

# **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 8, 2007

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 8:02 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Judy Brandt, Dan Johnson, Ed Kaehler, Gene Loftus, Ron Pagel, Gary Pedersen, Superintendent Bruce Klaehn and Danielle Storm representing Student Board Member Kim Andring. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Principal Todd Rowekamp, Chris Berg, Gary Betcher, Jane Hobbs, John Pittenger and Peggy Swenson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Approve Agenda

Superintendent Klaehn had two changes to the agenda: add KONI GRIMSRUD as part-time Speech Therapist to New Hires and the \$200 donation to Band should be corrected to TONY & NANCY HAMMEL.

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

## Visitors to Address the Board

There were no visitors wishing to address the Board.

## Approve the December 11, 2006 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Brandt and carried unanimously to approve the December 11, 2006 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

## Approve Payment of Regular District Bills

A motion was made by Member Brandt, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to approve payment of regular district bills totaling \$46,945.66.

## Approve Payment of Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to pay the special bills totaling \$123,126.38.

Business Manager Gary Betcher provided a gas and electric cost comparison of the current and two previous years. Member Loftus indicated that the district was doing a nice job of conserving energy.

## Approve 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 \$3,133,981.58 and December electronic transfers.

## **CABINET COMMUNICATIONS**

Elementary Principal – Elementary Principal Jeanne Svobodny reported the following: 1) The walls and doors added to the end classrooms in each elementary wing had been well received by the staff. Teachers in those rooms say that students are less distracted by movement in hallways and teachers in adjacent rooms have reported reduced noise levels from neighboring classrooms. Mrs. Svobodny thanked the Board for approving the additional walls and doors; 2) The DARE officer would be meeting with sixth grade students the following day to plan their spring schedule; 3) A mock OSHA walk would be held on Wednesday with Bob Tweeten of the Southeast Service Cooperative; 4) She would be attending training on Friday with Curriculum Director Jane Johnson to learn about the various components of the MCAII testing; 5) Academic Triathlon competition would be held in the district on Friday; 6) The following week was Paraprofessional Recognition Week. Mrs. Svobodny expressed her thanks to all of the paras. She advised that a luncheon had been held in November to honor them; 7) Preschool screening was scheduled to be held in Dover the following week; 8) Interviews had been held and an offer would soon be made to fill the paraprofessional position authorized by the Board for fourth through sixth grades; 9) She was working on scheduling the various topics for the January 26 inservice which would include Data Warehouse training and a mock entry; 10) The Title I Parent Advisory

meeting was scheduled for January 30; 11) Chair Pagel recommended setting a time for the Board to tour the elementary building.

High School Principal – High School Principal Todd Rowekamp shared the following: 1) Linda Killian-Baures had been working diligently with the Work Experience program, including adding more criteria, requirements and expectations of the students. Mr. Rowekamp had met with Mrs. Baures, Karen Schultz and Tom Surprenant to add additional criteria for future classes; 2) John Ostrowski had sent letters to all juniors advising that the ACT Prep Class was being offered in several locations in Rochester at a cost of \$75 per student. Because we would be working along with Rochester Schools, this would qualify for diversity funding and the cost to each student would drop to \$17. Our district no longer offered this class because we could not obtain a trainer. The Board discussion included the possibility of having Dover-Eyota as one of the sites and bringing Rochester students here; 3) The following day interviews would be held for the half-time custodial position; 4) He had received a small but qualified pool of candidates for the high school special education paraprofessional position and advised that interviews would be held the following week; 5) Principal Svobodny, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Technology Director Loren Kiefer and he had met with Jim Appleton of the Hiawatha Valley Education District to prepare for the January 26 staff inservice. Mr. Appleton would be providing an online Data Warehouse demonstration using our actual data and then holding breakout sessions with both the high school and elementary staff. A mock entry with the Olmsted County Sheriff's Department would also be held that day and be followed with a debriefing of the staff; 6) Homecoming Coronation had been held on a Sunday evening to avoid conflicts with activities on Monday nights. Since no negative comments had resulted from that change, the students wished to hold the Snoball Coronation late Sunday afternoon, January 28. The consensus of the Board was that they had not received any negative comments about Homecoming Coronation and they left the final decision about Snoball Coronation to the discretion of Mr. Rowekamp.

Customer Compliment, Concern, Complaints

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

**REPORTS**

Community Information and Input Regarding Facilities Assessment Committee

Supt. Klaehn talked about the document of factual information that had been provided in the agenda packet. He advised that he would like to mail it to the public as soon as possible and set public informational meetings. Discussion ensued and it was determined that the document should be brought to the Facilities Assessment Committee at their January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting before being sent to the public.

A motion was made by Member Kaehler to bring the document as presented to the Facilities Assessment Committee and then to each individual family as well as including it in an *Eagle* mailing. The motion was seconded by Member Brandt and carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Second Reading and Approval of the Revised Enrollment of Nonresident Students Policy #509

Supt. Klaehn reviewed the proposed changes with the Board.

Member Loftus felt that the Board had originally allowed themselves the option to look at individual cases and he did not wish to make some of the changes being presented. He added his opinion that the Board was changing a policy so that it didn't have to enforce the original policy.

Member Pedersen made a motion to approve the revised Enrollment of Nonresident Students Policy #509 as presented. He said that the Board was attempting to tighten up the policy to close loopholes and to make it clearer. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson. Member Andring stated that it was the Board's job to set policy.

A discussion ensued in which it was felt that a foster child taken in by non-resident parents who had children in the school district would not be considered a "sibling."

A vote on the motion to approve the revised policy as presented resulted in the following voting for the motion: Pedersen, Johnson, Pagel and Andring. Opposed were members Loftus, Kaehler and Brandt. The motion carried 4 to 3.

### Final Approval for the Close Up Travel Outside of the District and Consider Donation Request

Close Up Advisor John Pittenger requested final approval for the Close Up trip to Washington, DC. He advised that taking the trip earlier in the year saved each student \$150. The trip would not conflict with student testing of those participating. Because the number of students attending was reduced to seven this year, donations would go farther. Mr. Pittenger expressed his appreciation to the groups that made annual donations including the School Board, Dover Fire Department and Eyota American Legion. He added that the Close Up students would be assisting in the fish fry that Saturday night at the Eyota American Legion.

Member Andring made a motion to grant final approval for the Close Up trip to Washington, DC February 4-10, 2007 and approve a donation according to Board policy (10%). The motion was seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously.

Member Brandt said that the fact Mr. Pittenger was still advising this trip indicated what a good program it was and she thanked him for this service.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### First Reading of the 2007-2008 Board Assumptions

Supt. Klaehn reviewed the proposed 2007-2008 Board Assumptions with the School Board. The second reading and possible approval of this item would be delayed until the March meeting so that more accurate assumptions could be brought forward.

#### Accept Resignation

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Brandt and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of SUSAN LEVAN as Cook's Helper.

#### Consent - Approve Hires

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Pedersen and carried unanimously to approve hiring the following individuals: 1) ANN OELSLAGER as high school Instructional Assistant; 2) JEREMY CAMPBELL as Long-Term Substitute Instructor; 3) KONI GRIMSRUD as part-time Speech Therapist.

#### Consent - Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Kaehler, seconded by Member Johnson and carried unanimously to accept the following donations and direct the administration to send thank you letters: 1) High School – \$2,000 to the Scholarship Fund from PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE SERVICES of Rochester, \$1,000 to the Band Department from the DOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT, \$525 to Close Up from the EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION and \$200 to the Band Department from TONY & NANCY HAMMEL; 2) Sharing Tree -- \$500 from the DOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

### **HEARING OF REPORTS**

#### Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn shared the following items: 1) Reminded the Board of the group photo to be taken on Monday, February 12 at 6:30 PM; 2) Discussed final arrangements with the Board members for attending the Minnesota School Board Association's Leadership Conference that week and provided each with a folder of information to be discussed at the conference; 3) Provided an update on the St. Charles/Dover/Eyota sewer project and said that the \$15 million project had been approved; however, a recent turnover of sewer board members might mean rescinding that decision. Due to the tax impact, Mayor Wes Bussell and Mayor Roger Ihrke were keeping him abreast of the decisions. He, in turn, would keep the Board informed; 4) Moody's, a bond rating company to which bond buyers subscribe, had enhanced the school district's credit rating from BAA2 to BAA1. This was a rare event in the state of Minnesota and placed Dover-Eyota in a rating that was below only 13 other school districts in the state. This rating would mean a significant savings if the school district ever sold bonds, meaning that it could obtain a better than normal rate if it sought a bond issue; 5) As requested by the Board and with the assistance of the Eyota American Legion, the flag in the high school gymnasium had been relocated; 6) Provided the Board with a copy of an Eyota American Legion letter requesting no student activities on Memorial Day. The local school district doesn't determine these activities since they are governed by the Minnesota State High School League. The Board was asked to advise the superintendent if they wished to address the topic at an upcoming meetings; 7) In regard to seeking voluntary subscriptions (\$20) to the Dover-Eyota *Eagle* because it was being subsidized with educational funding, the

Board directed the superintendent to wait a year before proceeding due to the fact that the fund balance had been more positive than expected; 8) It was determined that Don Andring would join the superintendent in attending a role playing pandemic flu workshop on January 29 presented by the Minnesota Department of Health.

#### Student Board Member Report & Communication

Danielle Storm, representing Student Board Member Kim Andring, shared the following: 1) FFA fruit sales had been successful; 2) Student Council activities included preparing for Snoball, holding a pasta supper, and considering offering a semi-formal dance around Valentine's Day; 3) Close Up would assist in the fish fry at the Eyota American Legion on Saturday night and were preparing for their February 4-10 trip to Washington, DC; 4) The sport teams were doing well and the Dance Team had placed third at a recent competition.

#### Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

**Loftus** – He had been unable to attend the last scholarship meeting. He thanked the district for relocating the flag in the high school gymnasium and relayed that he had received several positive comments from the public. In regard to the letter from the Eyota American Legion, he relayed that he was a member and that the letter had been sent out to other posts throughout the state in the hope that they would contact their school districts since it was a state level decision by the MSHSL.

**Pedersen** – He would be attending a Calendar Committee on January 16. In regard to the Legion letter, he indicated his support of such a resolution and expressed the importance of remembering the history of our country and the people it involved. He added, "We are not going to pull our teams out of playoffs but will send a message to the state league that they need to review the concern."

**Andring** – The Southeast Service Cooperative had developed informational sheets indicating the services used by their members and the value that entailed. Through a Minnesota Department of Education grant, the cooperative had hired two individuals to assist districts with their yearly annual progress.

**Pagel** – He had been unable to attend a Hiawatha Valley Education District meeting. Relayed his appreciation to the staff in attendance at the Board meeting. Mr. Pagel noted that Al Trogstad's mother and Mike Kowlaczyk (former counselor) had recently passed away.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Kaehler and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk  
Cb