

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruns
 Fowler
 Johnson
 Krog
 A. Larson
 B. Larson

ABSENT: Salmela

ALSO PRESENT: Rick
 Cox

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, was held at the Cook School, on Monday, April 24, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Fowler to approve the agenda.

Yes- Bruns, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Johnson, Krog
Absent-Salmela
Against-None

Principal Kevin Abrahamson reported the following: The Principal welcomed everyone to the Cook School. 1.) Approximately 140 certificates were presented to students at the Cook School for excellent performance on their MCA tests in levels 4 and 5; 2.) The Senior Knowledge Bowl team will be attending the state tournament tomorrow at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd; 3.) Seven staff members of the Cook School will be retiring at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. They are: Edie Peterson, Jane Marconett, Ray Wolfe, Gail Bergman, Joy Kurz, Nancy Erickson, and Michelle Maki. A retirement party was held in their honor last Saturday at the Harvest Moon and there were over 100 people in attendance; 4.) Mrs. Bailey Conger took her students on an educational trip to Minneapolis last week. The students attended performances of the Minnesota Orchestra and "West Side Story," at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre; 5.) Last week Mr. Abrahamson accompanied six elementary teachers to the MAASFEP conference at Maddens. They had the opportunity to present a panel discussion on Multi-age Programming. The teachers that attended were: Mary Lynn Timpane, Angie Koski, Kris Graves, Barb Groves, Mary Clasen, and Sheryl Tokarczyk.

Board Chair Bruns commented that the school board would be interested in having a presentation on Multi-age Programming.

Superintendent Charles Rick summarized the April 19 School Board Study Session in his report: 1.) There was discussion on increasing the levy referendum on the November vote. Included in the discussion was the amount, reasons / needs, and how the money would be used; 2.) There was also discussion on early retirement incentives for teachers; District policy for employee evaluation; Dean of Students position at Cotton; Reductions for non-certified staff; Food Services analysis which should be completed by next week. Reductions will be included in the 2006-2007 budget; Communications in the district; Early Childhood Programs for next year and developing a program that operates within the 2006-2007 budget; 3.) There will be an area Community Education Meeting on April 26, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office for area schools. There will be exploration on working together in providing some services and programs; 4.) A Meet and Confer with teachers is scheduled for May 4, 2006 to discuss the teacher transfer process; 5.) The superintendent will be out of the office the week of May 8-12, but will be available via phone or E-Mail.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by B. Larson to approve amended consent agenda: April 10, 2006 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; *Policy:* Donations: 1.) \$500.00 from the Tower Fireman's Relief Assn. for the Tower-Soudan School athletic program; 2.) \$500.00 from the Tower Fireman's Relief Assn. for the Tower-Soudan School music program; 3.) \$500.00 from the Orr PTSO for the Orr School drama club; 4.) \$100.00 from Lake Country Power for the Babbitt-Embarrass School all-night graduation party; 5.) \$20.00 from Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop of Ely, MN for the Babbitt-Embarrass School all-night graduation party; 6.) \$50.00 from Blomberg & Sons, Inc. of Babbitt, MN for the Babbitt-Embarrass School all-night graduation party; 7.) \$550.00 from C.C. Riders Snowmobile Club, Canyon, MN for the Cotton School prom; 8.) \$180.00 from the Town of Northland, Canyon, MN for the Cotton School prom; 9.) \$300.00 to establish a scholarship in memory of Grace Ellen Whiteside Martin for a Cook School graduate to attend a 2 year community college or specialized training school; **All the following donations are for the AlBrook School all-night graduation party:** 10.) \$100.00 from the Duluth Elks Lodge, Duluth, MN; 11.) \$500.00 from the Town of Industrial, Saginaw, MN; 12.) \$25.00 from Dr. Robert J. Idziorek, Duluth, MN; 13.) \$500.00 from the Town of Culver, Culver, MN; 14.) \$75.00 from the Duluth Business University, Duluth, MN; 15.) \$500.00 from the Town of Alborn, Alborn, MN; 16.) \$25.00 from Valdastico, Inc., DBA Cloquet Dairy Queen, Richard Spagnolo, of Cloquet, MN; 17.) \$100.00 from Hallett Dock Company, Duluth, MN; 18.) \$25.00 from Hermantown Federal C.U., Hermantown, MN; 19.) \$50.00 from Raiter Clinic, Ltd., Cloquet, MN.

Yes- Bruns, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Johnson, Krog
Absent-Salmela
Against-None

Superintendent Rick explained the Microsoft-Minnesota Settlement and the plan the district sent to the state for this money.

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by A. Larson to accept the award settlement from Microsoft-Minnesota in the amount of \$207,325.06.

Yes- Bruns, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Johnson, Krog
Absent-Salmela
Against-None

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Krog to accept Mary Kearney's letter of retirement / resignation as Payroll / Personnel Coordinator, effective April 30, 2006.

Yes- Bruns, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Johnson, Krog
Absent-Salmela
Against-None

Motion by Krog and seconded by B. Larson to accept Nancy Erickson's letter of retirement / resignation as head cook, effective August 31, 2006.

Yes- Bruns, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Johnson, Krog
Absent-Salmela
Against-None

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Krog to accept Lori Nurmi's resignation as teacher aide, 2 hours per day, effective Mary 20, 2006.

Yes- Bruns, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Johnson, Krog
Absent-Salmela
Against-None

Motion by Fowler and seconded by B. Larson to hire Joani Bergstrom as instructional aide, non-bargaining unit, 4.5 hours per day, 2 days per week, effective April 11, 2006.

Yes- Bruns, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Johnson, Krog
Absent-Salmela
Against-None

Comments from the board:

Board Member B. Larson reported that he attended the "Punch & Poetry" at the Babbitt-Embarrass School and that it was a fun and pleasant experience.

Board Member Krog reported that she had a wonderful experience giving the certificates of achievement awards to the Cotton School students.

Board Member Johnson reported that “Punch & Poetry” at the Babbitt-Embarrass School was one of the most pleasant things she has done as a board member. Ms. Johnson also asked to schedule another board study session to discuss: Expenditure questions regarding the Adapt program, Negotiations for next year; how NESC dollars are spent; and promoting our schools.

Board Chair Bruns commented that she attended the awards ceremony at the Orr School today. Approximately 50 to 60 students received awards. Ms. Bruns indicated that she is very proud of their accomplishment.

Board Chair Bruns scheduled a Board Study Session for Wednesday, May 17, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office.

Comments from visitors:

1. Claire Rugar, Learning Readiness teacher, spoke on the importance of the program.
2. Jennifer Panichi, Kindergarten teacher, spoke in support of the ECFE program. She indicated that it prepares students for Kindergarten and changes the attitudes of parents, who often become PTO members.
3. Lori Udovich from Orr read a letter in support of ECFE, especially the Learning Readiness program.
4. Bernice Kantola read statistics in favor of ECFE.
5. Mr. Chris Raps, parent of a Learning Readiness student, asked questions regarding the numbers and cost to the district vs. the money received from the state.

Discussion followed.

6. Crystal Scofield spoke in support of Learning Readiness and indicated that a fee would be acceptable.

Discussion followed.

7. Lisa Squires, a parent, spoke of the benefits of the program and how it helped her children.
8. Kelly Counihan, a parent with 4 children, spoke of the benefits of the program. She indicated that she did not agree with charging a fee, but asked if a fee could be charged using the free and reduced lunch as a guide.
9. Anna Jurenes, Kindergarten teacher at the Cook School, indicated that she just came to listen and to see what she could do. She commented that given the state guidelines and what is demanded of teachers, it would be difficult without Learning Readiness.
10. Jackie Triska, a parent of three children, indicated that Learning Readiness provides opportunities for kids.

11. Jody Feiste commented that she worked in the Learning Readiness program and supports the program.
12. Melody Kiehm, parent of a Kindergarten student, said that without Learning Readiness her son would not be able to handle Kindergarten.
13. Bailey Conger, music teacher at the Cook School, encouraged people to become more politically active concerning receiving the appropriate amount of property taxes from homes that are exempt in the area.

Discussion followed.

The regular school board meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. After a short recess the board went into closed session to discuss negotiation strategy.