

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

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

ABSENT: Bruns
Foster

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 the Orr School on Monday, **October 8, 2007 at 5:02 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Bjerklie to approve agenda.

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) The superintendent reported that he has had four (4) public referendum informational meetings already: Orr School, Babbitt-Embarrass School, Cotton School and the Embarrass Town Hall. The public meetings were posted in all of the schools and advertised in the newspapers. Up-coming meetings include Tower-Soudan School; Cherry School; Cook School; AlBrook School; and the District Office next week Monday. Small groups have attended with good questions about the referendum; 2.) Strategic Planning is moving forward on AYP. There was a math meeting today at the District Office and Friday there will be an AYP meeting. The superintendent reported being busy with all the scheduled meetings.

Board member Bjerklie told the board that the "Yes Committee" has been handing out cards and have made 500 signs for the referendum. They plan on issuing a formal press release in 2 weeks in support of the referendum.

Dr. Rick explained to the school board that part of the taxpayer notifications have gone out today, with the remainder going tomorrow.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: 1.) Mr. Simonson told the board that he e-mailed out notification about an up-coming AYP Committee meeting. It will be an informational meeting with a variety of people attending; 2.) A curriculum report will be on the next agenda; and 3.) There will be meetings scheduled at all sites, except Babbitt-Embarrass School, concerning Title I.

Dean of Students John Jirik reported the following: 1.) Enrollment is up at the Orr School. Last year there were 208 students, and this year 226. People are moving into the Orr area; 2.) There was a relatively smooth start to the school year; 3.) Homecoming was last week and was successful and fun filled; 4.) There are a lot of new staff members at the school this year with larger secondary classes; 5.) The Orr School has a new softball field, due to volunteers and donators. Thanks to all of them, we appreciate our beautiful softball field; and 6.) The Orr School has new paint on the front of the building and there are a lot of positive things going on at the site.

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by B. Larson to **approve the consent agenda**: September 24, 2007 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; Policy: 5.21 Donations: \$200.00 from GRS Community Auxiliary for the Orr School, divided as follows: (\$50.00 Art Program / \$50.00 Band Program / \$100.00 Student Council); \$25.00 from Maurice's for the AlBrook School student council; \$100.00 from Harnischfeger Corp. for the Babbitt-Embarrass School golf program; \$485.58 from Target's, "Take Charge of Education" school fundraising program for the Cherry School; \$1,212.62 from Target's, "Take Charge of Education" school fundraising program for the Tower-Soudan School; \$359.51 from Target's, "Take Charge of Education" school fundraising program for the Orr School; \$555.88 from

Target's, "Take Charge of Education" school fundraising program for the Babbitt-Embarrass School; \$74.50 from Target's, "Take Charge of Education" school fundraising program for the AlBrook School; \$735.03 from Target's, "Take Charge of Education" school fundraising program for the Babbitt-Embarrass School, which was reimbursed by the Babbitt-Embarrass PTO who originally received the funds in error; \$615.00 from Virginia Golf Boosters for the Babbitt-Embarrass School Golf program; and \$6,057.00 grant from the Northland Foundation for the Orr School's "4 Power Keys" to Lifelong Health program; and 5.3 Program: Erin M. Cox, teacher at the AlBrook School, is applying for a **\$3,500.00 grant from the MSHSL Foundation for the music program at AlBrook School.**

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

Dr. Rick explained the applied learning initiative program. Dr. Rick indicated that it began last December and took awhile for the program to be finalized. The partners in the program agreed to an annual membership as a start-up for the courses that will be offered. Courses could be available as soon as the 2nd semester for the Babbitt-Embarrass School. Dr. Rick is in support of the program.

Board Member B. Larson asked if some of the other sites will have courses available during the 2nd semester.

Dr. Rick replied that the courses could be available as soon as the 2nd semester, with the possibility of all schools becoming involved.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **participate in the Applied Learning Initiative and approve the annual membership of \$5,145.00.**

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by B. Larson to **accept Kathy Wiegert's letter of intent to retire / resignation as teacher, effective the 2008-2009 school year.**

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to **offer Amanda J. Lind a .1 FTE probationary teaching contract for the 2007-2008 school year, effective August 29, 2007,** with terms and conditions for employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by A. Larson to **hire Jessica Kudis as teacher aide, non-bargaining unit, 2 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 1, 2007,** for the 2007-2008 school year.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by B. Larson to **hire Robin Akerman as assistant cook, bargaining unit, 7 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 1, 2007,** with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Absent- Bruns, Foster

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Fowler to **hire Rikki Watson, as instructional aide, bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 4, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by A. Larson to **hire Suzanne Skafte**, as instructional aide, bargaining unit, 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 4, 2007, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Against-None
Absent- Bruns, Foster

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by B. Larson to **hire Tammy Cornelius, as health assistant, bargaining unit, 2 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 1, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **hire Tammy Cornelius, as teacher aide, bargaining unit, 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 1, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by B. Larson to **hire Tammy Cornelius, as site secretary III, bargaining unit, 2 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 1, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to **hire Lori Astleford, as teacher aide, bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, Tuesday, Thursday and every other Friday, effective October 1, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to **hire Koreen Sokoloski, as teacher aide, bargaining unit, 4 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 1, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **hire Erin Peitso, as Indian Home School Liaison, bargaining unit, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 5 days per week, effective September 10, 2007,** with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Comments from the board:

Board Member B. Larson indicated that a board study session is needed in the near future to discuss job descriptions and finances. Mr. Larson then asked the board if they wanted to wait until after the referendum.

Board Member A. Larson stated that he was concerned about the district's finances.

Board Member Fowler said that there are sport issues that should be addressed; however, he was not opposed to waiting a month to meet on November 12th.

Board Member Salmela asked the superintendent to start a list of agenda topics for the meeting. Discussion followed.

Board Member B. Larson continued and said that it was fun to hear Mr. Jirik's positive report about the Orr School.

Board Member Fowler stated that the future of the mines in the area looks good for creating new jobs. It is a positive outlook.

Board Member A. Larson indicated that there will be a need for 500 new employees for the new mines starting up.

Board Member Bjerklie publicly thanked the 18 volunteers from the Cherry School and Committee members of the "Yes Committee" for their work on the referendum. He encouraged the board members to become engaged in actively talking about the referendum to the public. Mr. Bjerklie said that the communities are eager to listen and hear about the referendum.

Board Member Salmela stated that his wife was reading the newspaper and read an article about the Orr School in need of musical instruments. Seeing that there is a need, Mr. Salmela brought a clarinet, valued at \$225.00, which belonged to his daughter.

Superintendent Rick informed the board that the CAPP committee met at the District Office last week. Dr. Rick said that there are good things happening in the Arts program.

Comments from visitors:

Syvilla Shermer asked the board if they would consider filing for a gas tax refund on their taxes. Ms. Shermer indicated that there is a .44 tax on each gallon and businesses only deduct .15 from the school district's bill.

Assistant Superintendent Simonson replied that the district had addressed this issue before and said that it would look into it.

Superintendent Rick said that he would check with the Business Manager, Kim Johnson.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk