

THE REORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2006.

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

ABSENT:                      None

ALSO PRESENT:              Rick  
                                 Simonson  
                                 Rinta  
                                 Cox

The **Reorganizational** meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, was held at ISD # 2142 District Office, on Monday, **January 9, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.**

Superintendent Charles Rick called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The election of officers for the 2006 calendar year followed. Superintendent Rick asked for nominations for chairperson of the school board.

Member Salmela nominated Zelda Bruns for Chairperson. Member Fowler seconded the nomination of Zelda Bruns for Chairperson. Superintendent Rick asked again for nominations for chairperson and there were none.

**Zelda Bruns was declared the Chairperson by unanimous vote.**

Superintendent Rick continued with the nominations and asked for nominations for the Office of Vice Chairperson.

Member Fowler nominated Liz Johnson for Vice Chairperson. Member B. Larson seconded the nomination of Liz Johnson for Vice Chairperson. Superintendent Rick asked again for nominations for Vice Chairperson and there were none.

**Liz Johnson was declared the Vice Chairperson by unanimous vote.**

Superintendent Rick asked for nominations for the Office of Clerk.

Member Johnson nominated Andrew Larson for Clerk. Member Bruns seconded the nomination of Andrew Larson for Clerk. Superintendent Rick asked again for nominations for Clerk and there were none.

**Andrew Larson was declared the Clerk by unanimous vote.**

Superintendent Rick asked for nominations for the Office of Treasurer.

Member Fowler nominated Arrlette Krog for Treasurer. Member Johnson seconded the nomination of Arrlette Krog for Treasurer. Superintendent Rick asked again for nominations for Treasurer and there were none.

**Arrlette Krog was declared the Treasurer by unanimous vote.**

The Reorganizational meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m. and the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142 was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

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Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) BMS has scheduled a mediation meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at the District Office for the teacher's 2005-2007 contract; 2.) The district was notified that we will be receiving monies in regards to a tobacco settlement case. The amounts are as follows: St. Louis County ISD 710, \$36,937.52; Tower-Soudan ISD 708, \$4,851.96; and Babbitt-Embarrass ISD 692, \$8,764.84. When received the monies will be put in the general fund and targeted for special purposes. The total amount is \$50,554.32; 3.) The superintendent handed out a timeline for the 2006-2007 budget process. Ms. Rick will be working off the budget timeline to complete the preliminary budget by the May School Board meeting; 4.) Mr. Rick attended a superintendent's meeting at the NLC on January 9, 2006. Topics discussed were: NLC staff; Third party billing; tuition billing; work experience coordinator duties; and Federal and state special education fund; 5.) The superintendent complimented the excellent job the ISD # 2142 District Newsletter does in highlighting the accomplishments of the school sites and students. The stories are a good reminder of why we are in the education business.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: 1.) Mr. Simonson gave a handout to the board on the teacher workshop which is going to be held on Monday, January 16, 2006. Mr. Simonson outlined the workshop agenda; 2.) There will be a teleconference for counselors at the District Office on January 10, 2006. The conference is regarding testing changes; 3.) There was an Administrators meeting last week, which set the tone of this week scheduled meeting on January 12, 2006. The subject matter will be changes within the district in curriculum. The Administrator will be going through every content area.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by B. Larson to **approve the consent agenda: Approval of December 13, 2005 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes: Claims and Accounts** for December 2005: Federal ACH -\$109,789.92; State ACH-\$48,217.07; FICA ACH-\$179,025.12; Net Salaries-\$782,597.14; Payroll Deduction Checks December 15<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup> -\$258,613.89; Finance Checks November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>-\$1,226,020.44; Voided Checks-\$21,146.75; TOTAL DECEMBER 2005 \$2,583,116.83; **Policy: Donations: 1.) Two (2) Canon 35 mm cameras, with extra film and batteries in camera bag, valued at \$200.00, from the Timberjay of Tower, MN for the Tower-Soudan School yearbook; 2.) \$653.51 (proceeds of the Christmas Craft Fair) from the Cherry P.T.S.O. for the Cherry School Close-up group, Washington, D. C. spring of 2006 trip; 3.) \$50.00 from Nelson-Williams Linings, Inc. of Mt. Iron, MN for the Cherry School cheerleaders; Program: Accept Northland Foundation Grant for \$14,075.00; Personnel: 1.) Accept resignation of Robyn Anderson as instructional aide effective, January 5, 2006; 2.) Accept resignation of Michael Jershe as bus driver effective, December 22, 2005; and 3.) Accept Nancy Joy Kurz's letter of retirement/resignation as teacher, effective the end of the 2005-2006 school year.**

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Krog to **approve the State Bank of Tower and Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund (Cadre Services) as designated depositories for district funds.**

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Krog to approve the **2006 School Board monthly meeting calendar.**

*The School Board meeting calendar for January 2006 through December 2006, at 5:00 p.m.*

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Monday, January 9, 2006 (Reorganizational meeting)	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, February 13, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, March 13, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, April 10, 2006	Cherry School
Monday, May 8, 2006	Cotton School
Monday, June 12, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, July 17, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, August 7, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, September 11, 2006 *	Tower-Soudan School
Monday, October 9, 2006	Babbitt-Embarrass School
Monday, November 13, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Tuesday, December 5, 2006 (Truth and Taxation)	ISD #2142 District Office
Tuesday, December 12, 2006 **	ISD # 2142 District Office

\* Certify proposed Tax Levy (on or before September 30, 2006.)

\*\* Adopt Final Levy (prior to December 30, 2006.)

*The following dates are being reserved for tentative School Board Study Sessions. Sessions and times will be determined at regular scheduled school board meetings held at the beginning of month.*

Monday, January 23, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, February 27, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, March 27, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, April 24, 2006	Cook School
Monday, May 22, 2006	Orr School
Monday, June 26, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, August 21, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, September 25, 2006	AlBrook School
Monday, October 23, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office
Monday, November 27, 2006	ISD # 2142 District Office

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Salmela to **approve salaries and other school board compensations for 2006.**

It is recommended that the salary, hourly rate, mileage and per diem remain as follows:

**Salary:** For regularly scheduled school board meeting to be \$225.00 per month, and an hourly rate of \$8.50 per hour for additional meetings that require attendance on non-school board meeting nights and attendance at meetings, workshops, and conventions, including travel time.

*If the board were to go to one business meeting per month, the stipend should cover one business meeting per month and one work session per month. The \$8.50 per hour would be used to include scheduled board meetings in excess of these two meetings.*

**Mileage:** Follows IRS established rates. (See attached)

**Per Diem:** Shall be consistent for all employees at the following rates:

Within Region 7	Breakfast	\$5.00
	Lunch	\$7.00
	Dinner	\$15.00
Outside Region 7	Breakfast	\$10.00
	Lunch	\$15.00
	Dinner	\$20.00

Member Johnson indicated that there are a lot of things which the school board does not bill the district for. Ms. Johnson recommended that the salary of the school board be increased from \$225.00 per month to \$250.00 per month.

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Board Chair Bruns asked Board Members Fowler and Salmela if they wished to withdraw their motions for the original recommendation of \$225.00 per month. Both members indicated that they did not. Motion stood as originally proposed.

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

***Appointments made by Chairperson Bruns on January 9, 2006***

<b><i>Continuing Education</i></b>	Bob Larson
<b><i>Staff Development</i></b>	Andrew Larson
<b><i>Human Rights Officer (s)</i></b>	Larry Salmela Roland Fowler Liz Johnson
<b><i>MSHSL Board Representative</i></b>	Arrlette Krog
<b><i>Legislative Liaison</i></b>	Roland Fowler
<b><i>(Alternate)</i></b>	Zelda Bruns

***Appointments made on January 5, 2005 will remained unchanged for 2006***

***Board Representation for Negotiations of the 05-07 Contracts:***

***Teachers -*** Roland Fowler  
Zelda Bruns

***Teamsters – (Aides, Food Service, Clerical, Health Services)***  
Arrlette Krog  
Larry Salmela

***Operating Engineers – (Custodians, Bus Drivers)***  
Bob Larson  
Liz Johnson

***Principals -*** Andrew Larson  
Liz Johnson

***Non-bargaining Unit Employees -*** Roland Fowler  
Liz Johnson

***Legislative Liaison*** Roland Fowler  
***(Alternate)*** Zelda Bruns

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by B. Larson **to recognize Colosimo, Patchin, Arsonson, Kearney & Brunfelt, Ltd. Law Firm as legal counsel for ISD # 2142 for the year 2006.**

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

Motion by Krog and seconded by **Johnson to award legal publishing to the Cook News-Herald for the year 2006.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Krog **to recognize Walker, Giroux & Hahne, Ltd. for one (1) year for the school district's audit of fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.**

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

Superintendent Rick commented that he appreciated working with Walker, Giroux & Hahne, Ltd.

Business Manager Rinta commented that the audit went well and that the auditors are a great team.

Greg Knutson from Walker, Giroux & Hahne, Ltd. introduced himself and thanked everyone for their comments. Mr. Knutson went on to explain the audit.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Johnson **to accept Final ISD # 2142 Final Audit and Activity Audit, year ending June 30, 2005.**

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

Superintendent Rick explained Third Party Billing and gave the school board a handout. There are problems with the present billing system. The NLC, who is currently doing the billing, is behind almost a year due to staffing problems. Mr. Rick made recommendation to explore "School Project" as an alternative billing method.

Board Member Bruns indicated that because the NLC is behind a year, they probably wouldn't be able to collect.

Discussion followed.

Board member Salmela indicated that this billing problem is only the tip of the iceberg. He indicated that there are management failures also.

Board member Johnson added that the Northland Special Ed Coop. actually does the billing portion. Ms. Johnson continued and said that the problems go much further than billing a year behind. The problems go back 2 years, with staffing problems, administration accountability, no one currently doing the billing, nursing staff, technical problems, psychologist, and transportation issues. The "School Project" Third Party Billing is absolutely what the district needs.

Board member Salmela indicated that the district might be premature in choosing "School Project." Mr. Salmela questioned the ability of "School Project" to do the full range of services needed by the district.

Board member Johnson replied and indicated that "School Project" would be able to provide the full range of service.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Krog to **approve the school district move forward with contracting outside the school district for Third Party billing services for health related services given to children with disabilities as part of Individualized Education Programs (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) and have the school district work with a company called "School Project," which specialized in Third Party billing services.**

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

**ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW RESOLUTION  
DIRECTIVE FOR 2006-2007 PROGRAM REVIEW**

Salmela moved, that

Whereas there has been a reduction in student enrollment and this reduction in student enrollment must include discontinuance of positions, and curtailment or discontinuance of programs and

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Whereas, as determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

Be It Revolved, by the School Board of ISD 2142,

That the School Board hereby directs the superintendent of schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs and positions, and, as a result of reduction in enrollment, make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, the curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions, curtailment of positions.

The motion for the foregoing was duly seconded by Member Johnson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Bruns, Fowler, Krog, A. Larson, B. Larson, Johnson, and Salmela.

And the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **approve Creighton L. Cox as bus driver, bargaining unit, not to exceed full time equivalency for this position, effective January 3, 2006**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD 2142 and Operating Engineers #70.

Yes-Bruns, Fowler, Johnson, Krog, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela

Against-None

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **approve Dawn Chamberlin as instructional aide (ECSE), 6.5 hours per day, every Wednesday, bargaining unit, effective December 21, 2005**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

Board Member B. Larson questioned if the staff has asked for this and if it was really needed.

Superintendent Rick indicated that the number of special education students required the hiring of an additional instructional aide. The district is following a state requirement.

Discussion followed.

Yes-Bruns, Fowler, Johnson, Krog, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela

Against-None

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Salmela to **approve Gary L. Fredrickson as van driver, bargaining unit, not to exceed full time equivalency for this position, effective September 12, 2005**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD 2142 and Operating Engineers #70.

Yes-Bruns, Fowler, Johnson, Krog, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela

Against-None

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **approve 2005-2006 Winter Coaching staff as follows, dependent upon appropriate levels of high school (grades 9-12) participation: Cook School - Assistant girls' basketball coach-William Lehto; Orr School - Co-assistant girls basketball coach-Lisa Bruns.**

Yes-Bruns, Fowler, Johnson, Krog, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela

Against-None

Superintendent Rick explained the need for additional FTE in the ECFE program.

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Board member Krog explained that she had just come from a parent meeting in Cotton and heard concerns from the parents in attendance. First, there has been an increase in the number of young people coming to ECFE

Motion by Krog and seconded by Johnson to **approve .1 FTE Parent Educator and a .1 FTE Child Educator positions for an additional ECFE class at the Cotton School.**

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

Board Chair Bruns asked the school board for input on scheduling a Board Study Session. It was decided that a School Board Study Session would be scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office.

*Comments from board:*

Vice Chair Johnson reminded the board that a Superintendent evaluation should be done as soon as possible. Ms. Johnson added, that the school board should consider a date for the review and possibly consider contacting Don Anderson, if they thought it necessary.

Board Chair Bruns indicated that it would be put on the board study session agenda.

*Comments from visitors:*

Mrs. Lynn Johnson, parent of a former Cotton School student, asked that the board allow her son to return to school 43 days early. He was removed from the Cotton School and was attending at the Northland Learning Center. After seeing the conditions at the NLC, Mrs. Johnson is no longer sending him there. In Mrs. Johnson's opinion there is no ability for learning or structure and inappropriate behavior. Mrs. Johnson indicated that she understands that there are rules, but asked the school board make an exception for her son, due to the fact that at the present time, he is not receiving an education.

Discussion followed.

Board Chair Bruns **adjourned the regular school board meeting at 6:29 p.m. to enter into Closed Session for negotiation strategy.**

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Chairperson

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Clerk