

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007.

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PRESENT: Bjerklie  
Bruns  
Fowler  
A. Larson  
B. Larson  
Salmela

ABSENT: Krog

ALSO PRESENT: Rick  
Simonson  
Johnson  
Cox

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, was held at the Tower-Soudan School on Monday, **April 23, 2007**, at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by B. Larson to **approve the agenda**.

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) The Strategic Planning process is nearly complete. Sherry Johnson, Media Generalist at the Cook School is making a presentation on power point for the PTO / Community meetings, which have been scheduled. At these meetings Dr. Rick will be speaking on the Strategic Planning draft, survey results, and school finances. Dr. Rick will be welcoming un-submitted surveys; 2.) Last Thursday, April 19, 2007 the Administrators met to discuss emergency planning with Undersheriff David Phillip, Emergency Management Coordinator Paul Lee and Emergency Services Manager Scott Kapps. They expressed that St. Louis County would like to participate with the schools in emergency planning. School protective measures and Homeland Security were also discussed. The Schools have received radios, for local weather reports. Instant Alert through Honeywell will also help in future emergency situations. In addition, security cameras are being considered. It was concluded that the Crisis Management policy will be reviewed annually; 3.) Both the Senate and House are putting together a K-12 education bill; 4.) Special Ed billing was examined by Business Manager Kim Johnson and Mel Hedja. They found errors in the billing process and informed the Department of Education. The Department of Education agreed that their process needed to be revised and introduced a bill in the legislature to make the necessary correction; 5.) The State discrepancy report came back with no errors this year; 6.) The superintendent reported that is the district holds a referendum this fall we will be able to hold the elections at the schools.

Linda Cox, Superintendent's Secretary reported that the 2006 Referendum was held at a cost of \$21,889.22.

Finally the Superintendent reported that he met with the Cotton School teachers last week and will be talking with the Cherry School teachers on Wednesday.

Board member Salmela commented that the U. S. Secret Service researched into school instances. They came up with the following conclusions: 1. Shooters are usually victims of bullying; 2. Shooters are often products of dysfunctional families; 3. Shooters consistently plan their attack way in advance; and Shooters often discuss their intentions with other persons.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: 1.) A battery of testing is presently being administered to sophomores, juniors and seniors; 2.) The results of the MCA's were given to the board at the last board study session; 3.) There will be a meeting with all the head cooks to discuss the State's Food Service Review. There were no significant problems notes in the report; 4.) At all of our sites, programs on bullying have to be implemented at an early age to students and parents.

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Bjerklie to **approve the consent agenda**: April 9, 2007 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; April 16, 2007 Special School Board Meeting Minutes;

Policy: Donations: 1.) \$1,043.46 from Target "Take Charge of Education" School Fundraising program, for the Cook School; 2. \$130.65 from Target "Take Charge of Education" School Fundraising program, for the AlBrook School;  
3. \$325.00 from Minnesota Forest Industries, Inc. of Duluth, for the AlBrook School; and  
4. \$50.00 gift card from School Mall of Murfreesboro, TN for the Cherry School.

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

Dean of Students Scott Chiabotti reported the following: 1.) Tower-Soudan students are involved in a G.R.E.A.T. Program, which addresses bullying. 5th-8<sup>th</sup> graders meet once a week for (12) weeks, which is provided by the Bois Forte Police Department; 2.) The U of M is providing a health and wellness class for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. Eligibility is determined by free/reduced numbers, which meets once a week for (6) weeks; 3.) Tower students participated in the "I Love to Read Month" in February. K-6 grade students read a total of 2,749 books; 4.) Students participated in the "Hats-off to Diabetes" fundraiser. Monies raised go for the Iron Range Juvenile Diabetes Research fund; 5.) Last week, there was a 6-12 grade assembly for a program entitled "Pulse Outreach Program" which was presented by East Range Alive. The message of the program was about making positive life choices; 6.) Custodians have started painting in areas of the building. There will be extensive painting done over the course of the summer; 7.) MCA II testing begins tomorrow; 8.) Academic & Athletic Awards program will be on May 9, at 1:00 p.m.

Member Salmela introduced the following resolution and moved as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO EXPEL STUDENT "X8-07" FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR AND  
THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, there is substantial evidence that student "X8-07" committed a serious and flagrant violation of school district policy and state law: Possessing numerous knives, with the expressed intent to sell the knives, on school grounds and school locations; and,

**WHEREAS**, student "X8-07" and his mother and natural guardian have signed and executed a *Waiver of Right to Hearing and Consent to Expulsion* for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year and the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the school board of Independent School District No. 2142, that student "X8-07" be expelled for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year and the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Fowler and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Bjerklie, Bruns, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela, and Fowler.

Absent: Krog

and the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Superintendent Rick commented on the Indoor Air Quality Projects. Dr. Rick indicated that these projects at the Cotton and Orr Schools were put on hold last year. State funding is also available through Health and Safety and the cost for these projects came in 2/3 less than originally estimated.

Tom Cundy, Director of Facility and Grounds, spoke to the board and indicated that the cost came in under budget for both buildings. It will be a great improvement to the buildings and it is mandated by the state. Mr. Cundy continued with details and finally indicated that the original estimate was \$300,000, which now has changed to \$100,000.

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Bjerklie to **grant permission to the Superintendent to get bids for the Indoor Air Quality projects at the Cotton and Orr Schools.**

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **grant permission to the Superintendent to receive bids on the AIBrook School re-roofing project.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **approve Campus Food Service for the 2007-2008 school year and costs related to the service.**

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by B. Larson to **approve the renewal of the MSHSL membership for the 2007-2008 school year.**

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by B. Larson to **grant permission to the Superintendent to receive quotes for 2007 summer work.**

Board member Salmela asked if there was architect work involved in any of these projects.

Superintendent Rick replied that there was for the Tower-Soudan School project.

Discussion followed.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Fowler to **approve the Honeywell Instant Alert system for the cost of \$7,300.00.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Bjerklie to **approve the Superintendent's contract as follows: \$3,000 Performance pay for 2005-2006; \$103,000. plus 3% for 2006-2007; 3% increase for 2007-2008 and \$2,000. 403b match for each of the three (3) school years.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **accept Katie Scheuring's letter of resignation as instructional aide, effective March 31, 2007.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Bjerklie to **hire Kimberly Brunner as a cook aide I, bargaining unit, 4.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective April 23, 2007, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.**

Yes- Bjerklie, Bruns, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela

Against-None  
Absent- Krog

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **hire Don Fremling as the Assistant boys / girls track coach for the 2006-2007 spring season**, and dependent upon appropriate levels of high school (grades 9-12) participation.

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

Comments from the board:

Board member Bjerklie acknowledged the Cherry School Knowledge Bowl for placing 7<sup>th</sup> at the State competition.

Board chair Bruns welcomed Board member Fowler back.

Board member B. Larson commended people that have looked for ways to save money and asked the district to put an emphasis on elementary reading as a high priority.

Comments from visitors:

A newly formed Tower organization, Eagle Pride, spoke to the school board addressing concerns and projects that they are involved in. The spokespersons were Corky Eloranta, Marshall Helmburger and Joan Broten. Items addressed by the group were:

1. Endorsing a new referendum this fall;
2. Establishing a full time principal onsite at the Tower School;
3. New shared facilities for the Tower School, exploring a multi-use building;
4. Utilizing the unique resources in the area, such as the underground science laboratory in Soudan;
5. Revised multi-age teaching classrooms; and
6. A new Science lab at the Tower-Soudan School.

Discussion followed.

Business Manager, Kim Johnson informed the school board that the district office is revamping their office procedures to go paperless in the coming months. She praised the school board for leading the way by having their agendas e-mailed to them instead mailed. She emphasized the cost savings in time and postage.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Clerk