

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bjerklie
Foster
Fowler
A. Larson
Fowler
B. Larson
Salmela

ABSENT: Bruns

ALSO PRESENT: Rick
Simonson
Cox
Johnson

The regular 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, **October 22, 2007** at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Foster and seconded by B. Larson to approve agenda.

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) The Superintendent is trying to schedule a meeting for the Strategic Planning committee to meet. The first date available is Monday, December 3, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.; 2.) There will be public referendum meetings this week, October 23, 2007 at the Cook School and October 25, 2007 at the AlBrook School; 3.) On Tuesday, October 16, 2007 there was a public referendum meeting at the Cherry School with Cherry board member in attendance via speaker phone. The Mesabi Daily News was present and published an article in the Sunday, October 21st edition. The superintendent is working on the referendum and answering a lot of questions. The district office has had requests for approximately 100 absentee ballots; 4.) Teamsters negotiations for COTA were held on October 11th and are scheduled to meet again; 5.) Teachers negotiations will be Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 4:00 pm; 6.) A time needs to be scheduled for the Board Study Session on November 12, 2007; 7.) Congratulations to all of the fall sports teams; 8.) AYP meeting has met and will meet again on Friday; and 8.) On November 15, 2007 the superintendent will attend an ALI meeting in Anoka in connection with the Applies Learning Initiative.

Business Manager Kim Johnson reported the following: 1.) The auditors are doing the audit and it is going well; 2.) Enrollment numbers of students are presently 2,124. The number of students at the end of the 2006-07 school year was 2,165, so we have a decrease of students.

Discussion followed.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: 1.) The Assistant Superintendent has been meeting with Title One teachers at all sites. There will be a meeting on October 23, 2007 at the Tower-Soudan School and also a meeting at the Babbitt-Embarrass School on Wednesday, even though there is no Title One program; 2.) There will be a 2nd meeting on Friday for District improvement planning. The focus will be a review of data to identify areas of efficiency and student performance; 3.) Last Wednesday Mr. Simonson attended a meeting for NWEA/MAP advanced training in Inver Grove Heights, MN. The District is exploring training for new teachers where teachers will go online and learn the basics.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Bjerklie to approve the **consent agenda: October 8, 2007 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**; Policy: 5.21 **Donations**: 1.) A used clarinet, valued at \$225.00, from Larry and Vicky Salmela for the Orr School music program; 2.) A used flute and music

stand, valued at \$105.00, from the Sisu Tori / Embarrass Regional Volunteer Fire Department / Embarrass Fair Board for the Orr School music program; 3.) A used trombone, valued at \$50.00, from Tony Klune of Hibbing, MN for the Cherry School music program; 4.) \$3,070.00 from the following organizations for Early Childhood Scholarships at the Cook School: \$300.00 from Hill Wood Products, Inc; \$1,000.00 from the Cook Lions Club; \$300.00 from the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club; \$250.00 from the Cook Fireman's Relief Association; and \$500.00 from the Cook VFW Post 1757.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by B. Larson to **approve that student X6-07 be allowed to return to school on Monday, November 5, 2007.**

Board member A. Larson asked if the student has progressed enough to be allowed to return to school.

Board member Salmela indicated that there is always some risk involved by granting the early return, however, in this case the student will benefit by returning to school early with conditions. Mr. Salmela recommended that this motion be approved.

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **grant permission for the Babbitt-Embarrass / Tower-Soudan / Ely girls' hockey team to participate in a game at Fort Francis, Canada on Friday, December 14, 2007.**

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by B. Larson to **grant permission for the Cook School Honors Choir to attend UWS Chorifest North at UWS, Superior, WI on Friday, November 2, 2007.**

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **grant permission for the Babbitt-Embarrass School Honors Choir to attend UWS Chorifest North at UWS, Superior, WI on Friday, November 2, 2007.**

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Foster to hire **Carol M. Maus as an instructional aide, non-bargaining unit, 6 hours per day, 1 day per week, effective October 24, 2007.**

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **hire Kim Rae Olson as a teacher aide, non-bargaining unit, 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 10, 2007.**

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Foster to **hire Aleana Clement as a bus driver**, bargaining unit, not to exceed full time equivalency for this position, **effective October 22, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Operating Engineers #70.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Foster to **approve the 2007-2008 Winter coaching staff, Robert Asuma as head boys basketball coach at Cherry School**, dependent upon appropriate levels of high school (grades 9-12) participation.

Board member Bjerklie wants the board to consider hiring head coaches first before assistant coaches. Mr. Bjerklie recommended Robert Asuma.

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

Board member B. Larson asked the Superintendent to explain the rationale behind increasing food service positions, since the board had previously made cuts in the program.

Superintendent Rick responded; at the AlBrook School it was due to the head cook doing so much paperwork for the Food Service program. There is a need of ½ hour increase. At the Babbitt-Embarrass School the employees are having difficulty getting the meal done. Babbitt also provides the meals for the Tower-Soudan School. The Cherry School has had added additional duties to the cook aide position, and the Cotton School experienced a change of schedule time. The School periods start earlier and the extra time allows having the meals done on time.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Foster and seconded by Bjerklie to **increase assistant cook position at the Cotton School, by 1 hour per day, effective September 4, 2007.**

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Foster to **increase cook aide position at the Cherry School, by 1 hour per day, effective September 4, 2007.**

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **increase cook aide position at the Babbitt-Embarrass School, by 1.5 hours per day, effective September 4, 2007.**

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Foster to **increase head cook position at the AlBrook School, by ½ hour per day, effective September 4, 2007.**

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Foster to **accept David Dutton's letter of resignation as van driver, for the PM portion of his job, 1 hour per day, effective October 19, 2007.**

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **approve a leave of absence for Kristen Cooper under the family medical leave act, effective on or before January 16, 2008 to March 31, 2008**, pursuant to M. S. 122A.46 and in accord with Master Agreement Article XI, Section 4, Subd. 3, between ISD 2142 and EDMNSLCT.

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by B. Larson to **cancel previous agreement with Keith Peterson and approve new amended agreement with teacher.**

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by B. Larson to **approve a medical leave of absence for Keith Peterson, effective the 2006-2007 school year.**

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by B. Larson to **approve an extended leave of absence for Keith Peterson, effective the 2007-2008 school year until the 2009-2020 school year.**

Board member Foster asked if this leave was unpaid.

Superintendent Rick replied that is was.

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

Motion by b. Larson and seconded by Foster to **accept Margaret DuMarce's letter of intent to retire / resignation, effective May 31, 2008.**

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

Comments from the board:

Board Member Bjerklie indicated that he was not at the Cherry School public informational meeting on October 16, 2007, however, he listened via telephone and the meeting had a very good presentation.

Board Member Fowler said that he has been receiving calls from people concerned about their taxes increasing and there have been signs erected in the area by the yes committee.

Board Member A. Larson indicated that he has heard a lot of comments from people, with some people still thinking that their taxes are going up \$500.00.

Board Member Foster responded and said that he heard that during the last referendum, but has not this time.

Board Member B. Larson addressed the board and said, the more people we can get to hear the superintendent speak on the referendum, the better. Mr. Larson encouraged the board to have the public

attend the remainder public informational meetings. Mr. Larson said that he has heard concerns from the teachers about having only one technology person with technology person recently being asked to do changes in the hot lunch program and MAPP testing. Mr. Larson would like the board to look at the technology program and would like this part of the Board Study Session, along with finances, and the Superintendent's annual evaluation.

Board vice Chair Salmela spoke about the Board Study Session and said that he would be available to start at 10:30 on November 12, 2007. The board was in agreement and the meeting was scheduled for November 12, 2007, at the District Office for 10:30 a.m.

Board Member Foster said that he was getting used to his position and indicated that he presently has children in 2nd and 6th grades. Mr. Foster has noticed that students going from 6th to 7th grade are having difficulty and their test scores are reflecting it.

Discussion followed.

Superintendent Rick said that the curriculum is district-wide and all of the scores are dropping. We are addressing the transition from 6th to 7th grade to find out what the barriers are.

Discussion followed.

Board vice Chair Salmela asked the Superintendent to make a statement regarding Zelda Bruns being unable to attend the board meetings.

Superintendent Rick announced that Zelda Bruns is presently undergoing medical treatment for 6 weeks for a serious illness, so she will be unable to attend meetings in the near future. Dr. Rick asked to remember her in our prayers and if people want to send her cards, Ms. Bruns address is available at the District Office.

Comments from visitors:

Ronald Perren spoke in favor of Alpine Skiing combined sports for the Tower-Soudan School and Virginia School District. Mr. Perren is a parent of a student who wishes to participate in the sport. However, Mr. Perren indicated that this would have approved by the board prior to the first day of ski practice, which is November 12, 2007.

Board vice Chair Salmela asked the Superintendent to look into Mr. Perren's request.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk