

Recap of the latest DL School Board Meeting, March 23

by Louise Oleson, DLJ Editor Emeritus

DEVILS LAKE, N.D. – The Devils Lake Public School Board met Monday, March 23 at 5 p.m. in the Sports Center.

Following the Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of the Agenda, they moved into a presentation on Continuous Improvement - Student Outcome Goals.

First the discussion focused on Progress Measures 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 (Math Achievement). Superintendent Ned Clooten pointed out the lower start for this school year at 66% and then grade by grade with Kindergarten highest this year and Second Grade also doing well at 83%. Two groups singled out were the Native American students and the Economically Disadvantaged students. Clooten said he would love to see them make gains by spring in these areas, even if they are in small increments.

School Board members Emily Foss and Sherry



Photos by Louise Oleson

School Board members Emily Foss (left) and Sherry Olson (right) gave a lively back and forth presentation on the School Board's emphasis on Student Outcome Goals that they will present to the public at various clubs and organizations throughout the community.

Olson gave a lively, back-and-forth Community Engagement Presentation where they explained how they have established the priorities of Student Outcome Goals for even the School Board itself. More time is being spent each meeting on this goal, marked by the Time Tracker for each meeting and now they hope to reach out to the community with these pre-

sentations to gain their assistance and awareness of the shift of focus in priorities. All school board members will be giving similar presentations to the public to gain their help in establishing and meeting these goals and improved outcomes for all students across the district.

Next on the agenda was recognition of the Employees of the Quar-



Sara Thompson, Principal at Prairie View Elementary School in Devils Lake, presents Bethany Homan, Third Grade teacher at Prairie View, with the plaque that recognizes her as Teacher of the Quarter. This took place at the March 23 meeting of the Devils Lake Public School Board meeting. This Crystal Apple Award is sponsored by Radio Works.

ter: Mrs. Bethany Homan who teaches Third Grade at Prairie View and classified Employee of the Quarter, Mrs. Taylor Shipley, Paraprofessional at Minnie H Kindergarten Center. The employees were introduced by their supervisors with a brief description provided by their peers when they were nominating. Both were given the opportunity say a few words



Kim Krogfoss, Principal at Minnie H Kindergarten Center in Devils Lake, presents Taylor Shipley, Paraprofessional at Minnie H, with the plaque that recognizes her as the Classified Employee of the Quarter. This took place at the March 23 meeting of the Devils Lake Public School Board meeting. This Crystal Apple Award is sponsored by First Community Credit Union.

after their presentation, to thank everyone for the recognition. Then group members around the table congratulated the recipients with handshakes and hugs.

Cory Meyer, who chairs the meeting, read the Community Speakers To Agenda Items statement on speakers policy.

The board voted to approve the Consent Agenda, containing eight

items. There were no items for discussion and possible action.

For information only the Superintendent reported that they were dealing with the boiler issue at Sweetwater and approved the Time Tracker report for the Feb. 23 Board meeting.

The next regular School Board meeting will be April 27 at 5 p.m.

Devils Lake Park Board preparing for spring

By Mojo Hill, Devils Lake Journal

DEVILS LAKE — While there may still be some snow on the ground in late March, spring is right around the corner.

The Devils Lake Park Board is shifting gears from the ice and indoor season to the spring, which is expected to be full of baseball, softball and other outdoor activities. The board met Thursday at Dockside Entertainment to discuss the latest happenings.

Golf course superintendent Andy Hokanson and clubhouse manager Rob McIvor both provided updates on how the preparation of Creel Bay is coming along for the spring. Hokanson anticipates somewhere between April 13 and 24 for a start date, but noted that it could change in one direction or another

due to weather. He added that he's still looking for two more employees.

McIvor said he recently got done cleaning the clubhouse and locker rooms. He also added Heidi Schneider, who he said has been a great help as an employee. Memberships are coming in fast, with around 13 tournaments already scheduled for the spring.

Parks & Facilities manager Brent Schmitz talked about shutting down the ice rinks for the season. The ice at Burdick Arena went out on Tuesday and went really well, Schmitz said. He was able to get it off quicker this year than in past years.

Schmitz explained that a water heater needs to be replaced, though, and that he's planning to utilize Mack Plumbing for it.

Next week, Schmitz is going

to try to get the ice off at Bill Jerome Arena. He's also going to try to have the baseball field ready for the week ahead, as there was still some snow on the field as of March 26. He's also going to start getting some estimates on other projects to get done in the next two to five weeks.

The board approved motions to purchase a water heater from Mack Plumbing (about \$16,900) and a pickup for no more than \$30,000.

Concessions manager Josh Widmer recently wrapped up the last round of concessions at the Burdick at the ice show last weekend. The next time concessions will be needed is at baseball games.

Widmer also provided some brief updates on the youth sports programs getting started, noting the strong number of registrations.

The board also briefly brought up the Dockside donor wall, which it had discussed in the past. It was explained that they were continuing to negotiate on the price. The board made a motion to approve the donor wall and graphics.

The board also approved a motion for a three-year support plan for simulator bays, and to table golf carts. Hokanson laid out a proposal for new golf carts, explaining how they're worth more now than they will be next year. There are numerous features they discussed adding, which would help maintain cart speed on the course and keep everyone in line.

The board approved a motion to send two employees to a grant writing course as well.

Devils Lake boys' hockey coach Landyn Swenson also stopped by and explained how

the team is looking to upgrade the locker room at Burdick Arena. The fund would come from Devils Lake Youth Activities boosters. Swenson went into detail about how the floors are starting to fall apart and get dirty. The lockers, which are 24 years old, are starting to break down, too. He wants a better experience for the kids. He estimates it being in the \$30,000 range.

Swenson later talked about the coaches' room, and how there's some unused items that could be cleared out, which would give referees, coaches and players more space to store stuff and would give the team a better place to review film, too.

The motion to approve Swenson's proposal carried.

The board did not immediately set a date for its April meeting.

Bakken boom left lasting impacts, lessons for what comes next

New book examines legacy, from fractured communities to looming water risks

Impacts from the Bakken oil boom nearly two

decades ago continue to shape western North Dakota and foreshadow future development challenges, according to a new book.

The book, by Sebastian Braun, "Bearing the Burden of Booms: Energy, Extraction, Communities and Landscapes on the Plains," draws on 15 years of research to examine how rapid resource extraction reshaped communities, economies

and landscapes as well as unresolved lessons.

Braun, director of American Indian Studies and professor of political science at Iowa State University, began studying the impact of Bakken development on communities around 2010, when the scale and speed caught many off guard.

Braun, who taught at the University of North Dakota at the time, became intrigued as stu-

dents from the Bakken began to relay "unbelievable" stories about the impacts of rapid development on communities.

"I got really fascinated about what was going on and really worried about what would happen when the boom went away," Braun said.

A boom few fully understood

The Bakken surge brought jobs, revenue, and rapid population



Courtesy photo

Sebastian Braun

growth. But Braun argues that even those living through it, including local officials, often struggled to grasp what was happening in real time.

Communities faced housing shortages, infrastructure strain and rising costs, leaving leaders reacting to immediate crises rather than planning long-term.

That lack of historical context and understanding of lessons from earlier oil booms meant many decisions were made without a clear understanding of likely outcomes, he said.

"I hope people can take away from it a sense of what actually happened, because the way that

things worked, most people were so overwhelmed by what was going on that they didn't really understand what was actually going on," Braun said.

"They were facing an influx of people, a housing crisis, inflation, school impacts ... and people just tried to put out each fire," he said.

The result, Braun suggests, is that the boom's

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Minnewaukan Township
Tax Equalization Meeting
 Tuesday, April 14
 5pm-6pm
 Armory Room in the Memorial Building

Fresh Easter Flowers
 Gifts and arrangements that capture the beauty of the season!
 Bouquets • Baskets • Centerpieces
 Potted Plants • Corsages • Easter Lillies
 Outdoor Decor • Candy Bouquets • Gifts
KRANTZ'S Floral & Design
 Holiday Mall
 425 South College Dr.
 Devils Lake, ND
 701-662-2417

NOTICE
 There will be **No Garbage Pickup:**
 Friday, April 3rd
IN HONOR OF GOOD FRIDAY
 Friday and Monday's garbage will be picked up on Monday.
 Please have your garbage out by 7 a.m.

Nodak Electric Cooperative
86th Annual Meeting
 Wednesday, April 8, 2026
 Meal 5pm | Meeting 6pm
 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks