

Dakota CUSD #201

Board Meeting Summary

December 2017

Below are a few district highlights from the December 19, 2017 regular board meeting.

Student recognition

The Dakota School Board recognized several high performing students at the meeting. One recognition was for the Dakota High School Pep band, which was selected to perform at the recent IHSA state volleyball finals on the campus of Illinois State University. The board recognized the students and their Director, Annette Hackbarth. This was the third time DHS pep band was selected to perform at an IHSA state tournament final. In addition to being recognized, members of the band performed some Christmas music for the school board and those in attendance. Below is a photo of the pep band members performing the Christmas music.



The board also recognized two DHS football players who earned state level recognition. Maverick McPeek earned first team all-state from the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association while Carter Drake was selected as third team all-state by the Champaign Gazette newspaper.

Cassidy Elmer and Jared Lee were honored for earning Illinois Association of Music Educators (IMEA) All-State recognition. Cassidy was recognized for earning honors all-state in choir while Jared was recognized for making all-state in band. The leadership of Jennifer Fox and Annette Hackbarth was also recognized by the school board.

Finally, the board recognized the six DHS seniors who earned recognition as 2018 Illinois State Scholars. Only 10% of Illinois seniors state-wide are identified as state scholars. The following students earned the designation: Kyle Bordner, Ashley Buck, Cassidy Elmer, Jared Lee, Alanna Pals and Derek Welling. Below is pictured from left to right: Cassidy Elmer, Jared Lee and Alanna Pals. Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts not all students were able to attend.

Conducted Truth in Taxation Hearing

The board held its Truth in Taxation hearing, which is required by law due to the fact that the district is requesting more than a 5% increase in property taxes from the previous year. The increase in request was predominately due to the successful April referendum, which shifted property tax proceeds from the debt service fund to the operating funds. As was stated during the referendum, the total 2017 tax rate will not increase from the total 2016 tax rate. No community members made comments during the hearing. Later in the meeting, the school board passed the 2017 property tax levy.

Abated bond payments

The board also abated two bond payments issues from 2016 and 2017. Instead of being paid out of the debt service fund, these two bond payments will be paid out of the operating funds with property tax proceeds from the April referendum. By abating these bond issues, the total tax rate will remain the same as 2016. The 2017 bond issue paid for the facility project which was completed over the summer.

Status report on junior high football

Mr. Prusator provided a status report on junior high football. Last season 6th graders were permitted to participate on the school team due to the lack of an opportunity for them to participate through the community based program. When the board decided to permit sixth graders to play last season it was for one year with the understanding that the district would evaluate the situation and determine options for a long-term decision. Mr. Prusator reported that enrollment and participation numbers are not sufficient to support a 7th grade and 8th grade team with only 7th and 8th grade students. Through discussions with coaches, athletic director, high school coaches and representatives from the Dakota Youth Football various options have been reviewed. At this point, it

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appears the best option is to consider having sixth grade students be permitted to participate on the school based junior high football team. Mr. Prusator said the process of evaluating option will continue after Christmas break an a recommendation will likely be made to the school board at the January 16th meeting.

Reviewed 2018-2019 DHS course guide

JH/HS principal Jason Grey reviewed additions and changes to the DHS course guide for the 2018-2019 school year. One of the significant changes is the inclusion of Advanced Placement (AP) biology and AP US history. These two courses are sponsored by the College Board and are college level courses, where students can earn college credit. Each course will use an approved college curriculum. Students will take an AP exam in the spring at the end of the course which will determine whether or not college credit is earned. The other significant additions to the course guide are business department offerings which will include: Business and Technology concepts and Accounting I. The AP and business department course additions are great additions to the district's course guide. It is anticipated that the school board will approve the course guide at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 16th.

Approved DHS trips for spring and summer of 2019

The school board approved a music department trip to Orlando scheduled for spring break of 2019 and a foreign language department trip to Europe scheduled for the summer of 2019.

Approved DHS pilot bass fishing club

The school board also approved a pilot bass fishing club for the spring of 2018. Bass fishing has become a popular IHSA activity and is one that the district believes will be popular with DHS students. The club will compete against other area schools. Depending on participation and interest, the board will decide whether or not to make it a permanent school sponsored activity for the future.

Reviewed first draft of 2018-2019 Keep Dakota Proud! Plan

Mr. Prusator briefly reviewed components of the 2018-2019 draft Keep Dakota Proud! Plan (KDPP). The initiatives were developed by a planning meeting of district administrators. Board members, staff, parents and community members will have the opportunity to submit initiatives for consideration over the next several months. The KDPP plan will prioritize the district's resources.

Personnel Actions

Person	Board Action
Tari Jones, Brenda Nelson, Katie Trumpy, Janine Weiland,	Approve retirement contracts
Deb Brinkmeier	Approved as JH/HS kitchen worker
Chris Klouser	Accepted resignation as head baseball coach