

THE REORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007.

---

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

ALSO PRESENT:              Rick  
   Simonson  
   Johnson  
   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 8, 2007**, at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Charles Rick said the first order of business was to approve the agenda. Dr. Rick removed Enc. 9.37 Resolution for Structural Balance for 05-08 Clerical Contract, since it was already acted upon, and also removed Enc. 9.391b hiring a vocal music teacher for the AlBrook School. Dr. Rick asked if there were any more changes and indicated that since there were no more changes the amended agenda was approved.

The election of officers for the 2007 calendar year followed. Superintendent Charles Rick asked for nominations for Chairperson of the school board.

Member B. Larson 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 Larry Salmela for Vice Chairperson. Member A. Larson seconded the nomination of Larry Salmela for Vice Chairperson. Superintendent Rick asked twice for nominations for Vice Chairperson and there were none.

**Larry Salmela was declared the Vice Chairperson** by unanimous vote.

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

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

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

Superintendent continued with the nominations and asked for nominations for the Office of Treasurer.

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

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





**\$250.00** from the **Tower-Soudan Athletic Association** for the **Tower-Soudan** School girls' basketball program; 2. **\$500.00** from the **Tower-Soudan Lion's Club** for the **Tower-Soudan** School Youth Development program; 3.) **\$506.93** from **Enstrom Studio, Inc.** for the **Cotton** School; 4.) **\$150.00** from **B.I.C. Realty** for the **Cook** School Class of 2008; 5.) **\$100.00** from **Mary and Richard Worringer** for the **Tower-Soudan** School girls' basketball program; 6.) **\$100.00** from **Stephen M. Abrahamson** for the **Tower-Soudan** School girls' basketball program; 7.) **\$600.00** from **Tower-Soudan Joint Powers** for the **Tower-Soudan** School Youth Development program; 8.) **\$3,000.00** from the **Northland Foundation** for the **District**; 9.) **\$637.16** from **Tower-Soudan Student Activity Fund** for the **Tower-Soudan** School shooting machine fund; 10.) **\$500.00** from **Saturday Night Country . . . Live!** for the **Tower-Soudan** School music program; 11.) **\$338.49** from **Enstrom Studio, Inc.** for the **Tower-Soudan** School; 12. **\$1,250.00** from **Tower-Soudan Joint Powers** for the **Tower-Soudan** School Basketball shooting machine fund; and 13.) **\$1,000.00** from **Mark's Country Market, Mark and Karen Shermer** for the **Cook** School Youth Development youth center. Policy: Enc. 8.23 **Permission to Travel out of state** for the girls hockey team (**Babbitt-Embarrass/Ely**) to travel to Webster, Wisconsin for a hockey game on Saturday, January 20, 2007.

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

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Krog to **approve salaries and other compensations for 2007.**

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

**Appointments made by Chairperson Bruns on January 8, 2007:**

Continuing Education	Andrew Larson
Staff Development	Bob Larson

THE REORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007.

---

Human Rights Officer (s)	Larry Salmela Roland Fowler Arrlette Krog
MSHSL Board Representative Legislative Liaison (Alternate)	Darrell Bjerklie Roland Fowler Zelda Bruns
Board Representation for Negotiations of the 05-07 Contracts:	
Teachers -	Larry Salmela Zelda Bruns
Teamsters – (Aides, Food Service, Clerical, Health Services (COTA))	Arrlette Krog Larry Salmela
Operating Engineers – (Custodians, Bus Drivers)	Bob Larson Roland Fowler
Principals -	Andrew Larson Roland Fowler
Non-bargaining Unit Employees -	Darrell Bjerklie Zelda Bruns

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Salmela to **recognize Colosimo, Patchin, Aronson, Kearney & Brunfelt, Ltd. Law Firm as legal counsel for ISD # 2142 for 2007.**

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **award legal publishing to the Cook News-Herald for 2007.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Krog to **recognize Walker, Giroux & Hahne, Ltd. for the school district's audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 and that the district will retain Walker, Giroux & Hahne, Ltd. for a period of three (3) years.**

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

Superintendent Rick thanked auditor Greg Knutson for his help during the district's audit and introduced Mr. Knutson as next speaker.

Greg Knutson gave a brief comment on the district's audit and the highlights of the audit. In 2002-03 the district broke even; 2003-04 the district had a \$950,000 loss in fund balance; 2004-05 the district had a 2.4 million loss in fund balance; 2005-06 there was a \$768,000 loss in fund balance and in 2006-2007 the estimated budget shows a \$376,000 increase in fund balance. Mr. Knutson indicated that the district is showing positive improvement and is moving in the right direction.

Board member Salmela asked Mr. Knutson how he would measure separation of duties.

Mr. Knutson explained that there were no issues with the data; however, since the district doesn't not have enough staff there could be the potential for a problem. The control function is presently in place.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Krog to **approve the account authorized personnel from former Business Manager, Marie Rinta to present Business Manager, Kimberly Johnson.**

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

Against-None

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to **approve Enstrom Studio, Inc. as the official portrait photographer and yearbook publisher for the AIBrook School for the 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years.**

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

Against-None

Superintendent Rick commented on the Online Learning pilot program. Mr. Rick indicated that this program would allow all district seniors to recover credits needed for graduation.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Fowler to **approve the 2006-2007 Online Learning courses.**

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

Against-None

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to **accept Gary Fredrickson's letter of resignation as van driver, effective December 1, 2006.**

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

Against-None

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **accept John Bartovich's letter of intent to retire / resignation as teacher, effective the last work day of the 2007-2008 school year.**

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

Against-None

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Krog to **accept Margaret A. Cherne's letter of resignation as a .3 FTE music teacher, effective December 15, 2006.**

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

Against-None

Motion by Krog and seconded by Bjerklie to **hire Jahna Hardy as instructional aide, bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective December 18, 2006, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.**

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

Against-None

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **hire Michelle Cheney as teacher aide, non-bargaining unit, 2.5 hours per day, 3 days per week, effective October 2, 2006.**

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

Against-None

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Fowler to **hire Jeanette Baasi as instructional aide, non-bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, 1 day per week, effective September 6, 2006.**

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by B. Larson to **hire Deneen Gunderson as teacher aide, non-bargaining unit, 2.0 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective January 3, 2007.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Bjerklie to **hire Katie Scheuring, as instructional aide, non-bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, 1 day per week, effective December 15, 2006.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Bjerklie to **hire Carrie Erickson, as instructional aide, non-bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, 1 day per week, effective December 1, 2006.**

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Krog to **approve leave of absence for John Villebrun as Indian Home School Liaison, from January 3, 2007 to March 30, 2007.**

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

Motion by Krog and seconded by Bjerklie to **approve leave of absence for Terry Saver as custodian, from July 24, 2006 to January 24, 2007.**

Member Krog asked why this was done now.

Superintendent Rick replied that there have been extenuating circumstances involved in the leave.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Krog to **approve the 2006-2008 Food Service Contract.**

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

Board Member Krog introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

#### **RESOLUTION FOR STRUCTURAL BALANCE**

**WHEREAS**, School District No. 2142 has a tentative agreement with the Teamsters Local #346, Teacher Aides Unit on a contract covering July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes 123B.749 (2003) requires a Board of Education to determine that any collective bargaining agreement does not cause structural imbalance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the School Board reviewed the budget impact of this agreement taking into account current state aid formulas and reasonable and comprehensive projections of ongoing revenues and expenditures for the period of agreement as contained in report forms; and,

**WHEREAS**, the attached calculations as contained in the report forms fulfill the disclosure and reporting requirements of said statute;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the School Board of ISD No. 2142 determines that the tentative agreement with the Teamsters Local #346, Teacher Aides Unit, does not cause structural imbalance of the School District's budget during the period of the agreement.

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Board Member Salmela and upon vote being taken thereon, the following members voted in favor thereof: Bjerklie, Bruns, Fowler, Krog, A. Larson, B. Larson, and Salmela. And the following members voted against the same:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

---

Clerk

Board Member Fowler introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION FOR STRUCTURAL BALANCE**

**WHEREAS**, School District No. 2142 has a tentative agreement with the Teamsters Local #346, COTA Unit on a contract covering July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes 123B.749 (2003) requires a Board of Education to determine that any collective bargaining agreement does not cause structural imbalance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the School Board reviewed the budget impact of this agreement taking into account current state aid formulas and reasonable and comprehensive projections of ongoing revenues and expenditures for the period of agreement as contained in report forms; and,

**WHEREAS**, the attached calculations as contained in the report forms fulfill the disclosure and reporting requirements of said statute;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the School Board of ISD No. 2142 determines that the tentative agreement with the Teamsters Local #346, COTA Unit, does not cause structural imbalance of the School District's budget during the period of the agreement.

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Board Member B. Larson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following members voted in favor thereof: Bjerklie, Bruns, Fowler, Krog, A. Larson, B. Larson, and Salmela. And the following members voted against the same: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

---

Clerk

Board Member Fowler introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION FOR STRUCTURAL BALANCE**

**WHEREAS**, School District No. 2142 has a tentative agreement with the Teamsters Local #346, Food Service Unit on a contract covering July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes 123B.749 (2003) requires a Board of Education to determine that any collective bargaining agreement does not cause structural imbalance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the School Board reviewed the budget impact of this agreement taking into account current state aid formulas and reasonable and comprehensive projections of ongoing revenues and expenditures for the period of agreement as contained in report forms; and,

**WHEREAS**, the attached calculations as contained in the report forms fulfill the disclosure and reporting requirements of said statute;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the School Board of ISD No. 2142 determines that the tentative agreement with the Teamsters Local #346, Food Service Unit, does not cause structural imbalance of the School District's budget during the period of the agreement.

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Board Member B. Larson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following members voted in favor thereof: Bjerklie, Bruns, Fowler, Krog, A. Larson, B. Larson, and Salmela.  
And the following members voted against the same: None  
Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

---

Clerk

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **offer Patrick M. Rossini a .1 FTE probationary teaching contract for the 2006-2007 school year, effective January 3, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Mr. Kerry Bidle, Special Ed teacher addressed the school board in regards to his 3 to 5 year leave of absence request. Mr. Bidle indicated that he has been with the district 26 years but that this was a chance that he couldn't pass up. His children go to the Virginia School and he accepted a position with the Virginia School District. He respectfully asked that he be granted a 3 to 5 year leave of absence.

Greg Miller, Ed MN representative spoke to the board about State Statute, 122A.46, Subd. 2, concerning Extended Leaves of Absences. Mr. Miller indicated that district's are obligated to grant the leave and that under reasonable justification, Mr. Bidle meets all the requirements to be granted a leave of absence.

Superintendent Rick responded and indicated that he was not questioning Mr. Bidle's professionalism; it was simply that this leave of absence request was not in the best interest of the district. Dr. Rick maintained his recommendation to deny Mr. Bidle's request for a leave of absence.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Salmela to **deny teacher, Kerry Bidle's request for a leave of absence**.

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

Mr. Bidle stated that he regretted the denial of the leave of absence, but that he had written a letter of resignation which he was presenting the board to be effective January 12, 2007.

Mr. Greg Miller stated for the record that Mr. Bidle's resignation would be pending if the union decided to proceed with the appeal process. If the union would win the appeal Mr. Bidle's resignation would be null and void.

Board Chair Bruns indicated that the board could not add Mr. Bidle's resignation to the agenda, since the agenda had already been approved. The district would schedule Mr. Bidle's resignation to be on the January 22, 2007 school board agenda.

Comments from the board:

Board member Salmela stated that he was saddened at the loss of an Orr School student. Mr. Salmela also stated that he is cognizant of student violence in the nation. We as a district must keep a careful watch over our students.

Board member Fowler acknowledged all the donations given to the district and the donators that have the students at heart.

THE REORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007.

---

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

---

Chairperson

---

Clerk