

Dixon Unified School District
Meeting of the Governing Board
Thursday, October 20, 2011
Student Forum - Dixon High School Theatre – 3:30 P.M.
Workshop on BP 0200 – Dixon High Library at conclusion of Student Forum
555 College Way, Dixon Ca 95620

Minutes

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Dixon USD Governing Board meets on the First and Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers 600 East A Street, unless **otherwise noted above**. (Other meetings may be scheduled as necessary.)

The agenda is divided into four main sections:

- **CONSENT CALENDAR** – These matters typically include routine financial or administrative actions. Any item on the consent calendar may be pulled by the board or a member of the public to be discussed separately upon request. Consent items are usually approved with a single motion.
- **INFORMATION ITEMS** – These items are for information only and do not require any action by the Board. They are written unless otherwise noted on the agenda, e.g., oral.
- **DISCUSSION ITEMS** – This section is usually reserved for the First Reading of policies or Revised Policies. Other topics may also be discussed.
- **ACTION ITEMS** – These include significant policy, administrative, and financial matters, are classified by department, and will usually be acted upon individually.

An opportunity is provided for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda at the time that item is addressed. In addition, there is a time for the public to speak on items that are not on the agenda. Speakers are allowed five minutes and are asked to complete a public comment form prior to the start of the meeting. (See Board agenda item, PUBLIC COMMENT.)

Board Goals ~ 2011-2012

The Primary Mission of the Dixon Unified School District is to provide a quality educational opportunity for each learner attending Dixon Schools.

Focus Areas for 2011 2012 include;

1. Restore the Fiscal Stability of the Dixon Unified School District
2. Restore staff and community confidence in the district leadership
3. Implement the Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP) to close the achievement gap of under performing students while increasing the achievement level of all students to make or exceed the state and federal accountability guidelines
4. Establish written personnel procedures
5. Review and Revise District Board Policy to bring them current

Governing Board

John Gabby, President
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Herb Cross, Vice President
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Gil Piñon, Clerk
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Irina Okhremtchouk, Member
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Brian Dolan, Interim Superintendent
Secretary to the Board
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Schools

Anderson Elementary School
(707) 678-5508

Tremont Elementary School
(707) 678-9533

Gretchen Higgins Elementary
(707) 678-6271

CA Jacobs Intermediate
(707) 678-9222

Dixon High School
(707) 693-6330

Maine Prairie High School
Continuation
(707) 678-4560

Community Day School
(707) 678-3680

www.dixonusd.org

I. MEETING – 3:30 P.M.- Meeting was called to order by Pres. Gabby at 3:36 pm

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
John Gabby, President - P
Herb Cross, Vice President - P
Gil Piñon, Clerk -P
Irina Okhremtchouk, Member -P
Madisyn Rosenberger, Student Member -P

II. NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Persons wishing to speak to agenda items may present their written request at this time. While the written request is optional, those making a written request will be recognized first. Persons wishing to introduce a subject not on the agenda may also present their request at this time. The Board President will recognize you for the discussion at the appropriate time. Non-scheduled agenda items will be introduced under Section VI on the agenda. Speakers will be allowed five minutes per topic.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice President Cross, seconded by Member Okhremtchouk to approve Consent Agenda and unanimously carried.

- A. Approval of Consent Calendar
- B. Agenda Oct. 20, 2011
- C. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of Sept. 15, 2011
- D. Warrants – monthly record of accounts payables that have been processed
- E. Lease Agreement with Wilde Hare Salon Suite #12
- F. Lifetouch School Photography Agreement, GH
- G. Overnight Field Trip Authorization, Boys Basketball
- H. Overnight Field Trip Authorization, Cross Country
- I. Child Start Agreement
- J. Chemical Removal Authorization

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: Persons wishing to introduce a topic within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District and not on the agenda may do so at this time. By law, subjects not on the agenda cannot be acted upon by the Board, except to briefly respond, clarify, or refer to staff for review and presentation at a future meeting. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person to maximum of twenty five minutes per topic unless extended by the Board President

Letter from DTA Co-Presidents' Julie Felkins and Amy Circo with apologies for missing today's meeting. DTA had a scheduled meeting today.

V. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, ACTION

- A. Cecile Nunley, CBO
 - 1. Recycled Product Resolution # 12-1466 Action
Ms. Nunley, asked the Board to approve the resolution directing the district to encourage the use of recycled products as much as possible.
A motion was made by Member Okhremtchouk, seconded by Vice President Cross to approve Recycled Product Resolution #12-1466 and unanimously carried.

- 2. Tire-Derived Product Grant Program Resolution # 12-1467 Action
A motion was made by Member Okhremtchouk, seconded by Vice President Cross to approve Tire-Derived Product Grant Program Resolution # 12-146 and unanimously carried.

VI. STUDENT FORUM – DHS Students have the opportunity to address the Board with any questions or concerns they may have.

Mr. Dolan - once a year governing board gives students a chance to speak directly to the Board about questions they may have, or to express any concern. No topic is prohibited. The Governing Board or Management might have to follow up with questions depending on the issue.

DHS Student- DHS is looking for a backup plan for graduation. Is it an option for the Board to help the senior class to cover costs of a deposit for use of a facility if weather permits?

Vice President Cross -would like to find out if this would be an annual expense

Mr. Barsotti-agrees this could possibly be a reoccurring expense

Governing Board would be interested in finding out about deposit amount for facility and asked student to come back to them with numbers and if possible find a venue.

DHS Student-expressed concerns about computer issues on DHS campus. Technology and credit recovery classes have been affected by server interruptions. She has been told the servers are outdated, crashing multiple times a day and students lose data and work. For credit recovery we can't get the work back and lose the credit. When classes stream videos it interrupts other classes and those classes lose work as well. It is a graduation requirement to take a technology class and losing your work and not getting credit has also been a problem
Mr. Dolan-we have spent a good chunk of money on upgrades and up to about a week ago it had been running well. Since Rocket was installed we have experienced issues again. We are working on these issues and the network is already running better today. It is a priority to get the network running smoothly.
Member Okhremtchouk-the issues are being dealt with costs have already been made to upgrade our servers and network.

DHS Student-expressed air conditioning concerns and the restrictions of temperatures make it really cold in our classrooms. Is it possible to get a wider range of temperature controls? The Gym is always really hot and it's too stuffy in certain classrooms as well. We need to fix our learning environment
Ms. Nunley-HVAC has had a full analysis throughout the district. We are working on these issues at each site. But it will take some time to adjust each classroom. We will have ideas to the board shortly.
Mr. Dolan-part of the design is required by law to have a mix of inside and outside air to meet standards. Set points can't differ more than 6 degrees.

DHS Student-is Painting parking lots a possibility in the future?
DHS Students had many ideas, having forms approved before students can paint, incentives to extinguished scholars, experiment with a few spots for a few years and open up more spots if it goes well
Mr. Dolan-we have talked a few times about this issue. We looked into buying bumpers for students to paint but were too expensive. Would be happy to revisit the idea.
Mr. Piñon-painting a wooden bumper for your spot is an inexpensive idea
Mr. Barsotti-last year there was talk about a Mural for Seniors

DHS Student-what's the possibility to bring back 10th grade counseling?
Mr. Dolan-counselors received reduced staffing and as financial problems start to turn we will address these kinds of issues. This is a priority; kids aren't getting the same service no fault to anyone. District Issues determination from the Board
Member Okhremtchouk-asked for the cost of a counselor
Mr. Dolan-\$60,000 a year at minimum

DHS Students-the Conditions of the practice fields are really bad. They are over watered or under watered. When under watered you don't want to fall down because the grass is so hard. When it's over watered it smells awful. Students have slipped on water and have suffered injuries from the wet grass. All the fields seem to have this issue of being over watered at times and under watered at other times.
Ms. Nunley-we have been experiencing irrigation problems this year. We have had three major leaks at the beginning of the year and we are currently working on the watering schedule
Member Okhremtchouk -can we address this as soon as possible as this is a safety issue
Mr. Piñon-the fields are like a sponge and it will take time to get the moisture out. It could take 3 to 4 weeks to dry out but coming into rainy season make take longer.

DHS Student-thanked the board and Mr. Dolan for the opportunity to speak. The library is a beautiful facility and unfortunately it is only open sometimes. The Library is being used a lot during lunch, an average of 90 students. 24 students per class last year equals 25, 000 students used the library last year. That is 90 students an hour. Solutions, detention set up combine with library so open to other students, during teacher's prep so library could be open to students. The Learning center is open Tuesdays through Thursdays, can this move to library?
We really need a Librarian full time.
Mr. Dolan-this is a District level issue, we want our libraries open but as money got tight that's where the district decided to reduce. There have been some good ideas we would like to look into and to some of the added costs to keep library open. Libraries need to be staffed to be open.
Member Okhremtchouk-what are the Librarians costs for three more positions?
Mr. Dolan-we had 5 positions, academic demands at High school requires more staffing here.

DHS Student-honors classes only for Dixon are counted as a weighted grade, transfers our honors class to AP classes. It would get the students far more opportunities for colleges.

Mr. Dolan-the Board approves courses and the school develops them. Over the past five years we have increased AP classes, it is an interest of Mr. Barsotti to increase the number of AP Classes. It is not a big money issue just training teachers. Conversation is starting on this issue.

DHS Student-we do go over our sports league realignment

Mr. Dolan-we still have two more years in this athletic league, it's a four year cycle.

DHS Student-can you require students to pay for classes and AP tests?

Mr. Dolan-AP tests are optional not prohibited to require payment. Students should not pay for instructional materials; if you keep what you purchase you can have fees. We are continuing to work with staff to make sure we are compliant.

DHS Student-10% of your grade is to sell ads revenue in Journalism

Mr. Dolan-seems legitimate for Journalism, but we will look into the policy on this.

Member Okhremtchouk- what about AP costs for disadvantaged students?

Mr. Dolan-there is an avenue for students to take for payments of AP classes

DHS Student-we are required to work six shifts in the cafeteria for AP class

Mr. Dolan-would have to see the requirements in writing.

Mr. Barsotti and DHS Students share concern of just teaching for the test and not the subject

Mr. Dolan-this is a challenging time for teachers. Accountability system does not give consideration outside of how they do just on tests. Standards are higher in California and its getting interesting that the federal government is getting involved. We hope that the common core will lead to uniformity across the country so you can compare an apple to apple
Member Okhremtchouk-common standards tests are aligned to California standards which are higher than most. NEAP informs us as a country on how we are doing educating our students.

MPHS Student-MPHS basketball court is not being used because it is in terrible shape and the parking lot needs to be repaved.

VII. ADJOURN STUDENT FORUM AND MOVE TO DIXON HIGH LIBRARY –Student Forum Adjourned at 4:56 pm

VIII. CONVENE WORKSHOP ON BP 0200 – DISTRICT MISSION, VISION, AND GOALS FOR 2011-12 – Meeting was reconvened by President Gabby at 5:15 pm

Mission:

Mr. Dolan-Mission, are we happy with the statement? On November 3rd we will bring this back to the Board

Mr. Girimonte, get rid of the “because”, Starting with “We” We believe that all students can learn. Therefore it is our collective responsibility to ensure that all students do learn, grow, and succeed.

Guiding Principles:

Mr. Dolan suggested removing the section called “Values and Beliefs” and replacing it with the “Guiding Principles” we previously discussed. The Group agreed.

Guiding Principles:

1. We embrace learning as the fundamental purpose of our schools.
2. We commit t to work collaboratively to achieve our collective purpose, learning.
3. We continually asses our effectiveness and improve our practices based on results.

Goals 2011-2012:

1. “Proposed Goal”

While sustaining the STAR 2011 percentage of students performing at proficient or advanced for all significant subgroups; the DUSD will increase the percentage of students performing at proficient or advanced in the STAR 2012 on both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics by 10%. To achieve this goal, each site will develop and implement targeted academic interventions using the Response to Invention (RtI) model.

The Board and Management team discussed the draft goal and agreed that it needed some revision to clarify what the actual targets are. There was agreement to focus on Safe Harbor, but a need to define it fully.

2. “Proposed Goal”

Using the Response to Intervention model, all sites will continue development of behavior support and intervention models for all students. Professional Development and design of the models will be completed by the end of 2011-2012 for full implantation in 2012-13.

The discussion led to agreement that it was important to have a goal tied to improving student behavior. The Cabinet will revise the goal for future presentation and include elements reflecting the concerns expressed this evening.

3. "Proposed Goal"

In order to standardize cleaning for the buildings, grounds and preventive maintenance for all school sites within the district, an operations handbook for custodians, grounds, and maintenance with schedules, equipment lists, and job descriptions will be developed by June 2012.

A discussion took place regarding the appropriateness of this as a goal. There was a consensus that this does need to be a focus and for the district, although the goal itself needs to be revised.

4. "Proposed Goal"

While the District continues to ensure fiscal solvency, we will pursue efforts to increase revenue to support or enhance the level of service currently in existence for our students. The District will search for grant opportunities and submit at least 3 applications for the year with expectation of receiving funding for at least one grant.

A consensus was reached to change the goal to ensure that we will remain fiscally solvent. Revisions were also suggested to not limit the number of grants we hope to receive.

5. "Proposed Goal"

Parental involvement and participation will be increased as evidenced by:

1. The percentage of Dixon High parents using Homelink to monitor their child's grades and attendance will increase to 50% from the current level of 30% by February 2012.
2. The percentage of C.A. Jacobs parents using Homelink to monitor their child's grade and attendance will reach 50% by May 2012.
3. 30% of all DUSD households will register as users on the new DUSD Website by May 2012

There was discussion clarifying the intent of this goal. It was supported by the group as a good objective.

6. "Proposed Goal"

Staff in the District will rate the Governing Board, Superintendent, and District Administration as satisfactory or better with regard to overall leadership at the following percentages in a survey to be taken in April 2012:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Governing Board | 60% (42.8% in 2011) |
| 2. Superintendent | 75% (52.2% in 2011) |
| 3. District Administration | 82% (75.3% in 2011) |

It was agreed to limit the percentage increases in approval ratings to between 10 and 15%.

IX. COMING EVENTS

- Oct. 31 – Student Holiday
- Nov. 3 – Board Meeting
- Nov 8 - Election Day
- Nov. 11 – Veterans' Day Holiday
- Nov. 17 – Board Meeting
- Nov. 21-25 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1 – Board Meeting
- Dec. 1-3 CSBA Annual Education Conference
- Dec. 19 – Jan 6. – Winter Break

X. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Gabby
Herb Cross
Irina Okhremtchouk
Gil Piñon

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Adjourned 6:46 pm