

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007.

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

ABSENT: Bruns

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 Cotton School on Monday, **September 24, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Foster to approve agenda.

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) Dr. Rick handed out the District improvement plan for AYP. He indicated that this plan will have 8 different steps to be implemented over a 2 year period. Committees are being developed to address: District curriculum, math curriculum, staff development, mentorship, literacy and arts planning. Dr. Rick indicated that we need major revisions in math due to our District's scores, "They are not where they need to be"; 2.) The Superintendent reviewed his letter which will be published in the District Newsletter. Under the District Strategic Plan the district needs to update curriculum, with a focus on the math program. He emphasized the need for parent involvement and a need for a district wide committee to provide feedback on curriculum and educational programs in our schools; 3.) The Excess Operating Levy Referendum will take place on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. The residents of St Louis County Schools will be asked to vote.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: 1.) Mr. Simonson handed out the letters that were written to the parents regarding the MCA results and the MAP testing results from 2006-07. Mr. Simonson is in the process of preparing an improvement plan to address the results of the Reading and Math test scores.

Dean of Students Jeff Carey reported the following: 1.) Mr. Carey reported that they have a number of new teachers at the Cotton School; 2.) The football team won it's first game in three years; 3.) The volleyball team is off to a great start this year, currently at 7-3; 4.) 100% of the Cotton School 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the MCA-II math test last spring; 5.) The Cotton School had a smooth start to the school year. As a safety precaution, the teachers are keeping their classroom doors locked during the day when students are in the room. This has reduced hallway traffic and behavior problems; 6.) Enrollment is about equal to what we had last year. 14 students enrolled in Kindergarten and 14 in Learning Readiness; 7.) The Indoor air quality in the High School section is completed, along with new gym lights. The art classes are currently making a new sign for the front of the campus; 8.) Last winter the Cotton PTSO held a fundraiser in order to raise money for classroom materials. The teachers made "wish lists," to utilize the funding and 9.) Finally thank you to the board for their support.

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by B. Larson to **approve the consent agenda**: September 10, 2007 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; Policy: 5.21 Donations: \$164.78 from the Family Reading Program for the AlBrook School; \$500.00 from Saturday Night Country . . . Live! for the Cotton School music program; and \$341.32 from Target "Take Charge of Education" School Fundraising program, for the Cotton School; Program: 5.31 Permission for the Cherry School students to participate in the Applefestival parade in Bayfield, WI on Sunday, October 7, 2007; 5.32 **CAPP**

**Grant through Perpich Center for Arts Education, in the amount of \$8,000.00 to be received over a two (2) year period for the District's art program.**

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

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **approve student X8-07 be allowed to return to school on Tuesday, September 25, 2007.**

Superintendent Rick commented that he has met with the people involved and due to the new school policy surrounding this issue, he was recommending that this student return to school, effective September 25, 2007.

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by B. Larson to **recognize Knutson, Flynn & Deans Law Firm as additional legal counsel for ISD # 2142 for the year 2007, effective September 24, 2007.**

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Bjerklie seconded that Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County School District, Virginia, MN hereby **approves the addition of Independent School District No. 361, International Falls, MN to be a member of the Joint Powers Agreement relating to Independent School District No. 6076, Northland Learning Center, and that it be bound and obligated by the terms of the Agreement, as amended.**

Superintendent Rick commented that International Falls School District asked to join the Northland Learning in the summer when their Special Ed person left. They are looking to purchase services.

Board Member B. Larson asked if there is anyway that we could get hurt by this amended agreement.

Superintendent Rick replied, that the Executive Director is in favor of this change and no ISD # 2142 cannot be hurt by this addition.

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **accept the new change order with revised contract sum for the Babbitt-Embarrass Boiler Project through Architectural Resources, Inc., in the amount of \$409,403.13.**

Superintendent Rick reported that the boiler is now installed and is working properly. Thanks to Larry Salmela for his involvement in the project.

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Foster to **approve 2007 Payable 2008 Proposed Levy at maximum.**

Superintendent Rick explained the levy as given to the board and recommended that it be approved at maximum.

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **recall Shawn Aase .2 FTE, to a tenured 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, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None  
Absent- Bruns

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **recall Donna Rosati .5 FTE, to a tenured 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, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None  
Absent- Bruns

Motion by Foster and seconded by Bjerklie to **offer Amanda Jo Lind a .8 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, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None  
Absent- Bruns

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Foster to **accept Jeanne Jensrud's letter of resignation as teacher aide, 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 Brian Roggenbuck's letter of resignation as bus driver, effective September 28, 2007.**

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Foster to **accept Sherrie McLellan's letter of resignation as assistant cook, effective September 1, 2007.**

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Foster to **hire Sherrie McLellan as head cook, bargaining unit, 7.5 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, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None  
Absent- Bruns

Motion by A. Larson and seconded by Foster to **hire Jeanne Jensrud as an 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, Foster, Fowler, A. Larson, B. Larson, Salmela  
Against-None  
Absent- Bruns

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Foster to **hire Suzette Janke as a health assistant, bargaining unit, 3.5 hours per day, on days school is in session, effective September 25, 2007**, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Foster to **increase hours for Alice Skaudis, as school nurse to 7 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 4, 2007, for the 2007-2008 school year.**

Board Member A. Larson asked if the increase in hours was based on the Third Party Billing.

Superintendent Rick replied, yes and that Mary Spang was also involved in the Third Party Billing.

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to **decrease the hours of the District-wide Commodities Distributor from 24 hours per week to 16 hours per week, effective September 4, 2007.**

Board Member Bjerklie asked why this person's hours were reduced.

Superintendent Rick replied that the person isn't needed 24 hours per week.

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **decrease the hours for the health assistant at the Babbitt-Embarrass School from 30 hours per week to 17.5 hours per week, effective September 17, 2007.**

Board Member Fowler wanted to know what the rationale was in this decision.

Superintendent Rick replied that Mary Spang thought the job could be reduced without a loss in service.

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

Board Member Salmela thanked the Superintendent for bringing this forward. Mr. Salmela indicated that any changes here could put more money elsewhere.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by Foster to **approve the 2007-2008 Winter coaching staff as presented, and dependent upon appropriate levels of high school (grades 9-12) participation as follows: *AlBrook*: Boys Basketball-Damien Paulson-Head; Travis Paulson-Assistant; Girls Basketball-John Villebrun-Head; Earl Otis-Assistant; *Babbitt-Embarrass*: Boys Basketball-Jon Anderson-Head; Ron Marinaro-Assistant; Girls Basketball-Greg Eisenhuth-Head; Jim Mackai-Assistant; *Cherry*: Boys Basketball Open-Head; Les Stenlund-Assistant Girls Basketball-Lee Bloomquist-Head; Kirk Johnson-Assistant; *Cook*: Boys Basketball-William Fierke-Kleppe-Head; Leo Wilenius-Assistant; Girls Basketball-Rick Scheuring-Head; William Lehto-Assistant; *Cotton*: Boys Basketball-Brad Matuszak-Head; Dennis Morris-Assistant; Girls Basketball-Mike Fyre-Head; Heather Kowarsch-Assistant; *Orr*: Boys Basketball-Tim Olson-Head; John Jirik-Assistant; Girls Basketball-Open-Head; Jackie Villebrun-Co-Assistant/Lisa Bruns-Co-Assistant;**

**Tower-Soudan: Boys Basketball- Jamie Quick-Head; John Lilya-Assistant; Girls Basketball- Steve Moodie-Head; and Open-Assistant.**

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

Comments from the board:

Board Member B. Larson indicated that it was very rewarding to hear the talk about curriculum on a district-wide level, it is a positive step. Mr. Larson also said that it was positive hearing about the reduction of hours.

Board Member Bjerklie said that he is concerned about the bus driver resigning, because of the shortage of substitute bus drivers. Mr. Bjerklie wanted to know what the district can do to get substitute bus drivers.

Assistant Superintendent Simonson said the situation is not good in the Cherry area, because of availability. Mr. Simonson indicated that this may require our coaches to get their bus driver endorsement.

Board Member Bjerklie asked to have literature sent out to spring coaches about getting their bus driver endorsement. Mr. Bjerklie also commented on how impressed he was with the Cotton school and how orderly it was.

Discussion followed.

Board Member Foster indicated that he liked the improvements at the Cotton School, since Mr. Cary has been at there. Mr. Foster is also pleased with the volunteers and coaching staff at the school. Team spirit has improved and the dedication of the local people is commendable.

Board Member Salmela is encouraged by the enrollment numbers and indicated that the district supports the Cotton School.

Comments from visitors:

Jill Scofield, Cotton School coach, asked about the availability of transportation for spring sports and the sizes of the vans that are available.

Assistant Superintendent Simonson indicated that transportation is difficult in the spring. The use of a 12 passenger van is not legal for school districts.

Discussion followed.

Head Football coach Peter Wood spoke to the board about the football game played on Friday, September 21 between the Cotton School and Mt. Iron Buhl. Mr. Wood talked about the circumstances at the game. He said that his concern is for the safety of the student athletes and he wanted the school board to be aware in case other sites have experienced the same problem. Several football players also commented on events of the game.

Discussion followed.

Superintendent Rick commented that the district is in the process of investigating the event and the MSHSL has been contacted.

Kris Trainer and Sam Williams, students would like to start a paintball league, which would require a change in school policy to allow it. Both gave an explanation of the sport and indicated that it was a safer sport than the other sports that are currently in the school.

Board Member Salmela said that the Superintendent will look into it.

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

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Chairperson

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Clerk