

Manufacturer's Round Table

September 9, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Meeting Record

Present: Deb Dragseth, DSU; Steve Easton, DSU; Chris Johnson, TMI; Tom Krank, TMI; Shon Hocker, DPS; Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation and Danita Tysver, Stark Development Corporation.

Business – Go – Round:

TMI – Already had Microsoft Team set up, COVID has made using the software more efficient and effective. Have created a virtual tour of the factory. Masks are required to be worn company wide. Trying to work with alternative solutions for those with health issues. Have had positive cases, procedures are in place for those scenarios.

Steven Easton, DSU - Have some students in quarantine and some in isolation but nothing overwhelming. Enrollment numbers look like they may be up from last year. All athletes get tested on a regular basis, they may play against teams that are not getting tested. DSU has tested the highest percentage of students out of any of the campuses in North Dakota. Classes are being taught face to face and also have an online option. Each classroom has two cameras, microphones and surround sound microphones so any student at anytime can access the course remotely from their phone or their laptop. Finding the vast majority of students want to be in class.

Shon Hocker, Dickinson Public Schools - Dealing with the same challenges as DSU. Have about 50 confirmed cases or close contacts. With students and teachers having to be out it has placed a burden on staffing classrooms. Overall enrollment is down, have a little over 4,000 students. Have seen an increase in the home school population of about 200 students. Also believe that 50 to 75 kindergartners parents have chosen not to put them in the school system this year and have them hold off until next year. Pushing back the start date and starting with the hybrid schedule may have also played a part in registration numbers. Will have a better understanding of enrollment numbers at their October board meeting. About 500 students have chosen the full-time online option. Have been busy putting that program together, teachers have been dedicated to just teach online learning full-time. Teachers have noticed with the AB schedule and smaller classroom sizes the discipline issues are significantly down and students are making great progress. Moving forward with the possible purchase of that Halliburton property. It could be a great opportunity for growth in the Academy plans and partnerships with the community and retaining workforce. The purchase and sales agreement have been executed. They are currently in the 60-day due diligence phase. Researching the costs associated with purchasing the property, need to make a decision by November 2nd. Assuming that goes through it will take another 30 days or so to wrap up the closing through the title company and possibly by early December DPS could own the property.

Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation – Did not have a board meeting last month since the agenda was light and this month the agenda is very full. Have 3 flex PACE loans and a couple a facade projects coming through. In the process of hiring an SBDC Advisor. The position will be 75% SBDC and 25% Stark Development Corporation and West River Business Center. Got some really good applicants, hoping to secure somebody for that position by October 1st. The position will be a nice fit with the economic development office.

Discussion took place about the opportunities for childcare and tutoring facilities with the current DPS hybrid schedule.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 2:30 PM, location to be determined.