klaehn would set up the meeting for Thu., September 13 or Thursday, September 20 to begin at 7:00 PM.

2007-08 STAFF DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Supt. Klaehn advised that the new Staff Development Committee would meet to review the plan before it would be presented to the Board.

POTENTIAL SCHOOL LAISON OFFICER

At the August 13 Regular Board meeting the members had discussed the possibility of a cooperative agreement to provide additional law enforcement services to the area, including a school liaison officer, at a cost to the school district of approximately \$30,000. The discussion included the following comments:

- the success of a liaison officer depends on the skills of the person in the position
- should the school district consider a reduced percentage of participation than the proposed 33%
- some area school districts have liaison officers whereas others have full-time law enforcement in their towns and do not need liaison officers
- we are all residents of the county and deserve adequate protection without having to provide additional funds to receive it
- concerns about taking educational dollars and spending it on law enforcement were expressed
- cities and school boards needed to support the sheriff as he sought additional funding for staff from the county board
- concerns were raised about the potential issues of a three-way agreement if one party was not satisfied or faced budget limits in the future
- the Board did not wish to commit to a long-term relationship in this regard at this time and a long-term philosophy should be established of who should pay for additional law enforcement service and where the funding should be obtained

STAFFING DECISION

A lengthy discussion was held on whether or not to add an additional kindergarten section/teacher or hire an instructional assistant to assist the current kindergarten teaching staff.

A motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Andring to add an additional kindergarten section.

The Board discussed current class size guidelines as listed in the Board Assumptions (i.e., kindergarten low of 18 and high of 24), past practices and past experiences of adding sections to a grade., and setting a precedence. Keeping the kindergarten at four sections would mean that the class sizes would still be within the size guidelines.

A vote resulted in the following voting for the motion: Brandt, Andring, Pagel, Johnson. Those voting against the same: Kaehler, Pedersen, Loftus. The motion carried 4 to 3.

Supt. Klaehn asked for further directions on the water problems at the elementary and was instructed to have Art Brookins review the situation and make a recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk
CB