

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007.

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

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 Cook School on Monday, **September 10, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Bruns added enclosure 6.24 to the agenda for appointments to the school board.

Motion by Foster and seconded by Fowler to **approve amended agenda.**

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) At the Board Study Session earlier in the day, there was a closed session to discuss negotiation strategy. The board resumed in open session discussing the AlBrook School girls' softball team trip to Orlando, FL. The operating referendum and strategic plan were also discussed. The topic of information signs at each one of school sites was of interest to the board; 2.) There will be a curriculum mapping meeting at the District Office on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. Math curriculum and K-12 standards will be the focus, since this year's 5<sup>th</sup> graders will need to take Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 3.) MREA meeting on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in Grand Rapids; 4.) We have had a good start to a new school year. Everything is up and running, including the boiler at the Babbitt-Embarrass School, which is operational today.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: 1.) As always there are transportation issues, however, the school buses have been ordered; 2.) Testing results are in for math on the MCA's. Mr. Simonson gave a testing report. Due to the results of the MCA's, there will be AYP consequences for our district. The AYP history was given out to the school board. Since the district did not make AYP in 2006 and in 2007, the district will have to establish a plan.

Discussion followed.

Principal Kevin Abrahamson reported the following: Cook School had a smooth start to the new year. 1.) New teaching staff in Cook this year is Erica LaVoi, Science, Health/PE, Keyboarding; Rebecca Moore, Art; and Jill Stark; other new staff to Cook: Denise Parson, Donna Gustafson, Jane Scherf, Jenny Panichi, Rick Pierce, Angie Koski; 2.) Custodial staff did a great job of cleaning the building this year; 3.) Staff have been instructed to regularly use the Parent Portal system; 4.) Mr. Jeff Carey and the principal will bring the committee on curriculum mapping together; 5.) The principal has done multiage research from 1992 to the present. It will be available for board information; 6.) Cook's football team is currently undefeated 2-0 records. The Volleyball team is struggling a bit, but the season is early yet and teams have just begun playing; 7.) In response to the needs of the Cook community in the aftermath of recent tragedies, the principal has allowed a group entitled "Cook Cares" to present a motivational speaker Greg Speck to use the gym on September 12, 2007 from 7-8 p.m. This will aid the Cook and Orr communities that have experienced many losses in the healing process.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Bjerklie to **approve the consent agenda:** August 27, 2007 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; Policy: Donations: 1.) 12 yards of sand box sand, valued at \$75.00, donated by Greg and Alice Constantine, for the Cherry School; 2.) \$790.50 from the Lions Club of Babbitt for the Babbitt-Embarrass School elementary start kits; and 3.) Books with 75 topics,

valued at approximately \$500.00, donated by the Ryan Mogensen Family of Mt. Iron, MN, for the Cherry School.

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

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142  
(ST. LOUIS COUNTY)  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular School Board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 2142 (St. Louis County), State of Minnesota, was duly held in said school district on September 10, 2007, at 5:00 o'clock p.m. for the purpose, in part, of adopting a resolution appointing election judges.

Member Salmela moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES  
FOR THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007  
SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2142, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The individuals specified on EXHIBIT A attached hereto, each of whom is qualified to serve as an election judge, are hereby appointed as judges of election for the school district's special election on November 6, 2007, to act as such at the combined polling places listed on said exhibit.

2. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit the results to the school board for canvass in the manner provided for other school district elections.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by B. Larson. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela, Bjerklie and Bruns.  
and the following voted against: None  
whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

**EXHIBIT A**

COMBINED POLLING PLACE

ELECTION JUDGES

Orr School

Head Election Judge Sue Warzonek  
Paulette Scott  
Joan Karels  
Karen Barto

Cook School

Head Election Judge Sandra Keister  
Jeanine Emmons  
Donna Snyder  
Muriel Simonson

Tower School

Head Election Judge Fran Silverberg  
Theo Sigford  
Marge McPeak  
Richard Hanson

Babbitt School

Head Election Judge Lois Asleson  
Ramona Bjork  
Arlene Eckman  
Francine Pulkinen



**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1  
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION**

The board of Independent School District No. 2142 (St. Louis County) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$500 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

**YES**

Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 2142 be approved?

**NO**

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

Passage of this referendum will result in an increase in your property taxes.

The annual dollar increases for typical residential homesteads, agricultural homesteads, apartments, commercial-industrial properties, and most other classes of property within the school district are as shown in the table below.

For agricultural property (both homestead and non-homestead), the taxes for the proposed referendum will be based on the value of the house, garage and surrounding one acre of land only. There will be no referendum taxes paid on the value of other agricultural lands and buildings. For seasonal residential recreational property (i.e. cabins), there will be no taxes paid for the proposed referendum.

<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Dollar Increase</u>
\$50,000	\$48
\$75,000	\$72
\$100,000	\$95
\$125,000	\$119
\$150,000	\$143
\$175,000	\$167
\$200,000	\$191
\$225,000	\$215
\$250,000	\$239
\$275,000	\$263
\$300,000	\$286
\$350,000	\$334
\$400,000	\$382
\$450,000	\$430
\$500,000	\$477
\$600,000	\$573
\$800,000	\$764
\$1,000,000	\$955
\$2,000,000	\$1,910

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be as follows:

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Orr School  
10690 Highway 23  
Orr, Minnesota

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This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 2142 located in the City of Orr; Crane Lake, Leiding, Linden Grove, Morcom, Portage, Sturgeon, Willow Valley, Camp 5 and Kabetogama Townships; and Unorganized Precincts 8 (60-20), 11 (62-21), 12 (63-19) and 21 (63-21) (64-21 part not in Nett Lake Res.) (65-21 part not in Nett Lake Res.) (66-20) (66-21 part not in Nett Lake Res.) (67- 18, 19, 20 & 21) (68-18, 19, 20 & 21) (69-17, 18, 19 & 20) (70-18, 19, 20 & 21) and (71-20 & 21); St. Louis County, Minnesota. Unorganized Precincts Silverdale-Summerville and Nett Lake; Koochiching County, Minnesota.

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Cook School  
306 E. Vermilion Blvd.  
Cook, Minnesota

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 2142 located in the City of Cook; Alango, Angora, Beatty, Field and Owens Township; and Unorganized Precincts 10 (61-17) and 15 (60-18); St. Louis County, Minnesota.

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Tower School  
415 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Tower, Minnesota

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 2142 located in the City of Tower; Breitung, Eagle's Nest, Greenwood, Kugler, Pike and Vermilion Lake Townships; and Unorganized 63-14 and Unorganized Precincts 13 (62-17) (63-15 & 17) (64-14, 15, 16 & 17) (65-12 & 15) (66-13, 14, 15 & 16) (67-12, 13, 14, 15 & 16) (68-13, 14, 15 & 16) and 20 (61-14); St. Louis County, Minnesota.

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Babbitt School  
30 South Drive  
Babbitt, Minnesota

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 2142 located in the City of Babbitt; Embarrass and Waasa Townships; and Unorganized 64-12 and Unorganized Precinct 9 (South 1/2 of 61-12 & 61-13); St. Louis County, Minnesota.

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Cherry School  
3943 Tamminen Road  
Iron, Minnesota

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 2142 located in Cherry, Clinton, Lavell and McDavitt Townships; St. Louis County, Minnesota.

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Cotton School  
9165 Highway 53  
Cotton, Minnesota

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 2142 located in the City of Meadowlands; Cotton, Ellsburg, Elmer, Kelsey, Northland, Toivola Townships; and Unorganized Precincts 2 (53-15, 53-16 & 54-15), 5 (56-17) and 17 (56-16); St. Louis County, Minnesota.

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Albrook School  
7427 Seville Road  
Saginaw, Minnesota

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 2142 located in the City of Brookston; Albarn, Arrowhead, Brevator, Culver, Industrial, Ness, New Independence and Stoney Brook Townships; St. Louis County, Minnesota.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the combined polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will be opened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.



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STATE OF MINNESOTA )  
 )SS  
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS )

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION**

I, Andrew Larson, hereby certify that I am the duly appointed School Board Clerk of Independent School District No. 2142 (St. Louis County) and acting in behalf of said school district, I will deposit in the United States mails at the Virginia Post Office, Virginia,

Minnesota, between October 7, 2007 and October 22, 2007, copies of the attached Notice of Special Election with postage thereon fully prepaid, addressed to each property owner within the school district as revealed by the records of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part. The addresses to which the Notices were mailed are on file in the office of the Clerk of the school district.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 10th day of September, 2007

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach copy of Notice of Special Election)

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public)

**AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**SAMPLE BALLOT**

STATE OF MINNESOTA )  
 )SS  
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS )

**AFFIDAVIT SHOWING POSTING OF  
SAMPLE BALLOT WITHIN  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142  
(ST. LOUIS COUNTY)  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Andrew Larson, being first duly sworn, upon oath deposes and says that he did on the 11th day of September, 2007, which date is at least four (4) days prior to the date of the election, cause the Sample Ballot, a true and correct copy of which is hereby attached and by reference made a part hereof, to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district, and did cause said Sample Ballot to be posted at each combined polling place for said election on or prior to the date of the election. The Sample Ballots were posted at the following places within the school district:

- One at        ISD # 2142 District Office
- One at        Orr School
- One at        Cook School
- One at        Tower-Soudan School
- One at        Babbitt-Embarrass School

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One at Cherry School  
One at Cotton School  
One at AlBrook School

Further affiant saith not.

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School District Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

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Notary Public

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **grant permission to receive quotes for the Operating Referendum Special Election ballots for November 6, 2007.**

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by Bjerklie to **award a high school diploma to Russell E. Lundin, with all rights and privileges, and with special gratitude for his service to our country during World War II.**

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

Tim Anvid, head softball coach at the AlBrook School, spoke to the board in favor of the girls' softball team trip to Orlando, FL. Mr. Anvid indicated that the team presently practices in the gym and on the foot ball field. The trip to Florida would give the team a better opportunity to practice.

Superintendent Rick spoke and said that he is in favor of softball, however, he did have concerns about attendance at school. This trip comes on the heels of Spring break. All school work would have to be done before the softball students would leave on the trip; with no days missed for the rest of the year.

Mr. Anvid said that he had no problem with that plan.

Superintendent Rick added that there would also have to be adequate chaperones and a list of all fundraising activities is needed and all students on the team will have to have the opportunity to go on the trip.

Mr. Anvid indicated that almost all student parents will also be going and a schedule of fundraising activities will be submitted. Also, all students on the team will go on the trip. If one student cannot go, then no students will go on the trip.

Board Vice Chair Salmela addressed the coach and said, that he appreciated Mr. Anvid's dedication to the softball team, however, he could not support this trip. Mr. Salmela indicated that he would oppose this motion.

Board Chair Bruns indicated that the Superintendent will need to check with legal counsel to see if background checks will be needed for parents going on the trip.

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Fowler for the **District to sponsor the 2008 AlBrook School girls softball team trip to Orlando, FL.**

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

Board Chair Bruns indicated that she would be a human rights officer, replacing former board member.

Board Vice Chair Salmela spoke and indicated that it was no secret that he is building a new house out of the district and he will soon be resigning. He said that he is presently on the teachers' negotiations committee, but soon he will be resigning from the board. Therefore, a new person is being appointed and will sit in the negotiations process from the beginning. Mr. Salmela will stay on the teachers' negotiations committee until he resigns from the board.

Board Chair Bruns appointed Mark Foster to be on the teachers' negotiations committee and Bob Larson and Darrell Bjerklie to be on the Teamsters negotiations committee.

Motion by Foster and seconded by Bjerklie to **recall Katherine Kebbekus to a .1 FTE tenured 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, Bruns, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **offer Rebecca Moore a .4 FTE, at Step D, Lane MA, probationary teaching contract for the 2007-2008 school year, effective September 4, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by Salmela to **offer Mary E. Nemeč-Wood a .2FTE, , probationary teaching contract for the 2007-2008 school year, effective August 29, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by A. Larson to **offer Erica P. LaVoi a .3 FTE, at Step C, Lane BA, probationary teaching contract for the 2007-2008 school year, effective September 4, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Salmela to **hire Clarice Beresford as a Title I teacher for the 2007-2008 school year to the extent of 4 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 4, 2007**, with terms and conditions in accord with Master Agreement between ISD 2142 and SLCTEM.

Board Vice Chair Salmela indicated that Ms. Beresford had been in this position before.

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Salmela to **accept Diane R. Hartley's letter of resignation as teaching assistant, effective August 29, 2007**.

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **accept Carol Seppala's letter of resignation as teacher aide / health assistant / site secretary III, effective September 28, 2007**.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Foster to **hire Deneen Gunderson as an In School Suspension Monitor, non-bargaining unit, 2 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 4, 2007.**

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **hire Andrea Hilla as an instructional aide, bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, 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, Bruns, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **hire Jennifer Kaufenberg as instructional aide, bargaining unit, 3 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, Bruns, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **hire Carol Seppala as assistant cook, bargaining unit, 6.5 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, Bruns, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **allow the Babbitt-Embarrass and Tower-Soudan School campuses to keep their open campus status, with the stipulation that students will not be permitted to enter or drive any type of motorized vehicles during the time that school is in session, including noon time.**

Principal Reznicek said that it is his understanding that these campuses have already had open campuses. Mr. Reznicek has had positive response from businesses and he approves this recommendation.

Board Vice Chair Salmela said that he asked to have this resolution tabled. Mr. Salmela explained that his reason for tabling this is because of an event where a student was seriously injured during an open campus time.

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

Comments: Superintendent Rick commented that the Instant Alert system is now working; training will be next Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at the District Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Clerk