

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

ALSO PRESENT: Rick
Johnson
Cox

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, January 28, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Bruns amended enclosure 6.31 to indicate that the date of February 14, 2008 would be the closing date to accept letters of application for a school board member (Cook Site). Board Chair Bruns also added the Superintendent's Evaluation under Enclosure 6.37.

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

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) Fran Spencer, former director for the Northland Special Education Coop. died on January 27, 2008; 2.) The Superintendent gave the highlights of the January 24, 2008 Board Study Session: Good report from Sheriff Liaison Pat Olson; Reviewed the Code of Ethics policy; 2008-09 School Calendar; Principals and Deans of Students 08-09 schedule; 3.) Strategic direction #1, Expand and enhance organizational, instructional and curriculum design: Jeff Carey is commended for organizing the teacher in-service at Cherry on January 21, 2008 with the staff development committee; Schools are busy with registering students for the 2008-09 school year; The AYP Improvement Plan submitted November 30, 2007 was approved; 4.) Strategic direction #2, Engage the community for support: The MDE is sponsoring two workshop training sessions: Family, school, and community involvement training on February 22, 2008 and Implementing effective parent involvement on April 20, 2008; There will be a Focus on the Future forum on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m; 5.) Strategic direction #3, Restructure facilities based on student needs: The district will consider conducting a situation analysis with Johnson Controls to develop a financially sustainable model for St. Louis County Schools that provides a high quality education at "small schools with big opportunities, where everybody is somebody. In order to assist the school board's future decision-making, the district will need a foundation of solid, fact-based data. This data could include building analysis, demographics projections and analysis, process for defining needs and priorities, and financial overview of the district; 6.) Strategic direction #4, Building and market our district's identity: Discussing and seeking information from a public relations form on how to market ISD # 2142.

The school board discussed the up-coming "Focus on the Future" forum at the Cook School, 7:00 p.m. on February 4, 2008.

Discussion followed.

Board Member Salmela suggested that the meeting be posted whether there is a quorum of the board or not. The board was in agreement.

Motion by Foster and seconded by Bjerklie to **approve the consent agenda:** January 7, 2008 Reorganizational / Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; *Policy:* Donations: 1.) \$500.00 from Black Duck Elephant-Lake Area Associates for the science and industrial arts programs at the Orr School; 2.) \$500.00 from Saturday Night Country...Live! for the AlBrook School music program; 3.) \$500.00 from the Lions Club of Babbitt for the Babbitt-Embarrass School library; 4.) \$746.00 grant from the MSHSL Foundation for the Babbitt-Embarrass School; 5.) \$770.00 grant from the MSHSL Foundation for the AlBrook School; 6.) \$361.00 grant from the MSHSL Foundation for the Cherry School; 7.) \$6,057.00

grant from the Northland Foundation for the Orr School “4 Power Keys” to Life Long Health project; 8.) \$500.00 (each) from LCP’s Operation Round-up, Lake Country Power Scholarships, for the AlBrook; Babbitt-Embarrass; Cook; Cotton; Orr and Tower-Soudan Schools; 9.) \$500.00 from the Orr Area Chamber of Commerce for the Orr School’s Close Up group, “Christmas Carnival”; 10.) \$140.91 from the Babbitt Lions Club for the Babbitt-Embarrass elementary student activity fund; ***The following donations are for the AlBrook School All Night Graduation Party:*** 11.) \$25.00 from Cummings Greenhouse, Duluth, MN; 12.) \$25.00 from Enstrom Studio, Inc.; 13.) \$25.00 from NAPA Standard Parts of Cloquet, Inc.; 14.) \$50.00 from Community Printing, Inc. of Cloquet, MN; 15.) \$50.00 from Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Associates of Duluth, MN; 16.) \$50.00 from the Raiter Clinic, Ltd. of Cloquet, MN; 17.) \$100.00 from FirstSolutions of Duluth, MN; ***The following donations are for the Cook School Resource Center:*** 18.) \$16.96 from Timothy and Jacqueline Picek; 19.) \$20.00 from Britt Michelle Slusar; 20.) \$51.67 from Great American Opportunities; and 21.) \$502.00 from Great American Opportunities.

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

This was the first reading of the Code of Ethics policy. No action taken.

Adopted: _____ *MSBA/MASA Model Policy 209*
Orig. 1995
Revised: _____ *Rev. 2003*

209 CODE OF ETHICS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assist school board members in recognizing the role of individual school board members and the contribution that each must make to develop an effective and responsible school board.

II. GENERAL STATE OF POLICY

Each school board member shall follow the code of ethic stated in this policy.

A. AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD I WILL:

1. Listen.
2. Recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates.
3. Appreciate the merit of their work.
4. Be motivated only by a desire to serve the pupils of my district.
5. Attempt to inform myself on the proper duties and functions of a school board member.
6. Recognize that it is my responsibility, together with other school board members, to see that the schools are properly run, not to run them myself.
7. Work through the administration employees of the school board – not over or around them.
8. Recognize that school business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the school board.

B. IN PERFORMING THE PROPER FUNCTIONS OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER I WILL:

1. Perform under education policies unless necessity requires otherwise.
2. Function in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine as part of a policy forming body – not as an administrative officer.
3. Consider myself a trustee of public education and do my best to protect, conserve, and advance its progress.

C. TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD I WILL:

1. Respect the right of others to have and express opinions.
2. Recognize that authority rests with the school board in legal session – not with the individual members of the school board except as authorized by law.
3. Make no disparaging remarks, in or out of school board meetings, about other members of the school board or their opinions.
4. Recognize that to promise in advance of a meeting how I will vote on any proposition is to close my mind and agree not to think through other points of view which may be presented to the meeting.
5. Make decisions in school board meetings only after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.
6. Delegate details of school board action to administrative employees.
7. Insist that special committees be appointed to serve only in an advisory capacity to the school board.

D. IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY COMMUNITY I WILL:

1. Attempt to appraise both the present and future educational needs of the school district.
2. Attempt to obtain adequate financial support for the school program.
3. Interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and do my best to translate them into the educational program of the school district.
4. Consider it an important responsibility to interpret the educational program of the school as it relates to the needs of the community.
5. Insist that business transactions of the school district be on an ethical, open, and above board basis.

E. IN WORKING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND STAFF I WILL:

1. Hold the superintendent responsible for the administration of the school district.
2. Give the superintendent authority commensurate with the responsibility.
3. Assure that the school district will be administered by the best professional personnel available.
4. Consider the recommendation of the superintendent in the appointment of all employees.
5. Participate in school board action after considering the recommendation of the superintendent and only after the superintendent has furnished adequate information supporting the recommendation.
6. Expect the superintendent to keep the school board adequately informed at all times through both oral and written reports.
7. Spend adequate time in school board meetings on educational policies.
8. Give the superintendent counsel and advice.
9. Recognize the status of the superintendent as an ex officio member of the school board.
10. Refer all complaints to the proper administrative officer or insist that they be presented in writing to the whole school board.
11. Present any personal criticisms of employees to the superintendent.
12. Provide support for the superintendent and employees of the school district so they may perform their proper functions on a professional level.

F. IN FULFILLING MY LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER I WILL:

1. Comply with all federal, state and local laws relating to my function as a school board member.
2. Comply with all school district policies as adopted by the school board.
3. Abide by all rules and regulations as promulgated by the Minnesota Department of Education and other federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over school districts.

Minn. Stat. 123B.09 (School Board Powers)
Minn. Stat. 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendent)

Cross References: MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 1, School Board Member Code of Ethics.

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **grant permission to receive bids on the roof replacement at the Cook School; the roof replacement at the Orr School; and restroom remodel at the Babbitt-Embarrass School, to bring one (1) set of restrooms into compliance with the ADA.**

Board Member B. Larson commented that repair work will be on a continuous basis with flat roofs on the buildings.

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by B. Larson to **accept Larry Salmela's letter of resignation as School Board Representative for Cook, effective January 31, 2008.**

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

Motion by B. Larson and seconded by Foster to **approve Michael Hoche as the Technology Support Technician, 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, \$11.50 per hour, effective January 8, 2008.**

Board Member Salmela asked who is managing the Technology employees.

Superintendent Rick replied that he is their direct supervisor.

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **hire Christine Thoreson as health assistant, bargaining unit, for additional 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective January 28, 2008,** 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 A. Larson and seconded by Fowler to **hire Amanda Rogne as instructional aide, bargaining unit, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective January 15, 2008,** 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 Foster and seconded by Bjerklie to **accept Janis Wendell's resignation as teacher aide, effective December 17, 2007.**

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

Motion by Foster and seconded by Bjerklie to **accept Connie Lippett's letter of resignation as cook aide, effective January 2, 2008.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by B. Larson to **accept Sara Swart's letter of resignation as health assistant, effective February 15, 2008.**

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

Motion by Fowler and seconded by A. Larson to **hire Amber Van Hale as the Sr. Speech coach at the Babbitt-Embarrass School, for the 2007-2008 school year.**

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

Motion by Salmela and seconded by Foster to **rescind Jo Langan's request of intent to retire/resignation effective the end of the 2007-2008 school year.**

Board Member B. Larson indicated that when a teacher does this at this time, it doesn't give the district time to look for other teachers.

Board Member Fowler disagreed with B. Larson. Mr. Fowler said that Ms. Langan is a good math teacher and we need good teachers when we're trying to increase test scores.

Discussion followed.

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

Board Chair Bruns gave a report on the evaluation of the Superintendent. Ms. Bruns indicated that there were 10 questions with a score of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score. The composite score for Dr. Rick was 4.2.

Comments from the board:

Board Member Bjerklie said that the 4.2 score was very good or a A-. Mr. Bjerklie complimented Dr. Rick on doing a great job.

Board Member Fowler indicated that when Dr. Rick came to the district we weren't in good shape. Thank you.

Board Member B. Larson thanked the Superintendent for a great job.

Board Chair Bruns spoke to Mr. Salmela and told him that it was a pleasure working with him.

Board Member Fowler said that Mr. Salmela will be sadly missed.

Board Member B. Larson indicated that he learned a lot from Mr. Salmela and his experience.

Board Member Larry Salmela thanked everyone for their kind words.

Board Member Bjerklie asked the board to look at the strategic plan; the District is going to move forward.

Board Chair Bruns indicated that the school board is looking at the Strategic Plan more than they ever did before.

Board Member B. Larson asked the board to look on holding a Referendum or not and said maybe a board study session should be scheduled to discuss it.

Board Chair Bruns scheduled a school board study session for Monday, February 11, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the District Office with the topic of the referendum on the agenda.

Board Member Larry Salmela read a prepared farewell speech. Mr. Salmela said that he had been on the school board for 12 ½ years. He indicated that serving on the board was a learning experience and a way for him to serve the community, especially in the realm of education.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk