

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DELAVAN-DARIEN  
OCTOBER 13, 2014**

President Jeffery Scherer called the regular meeting of the Delavan-Darien School District Board of Education held at the School Administration Center to order at 7:00p.m.

**Board Members Present:** J. Scherer, J. Peyer, R. Kelton, S. Logterman, S. Gonzalez, C. Kort

**Board Members Absent:** J. Hansen

**Administrators Present:** Superintendent R. Crist, Business Administrator M. Powell, Director of Curriculum C. Rund, Director of Pupil Services S. Halberg, Director of Bilingual and School Coordinator R. Sandoval, Principal K. Pickel, Associate Principals A. Urmanski, D. Furton, Athletic Director/AP C. Lodahl

The press was represented by Mike Hoey, Delavan Enterprise.

**Student Council Report:** None

**Minutes Approved:** The minutes of the September 8, 2014 regular/closed meeting and the October 6, 2014 closed session meeting were unanimously approved on a Gonzalez/Kort motion.

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Consent Agenda:** The board unanimously approved a motion by S. Logterman and seconded by J. Peyer to approve the Manifest of Bills dated October 13, 2014; the Treasurer's Report Summary for September 30, 2014 dated October 13, 2014; gifts/grants of 50 backpacks with school supplies for Wileman Elementary – Golden State Foods, Whitewater, and dictionaries for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Darien Elementary from Fairfield Grange; staff resignations for the 2014-15 school year for Olivia Navarro – guidance counselor DDHS; new staff contracts for the 2014-15 school year for Susan Petersen – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and Sheila Venteicher – 50% ESL teacher; non-faculty co-curricular contracts for the 2014-15 school year for Thomas Jones – volunteer cross country DDHS.

**LTD and Dental Insurance Renewals:** Business Administrator M. Powell stated that the LTD and dental insurance plans renew January 1 and both plans are currently with WEA. The district's insurance consultant requested quotes from different vendors for each plan. Mr. Powell recommended that the Board approve that the LTD coverage be placed with Madison National Life Insurance Company through National Insurance Services. The premium rate is .24/\$100 versus the current rate of .30/\$100 of salaries. This rate is fixed for 36 months and National Insurance Services will work with the district in providing a short-term disability plan for employees to purchase on their own. Mr. Powell recommended that the district stay with WEA for dental insurance as Key Benefits had negotiated with them to match the lowest bid of Delta Dental and during the negotiations WEA is being bought out by Delta Dental. Delta Dental has agreed to honor the pricing and rate guarantee offered by WEA. A motion was made by S. Logterman to approve the LTD renewal as presented and dental insurance with WEA/Delta Dental as presented. R. Kelton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**Humana Health Insurance One-Year Premium Amendment:** Business Administrator M. Powell stated that the district had switched to Humana health insurance and Key Benefits had been tracking our premium to claims paid ratio. The trend has been that the claims paid are significantly less than the premiums paid. Linda Mont from Key Benefits has negotiated an amendment to our current renewal that will reduce the premiums for the 2015 calendar year. Linda Mont reviewed the potential savings with the Board. If the claims to premium ratio starts to worsen, Humana can “call” all or a portion of the premium savings during the plan year. However, they cannot call more than the original amount of the premiums that the District would have paid if this amendment had not been in place. Humana does require a letter of credit for approximately \$256,000 to finalize the agreement. A motion was made by J. Peyer to approve the Humana health insurance premium amendment. S. Gonzalez seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**State Report Card and ACT Update:** Director of Curriculum C. Rund reported that our state report card for the 2013-14 school year was 65.1 Meets Expectations. This rating was down 3.2 from the previous year. Every school in the district meets expectations and the district has seen growth in overall reading, reading achievement gaps, math achievement gaps and attendance rate. Director of Curriculum C. Rund also reported that the district’s ACT scores for 2014 were lower than they have been in years at 19.9. She reported that district teachers are having discussion about increasing the rigor of district math and science courses. Ms. Rund reported that all juniors will now be required to take the ACT test in March.

**Strategic Plan Update:** Superintendent Crist reports that the district is continuing where it left off last spring. He reported the district has several things that are not totally accomplished and we continue to enhance those items as they relate to everything else that we are required to do. Last spring with all the new initiatives, Dr. Crist said that he is reluctant to add any more to the plates of the educational staff. There is a lot of anxiety over everything that is being required this year and the time that needs to be spent on those items. Dr. Crist reported that the Wall of Fame is one thing that he is getting information on how to implement and hopes to be looking at that sometime in the future.

**Dual Language Report:** Director of Language Acquisition and Community Education R. Sandoval reported to the board that the dual language immersion program has 146 students enrolled – 39 in 4K, 67 in Kindergarten and 40 in first grade. He reported that the program has spaces available and he is still meeting with interested families. Mr. Sandoval reported that some English speakers have dropped out of the program and the balance is about 60-40 in the classes rather than the 50-50 we had originally before families withdrew.

**Seclusion/Restraints for the 2012-13 School Year:** Director of Pupil Services S. Halberg reported that every year an update on seclusion and restraint needs to be provided. Dr. Halberg gave the board a review of the seclusions and restraints that occurred in our schools during the 2013-14 school year.

**McKinney-Vento Report:** Director of Pupil Services S. Halberg report that this is the Act for homeless students. She said that federal law provides support for students identified as homeless if they lack a fixed residence. Students have the right to enroll in school immediately with no papers required and they can stay in the school of origin and transportation needs to be provided and they are to receive free education with all fees waived. So far this year we have identified 65 students identified as homeless and we expect this number to rise. There is not a lot of funding from the government and support is not built into the revenue formula to help with this need. We have higher

needs and get the same funding as a more affluent district and you need to know this piece of the puzzle as we look at our funding.

**RTI Update:** Director of Pupil Services S. Halberg reported that RTI is a process of achieving higher levels of academic and behavioral success for all students. The district is starting the second year of PIE time – Prevention, Intervention, and Enrichment. At the elementary schools it is 45-50 minutes five days a week, middle school it is 36 minutes four days a week and at the high school it is daily in the PBL lab for a select group of students. She reported that the national model is 85% of students at Tier 1, 15% at Tier 2 and 5% at Tier 3 and we continue to assess our students.

**Career Occupations Update:** Director of Career and Occupations C. Yager read a proclamation that October 4 was named National Manufacturing Day and throughout the month of October many local manufacturers are hosting open houses and tours for students, parents and other members of the community. Ms. Yager said that our students would be visiting the Synerject & Buell Corporations, in Delavan and East Troy. The culmination of Manufacturing Month will be the second annual Manufacturing Expo to be held at Gateway Technical College's iMET Center in Sturtevant on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, about two dozen DDHS students recently attended the International Machine Tool Show at the McCormick Place in Chicago to learn even more about the world of manufacturing and the many different career opportunities. Ms. Yager said that trip was made possible through the support of one of our other business partners, Precision Plus Inc. in Elkhorn.

**Testing and Required Programs:** Director of Curriculum C. Rund reported that there is a lot of pressure on the education system implementing the Educator Effectiveness System and also implementing many new assessments. These are all powerful systems and the data is used by teachers in their evaluation and the data is also used to drive the state report card grade. We are required by law to give these tests and part of this is from the waiver Wisconsin has from the federal No Child Left Behind. Ms. Rund reviewed the assessment schedule with the board and remarked that there is almost testing every month of the school year. There is little time for teachers and administrators to stop and reflect on how to do the work of education when there is such a push from the outside for testing.

**Mentor/Mentee Program for the 2014-15 School Year:** Superintendent Crist told the board that the ultimate decision for the mentor/mentee program for this year would be to not follow what has been done in the past because of all the criticism of the past format. Dr. Crist has set up that any new teacher would go back to getting a volunteer mentor in their subject area department to work with the new employee. So far it is working fine this year.

**Annual Board Development Survey Tool from Regional WASB Meeting:** Superintendent Crist handed out the survey to the board members from the regional WASB Meeting. Please read through the information and do the survey tool if you would like.

**Parent Transportation Contracts for the 2014-15 School Year:** A motion was made by J. Peyer and seconded by S. Gonzalez to approve the parent transportation contracts as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Alternative Incoming/Outgoing Open Enrollment Applications:** A motion was made by C. Kort and seconded by S. Gonzalez to approve the incoming applications and the outgoing applications per Dr. Crist's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

**Darien Elementary Fundraisers for the 2014-15 School Year:** Darien has requested the following fundraisers – Butter Braids in fall, Club’s Choice in late winter, Papa Murphy Night or Pizza Ranch Night family event of nightly sales, Darien T-shirt sales in fall, Scholastic Book Fair and popcorn, popsicle and/or bake sales. A motion was made by S. Logterman and seconded by C. Kort to approve the fundraisers for Darien Elementary. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request for School Logo – Blackhawk Community Credit Union:** A motion was made by J. Peyer and seconded by C. Kort to approve the school logo request to Blackhawk Community Credit Union. The motion carried unanimously.

**Phoenix Middle School Athletics/Additional Activities Proposal:** Superintendent Crist told the board that Adam Nielsen, Phoenix Athletic Director/Teacher, has been working towards possibly creating a 6<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball and basketball program to provide some activities for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. His proposal has looked at current budget costs and he has tried to reallocate money toward creating this 6<sup>th</sup> grade program. We would also like to add the Fit Kids program at the elementary level. This is run as an after school activity for about \$2,000 a year. Dr. Crist said that for about \$6,000 or less with reallocations we could probably add the 6<sup>th</sup> grade program and Fit Kids program. Discussion took place and it was decided that we would wait to see if the referendum passed and bring this item back at the November meeting.

**Board/Superintendent Responsibility – Wages and Benefits:** Superintendent Crist reviewed with the board that there have been instances where he had to make an offer of additional compensation to get a candidate for a job opening in the district with no time to consult with the board. Dr. Crist has talked with our attorney about getting authority for the superintendent to have the ability to give additional compensation, such as salary increases, bonuses, stipends, and/or other salary enhancements in recognition of the employee’s merit and value to the District. The attorney has advised that there are two primary ways the Board can delegate authority to the District Administrator relative to employee compensation and benefits. The two ways are by action to authorize the District Administrator as a designee or to amend Board Policy 1230 Responsibilities of the District Administrator. A motion was made by C. Kort and seconded by S. Gonzalez to accept Option #1 and not change board policy. The motion carried unanimously.

**LaCrosse America Facility Request for Tournament:** Athletic Director C. Lodahl asked the board to extend a three-year contract to LaCrosse America to use our facilities for a tournament each year as they did this past summer for the first time. A motion was made by J. Peyer and seconded by S. Logterman to approve a three-year contract to LaCrosse America. The motion carried unanimously.

**Referendum Planning:** Superintendent Crist reported that he and Mike Heine had collaborated and everyone should have received a mailing reflecting concise information regarding the November referendum. Dr. Crist reported that one community was held with only a few people showing up and there is another one tomorrow night. Board members said the mailing was good information and that it was nicely done. Dr. Crist said that was the only mailing that the district will be sending and he hoped more community people would come to the next two open meetings being held about the referendum.

**Superintendent Report:** Superintendent Crist reported that he received a letter from the DPI that the district has fulfilled its requirements of Part B of the IDEA and the staff should be commended for this achievement. Dr. Sara Halberg does this reporting and I wanted to bring this to you for information.

The district has also been notified that we have been awarded a continuation of the LEA Cohort Grant (SPDG) at Turtle Creek to facilitate implementation of evidence-based, effective professional learning communities (PLC's) to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Dr. Crist also recognized and thanked the board members for their service for Board Appreciation Week that was October 5-10.

**Future Agenda Items:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Intramurals, Fit Kids

**Next Meeting Date:** Special Meeting - October 27, 2014 Certify Levy – 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting – November 10, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by J. Scherer and seconded by J. Peyer to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

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Karen Logterman, Secretary

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Jeffery Scherer, President