

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006.

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

ABSENT:                      Krog

ALSO PRESENT:            Rick  
                                    Simonson  
                                    Cox

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, was held at AlBrook School, September 25, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) Mr. Rick reported that he has been at the Cherry and Babbitt-Embarrass Schools for the PTO / Community referendum meetings. His next scheduled meeting will be at the Cotton School on Tuesday, September 26, Orr School on Wednesday, September 27, Cook School Thursday, September 28 and AlBrook School on Wednesday, October 4, 2006. The superintendent stated, "That during his power point presentation he had good input and questions from the public." Mr. Rick asked the board to get the word out about the referendum and also indicated that the school website also has been set up for referendum information. The board minutes are presently posted on the website, with board agendas to be posted in the future. Discussion followed from the board; 2.) The superintendent stated that Kindergarten classes were too large at the Cherry and Tower-Soudan Schools given the needs of the students. The classes will be split and on the next board agenda.

Board chair Bruns indicated that we should be looking at all day everyday Kindergarten.

Superintendent report continued: 3.) There will be new enrollment figures at the end of this week. He explained that there has been a level of frustration with all the changes going on, some areas going well and some not going well; 4.) NWEA testing is moving forward.

Member B. Larson asked the superintendent, "If the board should be looking at anything specific at their next board study session."

Superintendent Rick replied, "Yes, in strategic planning."

Board chair Bruns stated, "Yes, we should move forward and not necessarily with a professional."

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: This is an extremely busy time of the year, especially in the area of transportation; 1.) The district is having problems with van transportation from the Cook School to the NLC; 2.) The Assistant Superintendent had a handout on the NWEA / MAPS testing in the AlBrook School from October 9 to October 24, 2006. The handout was generated by an AlBrook School teacher. Mr. Simonson is interested in the results of these tests and how they can be utilized; 3.) There have been Open Houses at all sites, with one coming up at the Orr School; 4.) Mr. Simonson will be moving ahead on a District-wide survey. The Assistant Superintendent would like the communities to look at the educational aspect of programs. A committee comprised of teachers and board members could look at curriculum in the area of language arts (K-12), and discuss the aspect of utilizing technology and integrating it into the program; 5.) Mr. Simonson stated that he would like to have a 15 minute presentation for the board, outlining the new grad rules; and 6.) Mr. Simonson displayed disappointment when stating that after taking the school survey for the "After School program" at the Cotton School, only three (3) students showed up for the program. The program will continue for 2 more weeks.

Board Chair Bruns directed Linda Cox, Superintendent's Secretary, to include Mr. Simonson with his new grad rules presentation, for the next board study session.

Principal Gary Friedlieb reported the following: Welcomed all board members to the AlBrook School. A special thank you to the AlBrook Academic boosters for all the goodies and preparation for the board meeting; 1.) There was an Open House on September 12, 2006 at the AlBrook School; 2.) Mr. Friedlieb introduced various teachers and staff in the audience for the meeting, with special mention of his new Site Secretary I, Marylou Schroeder; 2.) The AlBrook School is presently experiencing a shortage of staff for monitoring the noon hour. Mr. Friedlieb also reported facing new challenges with the reduction of Special Ed staff; 3.) The Albrook School presently has an enrollment of 387, compared to 382 in the spring of 2006; 4.) In the area of programming, AlBrook School is currently offering nine (9) concurrent enrollment courses; 5.) The principal spoke briefly about Online Learning. There are five (5) teachers trained in Online Learning. Mr. Friedlieb is currently working with Mr. Simonson and other committee members on an MOU for the teachers' contract. The

committee will bring their recommendation to the board upon completion; 6.) Finally Mr. Friedlieb thanked the board for splitting the 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes and to David Erickson for his assistance.

Board Chair Bruns asked if the district was able to currently do any classes through on-line learning.

Principal Friedlieb replied that we are still waiting for language in the contract concerning reimbursement.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Salmela to approve the consent agenda: September 11, 2006 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; *Policy:* Donations: 1.) \$110.00 from Lake Superior Center, DBA: The Great Lakes Aquarium for the AlBrook School; 2.) \$500.00 from the Tower Firemen's Relief Assn. for the Tower-Soudan School girls' basketball machine; 3.) \$578.60 from the Lions Club of Babbitt for the Babbitt-Embarrass School elementary starter kits; and 4.) \$7,000.00 grant funding from NE Minnesota Office of Job Training for the contraction of ramps at our schools; *Program:* Northland Foundation \$2,000. Grant for Indian Education for the 2006-2007 School Year; Permission for the Cherry School students to attend the Applefestival in Bayfield, WI on Sunday, October 8, 2006.

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

Superintendent Rick explained the Proposed 2006 Tax Levy. Mr. Rick indicated that this was the first step in the approval process for the maximum levy.

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Fowler to approve 2006 Payable 2007 Proposed Levy at maximum.

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

Board Chair Bruns brought up concern about the addition of baseball at the Cotton School for the 2007 spring season. Ms. Bruns indicated that each school has only one spring sport and that this did not fall into the same criteria. Ms. Bruns stated that she would like to table the addition of baseball at the Cotton School.

Board Member B. Larson stated that we have to follow the time factor.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Johnson to table the addition of baseball in the 2007 spring sports program at the Cotton School.

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Salmela to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship for Boys' Hockey with ISD # 706, Virginia School District for the 2006-2007 school year.

Board Chair Bruns asked the superintendent if we know of how many students are interested in participating.

Superintendent Rick replied, "2 or 3 students."

Discussion followed.

Board Chair Bruns asked if this was for all of the schools, or just for the Orr School.

Assistant Superintendent Simonson replied, "Just for the Orr School."

Discussion followed.

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

Tom Cundy, Director of Facilities and Grounds, spoke on the Cook School Project. Mr. Cundy told the board that he is recommending Lenci Enterprises, Inc., because they are 25% cheaper and the finish date is 20 days earlier.

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to award the Lenci Enterprises, Inc. the Cook School brick and exhaust air ductwork in the amount of \$47,000.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to award the quote for the maintenance tractor for the Orr School to Pokegama Lawn and Sports, in the amount of \$13,184.55.

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

Against-None

Board Chair Bruns stated that she felt deep regret that Marie Rinta was leaving as business manager at the district office.

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Johnson to accept Marie Rinta's letter of resignation as business manager, effective September 29, 2006.

Board Member B. Larson asked if there was anything we could have done differently, to have prevented this resignation.

Superintendent Rick replied, "This was a personal decision."

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Fowler to offer Tina Lundberg a 1.0 FTE probationary teaching contract for the 2006-2007 school year, effective September 12, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to accept Joani Bergstrom's letter of resignation as ITV teaching assistant, effective September 18, 2006.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to accept Cynthia Paakkonen's letter of resignation as teacher aide, effective September 14, 2006.

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Johnson to accept Nancy Merrill Strong's letter of resignation as Indian Education Coordinator, effective September 2, 2006.

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by B. Larson to accept Terry Saver's letter of resignation as custodian, effective August 28, 2006.

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Johnson to accept Cora Johnston's letter of resignation as instructional aide, effective the 2006-2007 school year.

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by B. Larson to approve Paula Lanhardt as teacher aide, non-bargaining unit, 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 5, 2006, for the 2006-2007 school year.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Fowler to approve Joani Bergstrom as instructional aide, bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, 3 days per week, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays, effective September 19, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by Johnson and Seconded by B. Larson to approve David Dutton as ITV teaching assistant, bargaining unit, 2 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 13, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Salmela to approve Mindy Adkins as teacher aide, non-bargaining unit, 1.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 5, 2006, for the 2006-2007 school year.

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Salmela to approve Doreen Loos as teacher aide, non-bargaining unit, 2 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 13, 2006, for the 2006-2007 school year.

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by B. Larson to approve Terry Saver as custodian, bargaining unit, 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective August 28, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD #2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Fowler to approve Paul Stepan as bus driver, bargaining unit, not to exceed full time equivalency for this position, effective September 25, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD 2142 and Operating Engineers Local #70.

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Salmela to accept Jill Hietala's letter of resignation as teacher, effective September 18, 2006.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to recall Tammy Bjorge to a .2 FTE tenured teaching contract for the 2006-2007 school year, effective September 13, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD #2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by A. Larson to recall Mary Castellini to a .2 FTE tenured teaching contract for the 2006-2007 school year, effective September 13, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD #2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Salmela to recall Ron Demianuik to a .2 FTE tenured teaching contract for the 2006-2007 school year, effective September 25, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD #2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Salmela to recall Candace Babich to a .2 FTE tenured teaching contract for the 2006-2007 school year, effective September 25, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD #2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Fowler to recall Angela Koski to a .5 FTE tenured teaching contract for the 2006-2007 school year, effective September 18, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD #2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Comments from the board:

Board Member B. Larson recommended putting educational ads in the Duluth News Tribune.

Board Member Salmela thanked the AIBrook Academic Boosters for the goodies and also Mr. Friedlieb for his presentation.

Board Member Fowler also thanked the AIBrook Academic Boosters and Mr. Friedlieb. Mr. Fowler indicated that he was glad to see the grade splits because of the need to educate students.

Board Chair Bruns expressed the board's need for a monthly financial update at the board meetings.

Board Chair Bruns scheduled a Board Study Session for Monday, October 9, 2006, at the Babbitt-Embarrass School, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Comments from visitors:

Teacher Union President, Kathy Wiegert explained to the board that there is a lot of frustration with the teachers. Ms. Wiegert also thanked the board for granting permission to the Cherry School band to participate in their annual Applefest parade. Ms. Wiegert also invited the school board to participate in the first annual Golf Memorial Scramble in memory of Meric-Vance (Rick) Neuenfeldt, which will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2006. The event will raise money for a scholarship, which will be awarded to a St. Louis County School graduate. The people involved in the event hope to continue this golf scramble every year.

Board Chair Bruns closed the regular school board meeting at 6:25 p.m., and after a short recess, entered into closed session to discuss negotiations strategy.