

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

ABSENT:                    Bjerklie

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 Babbitt-Embarrass School on Monday, **May 21, 2007**, at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) The Superintendent has given the Strategic Planning presentation to teachers at all sites. The people in attendance at the meetings thought that the plan looks good and gives the district direction. The Strategic Plan will be on the next agenda. Dr. Rick thanked those that participated; 2.) The Superintendent spoke about reading as a high priority for the district. There is a high emphasis on reading which will continue into the Fall; 3.) Graduations this week will be: Cotton / Orr on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.; AlBrook, Cherry, Tower-Soudan and Babbitt-Embarrass on Friday, May 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., with the exception of Babbitt-Embarrass starting at 7:30 p.m. and Cook on Saturday, May 26, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. The Superintendent will be attending Cotton, Babbitt-Embarrass and Cook graduations. Congratulations to all of the 2007 graduates; 4.) There are end of year activities at all the sites; 5.) On the K-12 Education Bill the legislature is working towards a compromise today; 6.) The Superintendent and Board Member Andy Larson visited the Soudan mine with hopes of having the school utilize the lab; 7.) Eagle Pride Committee is working with the City of Tower for a combined facility at the Tower-Soudan site; 8.) And the Superintendent has looked at the Tower-Soudan Science room to check the facility. There will be a cost of between \$120,000 to 140,000 to update the room.

Board member B. Larson indicated that as a board they should have a formal way of monitoring the Strategic Plan.

Board Chair Bruns agreed with Mr. Larson.

Board member B. Larson spoke on Reading as a high priority.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: 1.) Testing is still going on in the district. Mr. Simonson attended a Network for State Success meeting in Proctor. It was reported that there are high numbers of students that enter college that need to take remedial math; 2.) Mr. Simonson also attended a statewide testing meeting last week. They are struggling with online testing and indicated that there won't be online testing by 2009. In addition, the Federal government did not approve Minnesota testing because special needs students were not included with regular student testing.

Board member B. Larson asked if anything will change next fall.

Assistant Superintendent Simonson responded that teachers will have to use the testing results to guide their teaching. By using these test results teachers will have to accelerate or use special need

methods, according to the individual student needs; 3.) Mr. Simonson reported that there will be mapping of curriculum.

Superintendent Charles Rick gave a brief report for Principal Reznicek, who was absent due to illness. 1.) Babbitt-Embarrass held it's annual Awards Day last week. They recognized sports and activities for seniors including those who were awarded scholarships. One of their seniors received approximately \$30,000 in total scholarships; 2.) Elementary Awards Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2007; 3.) Graduation is Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Krog and seconded by B. Larson to **approve the consent agenda:** May 7, 2007 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; Policy: Donations: ***The following items were donated to the District Office's ongoing maintenance of their landscaping project:*** 1.) 3 X 9 Entryway Carpet valued at \$20.85 from Range Carpet, Virginia; 2.) \$14.00 cash donation for gardening supplies from Kim Johnson, Business Manager, Tower; 3.) \$50.00 gift card from Walmart, Hibbing; 4.) Twenty (20) Siberian Crabapple bushes, twenty (20) Schubert Chokecherry bushes and twenty (20) common lilacs for a total value of \$180.00 from North St. Louis SWCD, Virginia; 5.) \$400.00 from Kemps Nickels for Schools for the Cotton School; 6.) .20 from General Mills Box Tops for Education for the Tower-Soudan School.

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

Board Chair Bruns asked Tom Cundy, Director of Facilities and Grounds to comment on the IAQ project bids.

Mr. Cundy indicated that he was recommending the lowest bids for the IAQ projects. He indicated that the alternate bids were given to change and protect the existing registers.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Krog to **award the IAQ improvement project bid for the Cotton School to Thelen Heating & Roofing of Brainerd for the amount of base bid A, \$118,000 and alternate A-1, \$6,000.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Larson to **award the IAQ improvement project bid for the Orr School to Thelen Heating & Roofing of Brainerd for the amount of base bid A, \$152,000 and alternate B-1, \$12,000.**

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Salmela to **award bid for replacement of exterior gym doors at the AlBrook School to Ray Riihiluoma, Inc. for the amount of \$22,980.00.**

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Salmela to **award bid for gym light replacement at the AlBrook School to LMS for the amount of \$6,732.00.**

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

Motion by Krog and seconded by Fowler to **award bid for gym light replacement at the Cotton School to LMS for the amount of \$3,366.00.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **award bid for gym light replacement at the Cherry School to LMS for the amount of \$5,610.00.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **award bid for ceiling tile replacement at the Orr School to W. A. Schaefer & Son, Inc. for the amount of \$4,032.00.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **award bid for asbestos tile removal at the Cook School to EBN Contractors for the amount of \$3,950.00.**

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Salmela to **rescind resolution adopted on May 7, 2007, placing Gail Esala on ULA to the extent of .10 FTE, as an ECFE teacher for the 2007-2008 school year.**

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

Member Salmela introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION  
AND NON-RENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT  
OF GAIL ESALA  
A PROBATIONARY TEACHER**

**WHEREAS**, Gail Esala is a probationary ECSE teacher in Independent School District No. 2142,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2142, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 5, that the teaching contract of Gail Esala, a probationary ECSE teacher in Independent School District No. 2142, is hereby terminated at the close of the current 2006-2007 school year, to the extent of .10 FTE.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that written notice be sent to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal of his/her contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE OF TERMINATION  
AND NON-RENEWAL**

May 22, 2007

Ms. Gail Esala  
6505 Wahsten Road  
Tower, MN 55790

Dear Ms. Esala:

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 2142, held on May 21, 2007, a resolution was adopted by a majority roll call vote to

terminate your contract effective at the end of the current school year and not to renew your contract for the 2007-2008 school year, to the extent of .10 FTE. Said action of the board is taken pursuant to M. S. 122A.40, Subd. 5.

You may officially request that the school board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract.

Sincerely,

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Clerk of the School Board

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: Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Krog, Salmela, Bruns.

Absent: Bjerklie

The following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to accept Carol M. Techar's letter of intent to retire / resignation, as Title I teacher, effective May 31, 2007.

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

Against-None

Absent- Bjerklie

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Fowler to accept Jane Potter's letter of Intent to retire / resignation, as elementary teacher, effective the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

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

Against-None

Absent- Bjerklie

Member B. Larson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION PLACING HAZEL APPLEBY  
ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Independent School District No. 2142 adopted a resolution proposing placement of Hazel Appleby on unrequested leave of absence on April 9, 2007, on the grounds of discontinuance of position, lack of pupils and financial limitations, and

**WHEREAS**, said written notice of the proposed placement on unrequested leave was received by Hazel Appleby by certified mail on April 10, 2007,

**WHEREAS**, said written notice of the proposed placement on unrequested leave contained a statement setting forth the reasons for the proposed placement as well as a statement that she was entitled to a hearing before the school board provided she make a request in writing within fourteen days of receipt of said notice, and that if no hearing was requested with said fourteen day period it constituted acquiescence by Hazel Appleby to the school board's proposed action, and

**WHEREAS**, no written request of any kind was received by the school board or superintendent of schools from Hazel Appleby for a hearing as of April 24, 2007, and

**WHEREAS**, said failure to make written request for a hearing within fourteen days after receipt of notice of proposed placement on unrequested leave constitutes acquiescence by Hazel Appleby to her placement on unrequested leave of absence,

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2142 that Independent School District No. 2142 on the grounds of discontinuance of position, lack of pupils and financial limitations, effective at the end of the 2006-2007 school year on June 30, 2007 pursuant

to Minnesota Statutes, Sec. 122A.15, Subd. 10, and Article XXIX, Section 4 of the current Master Agreement between ISD 2142 and EDMNSLCT, without pay or fringe benefits.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a notice of placement on unrequested leave, together with a copy of the resolution be forwarded to said Title I teacher personally and that an affidavit of same be placed in her file, together with a copy of the notice and resolution.

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

Absent: Bjerklie

And the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Member Fowler introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION PLACING AMY NELSON  
ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Independent School District No. 2142 adopted a resolution proposing placement of Amy Nelson on unrequested leave of absence on April 9, 2007, on the grounds of discontinuance of position, lack of pupils and financial limitations, and

**WHEREAS**, said written notice of the proposed placement on unrequested leave was received by Amy Nelson by certified mail on April 10, 2007,

**WHEREAS**, said written notice of the proposed placement on unrequested leave contained a statement setting forth the reasons for the proposed placement as well as a statement that she was entitled to a hearing before the school board provided she make a request in writing within fourteen days of receipt of said notice, and that if no hearing was requested with said fourteen day period it constituted acquiescence by Amy Nelson to the school board's proposed action, and

**WHEREAS**, no written request of any kind was received by the school board or superintendent of schools from Amy Nelson for a hearing as of April 24, 2007, and

**WHEREAS**, said failure to make written request for a hearing within fourteen days after receipt of notice of proposed placement on unrequested leave constitutes acquiescence by Amy Nelson to her placement on unrequested leave of absence,

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2142 that Independent School District No. 2142 on the grounds of discontinuance of position, lack of pupils and financial limitations, effective at the end of the 2006-2007 school year on June 30, 2007 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sec. 122A.15, Subd. 10, and Article XXIX, Section 4 of the current Master Agreement between ISD 2142 and EDMNSLCT, without pay or fringe benefits.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a notice of placement on unrequested leave, together with a copy of the resolution be forwarded to said Title I teacher personally and that an affidavit of same be placed in her file, together with a copy of the notice and resolution.

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

Absent: Bjerklie

And the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Krog and seconded by Salmela to **recall Laura Kowarsch as a tenured Title I teacher for the 2007-2008 school year, to the extent of ½ hour per day, effective August 29, 2007**, with terms and conditions of recall to employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD 2142 and EDMNSLCT.

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

Against-None  
Absent- Bjerklie

Motion by Fowler and seconded by B. Larson to **recall Deb Tikkanen as a tenured Title I teacher for the 2007-2008 school year, to the extent of 4 hours per day, effective August 29, 2007,** with terms and conditions of recall to employment in accord with Master Agreement between ISD 2142 and EDMNSLCT.

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

Comments from the board:

Board member Salmela congratulated all the district-wide 2007 graduates and also commented on how competitive and successful our students are. Mr. Salmela indicated that he was glad to see all the concerned parents at the meeting.

Board Chair Bruns commented that we have many students that are very successful. Ms. Bruns spoke about an individual case where an Orr graduate became a transplant surgeon.

Board member Fowler said that he was glad to see all the Embarrass parents at the meeting.

Board Chair Bruns scheduled a board study session for Monday, June 11, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office. Ms. Bruns also indicated that the board meetings would be back at the District Office and would be held at their regular time of 5:00 p.m.

Comments from visitors:

Lisa Myers, Babbitt-Embarrass parent spoke to the board in favor of splitting the 5/6 grade, due to the amount of students in the classroom and percentage of special needs students. Ms. Myers read class scores and statistics of the class from material that was distributed to the board.

Andrea Zupancich, Babbitt-Embarrass parent also supported splitting the class. Ms. Zupancich indicated that parents of these students, are looking at sending their children and their siblings to either Mesabi East or Ely of something isn't done.

Board Chair Bruns responded that this will be a topic of discussion at the board study session.

Discussion followed.

Superintendent Rick said that he has been looking at this class and the board will receive a recommendation, however, splitting a class isn't always the answer.

Assistant Superintendent Simonson said that he appreciated the parents and the manner in which they conducted themselves.

Discussion followed.

The board meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Clerk