

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beaudry
 Bjerklie
 Bruns
 A. Larson
 B. Larson
 C. Larson
 Rantala

ALSO PRESENT: Rick
 Cox

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, was held at the Cherry School on **Monday, April 13, 2009**, at 6:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Rantala to **approve the agenda**.

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- None

Principal John Metsa reported the following: Mr. Metsa welcomed everyone and school board to the Cherry School. 1.) Cherry students participated in the Close-up program trip to Washington, D. C. two weeks ago. Mr. Metsa said that it was a great learning experience for them; 2.) Cherry is ready for testing tomorrow; the teachers have prepared year round for this event. Students will be rested for reading / writing and math; 3.) Congratulations to the Cherry School softball team; 4.) 35% of grades 9-12 Cherry student are taking college level classes or CEP classes; 5.) The 4th annual elementary talent show took place last week. Lori Gunderson, Linda Mayry and Patty Skahl helped with the “American Idol-Cherry Style” event; 6.) The Cherry elementary, grades 4-6, has initiated a newspaper to encourage student leadership. Linda Mayry is assisting the student with the newspaper project.

Board Chair B. Larson asked how the math program going.

Principal Metsa replied that at the beginning it wasn't going well but it is going fine now. Mr. Metsa indicated that we will see an improvement in test scores which will be very encouraging. The math program will be evaluated at a later time.

Discussion followed.

Carolyn Olson, Art Specialist at the AlBrook School, gave a power point presentation on the St. Louis County Schools art program. Ms. Olson spoke on how the creativity of art can help students in the learning process. She explained workshops that she attended using Microsoft technology to advance students critical thinking. Ms. Olson also reported on the CAPP grant and the Algebra project.

Discussion followed.

Board Chair B. Larson asked if there is a conflict between the creativity aspect and No Child Left Behind.

Ms. Olson replied yes there is, in the way they are approached. Creativity gives the child confidence and No Child Left Behind does not.

Superintendent Rick reported the following: 1.) The April 1 board study session agenda was the long range planning. Johnson Controls worked with the school board and the principals to come up with options for the district. 18 options were reduced to the following 3 options:

Option A - *SOUTH* P-12 AlBrook School; P-12 Cherry School; Close Cotton School
 NORTH Building a New School between Cook and Orr; Close Cook School; Close Orr School
 NE P-12 Babbitt-Embarrass School; P-6 Tower-Soudan School

Option B - *SOUTH AND NORTH WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN OPTION A*
 NE Building a New P-12 School in attendance areas

close to Babbitt-Embarrass and Tower-Soudan Schools

Option C - SOUTH AND NORTH WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN OPTION A
NE P-12 Babbitt-Embarrass School; Close Tower-Soudan School

The Superintendent emphasized that these are only options; the board has not made any decisions at this time. These will be completed by the end of May. Having fewer buildings would be a cost savings for the district. WDIO was very interested in what the district has been doing, so they reported the results of the meeting. It is always a challenge to reach everyone due to the size of our district. There have been PTO meetings in the district; however, these were not the district's public meetings. There will be community informational meetings throughout the district starting with AlBrook School on Thursday, April 16, 2009; Cherry School on Friday, April 17, 2009; Orr School on Monday, April 20, 2009; Babbitt-Embarrass School on Tuesday, April 21, 2009; Cotton School on Wednesday, April 22, 2009; Cook School on Thursday, April 23, 2009 and Tower-Soudan School on Friday, April 24, 2009. All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m; 2.) The school board will meet with the Nett Lake school board at Nett Lake on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the long range plan.

Board member Bruns stated that when these decisions came down to 3 options the board had already been working on them for over a year. All meetings were public and posted. This has been an ongoing process and was placed in the district's strategic plan.

The Superintendent added 3.) a decision will be made on the swimming pools on the April 27, 2009 board agenda.

Board member Rantala commented that the swimming pools are of great concern to the board. Mr. Rantala said that he is in total support of the pools because it is a life long sport. He added that the district will also lose some students if they are eliminated. The Ely School District has met with members of the St. Louis County School District and they are paring and sharing with us.

Board member C. Larson indicated that we have to compare losing 10 to 12 students to continuing to educate all students.

The Superintendent also reported 4.) attending "All Eyes on AlBrook," which included a large group of people playing the flute, tuba and violin with music and dancing; 5.) Transfer Day for the teachers will be Wednesday, April 15, 2009; 6.) Budget reductions will be on the April 27th agenda.

Board chair B. Larson asked where we are in the marketing process.

Superintendent Rick indicated that he met with KDLH-Channel 11 today and information would be forthcoming.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: 1.) Art teacher have a marvelous display of district-wide student artwork at the District Office. Mr. Simonson invited the public to come and see the display; 2.) MCA testing starts tomorrow; 3.) Mr. Simonson had handouts for the school board concerning school bus transportation. He reported that we have 49 school buses (district-wide) and 35 regular bus routes. 3 of the buses have over 200,000 miles; 21 have over 150,000 miles and 14 have over 100,000 miles on them.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonson commented that this is a very difficult time for everyone and also for the neighboring districts.

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Rantala to **approve the consent agenda:** March 23, 2009 Regular School Board Minutes; March 30, 2009 Special School Board Minutes; April 1, 2009 Special School Board Minutes; *Policy: Donations:* 1.) \$800.00 from the Lions Club of Babbitt for the Babbitt-Embarrass School Library; 2.) \$100.00 from the Township of Industrial, Saginaw, MN for the AlBrook School cheerleaders; ***The following donations (3 - 18) are for the AlBrook School All-Night Grad Party:*** 3.) \$500.00 from the Township of Industrial, Saginaw, MN; 4.) \$200.00 from the Town of Breavor; 5.) \$25.00 from Brian R. Landrigan, DDS, M.S. of Duluth, MN; 6.) \$50.00 from the Hermantown Federal Credit Union, Hermantown, MN; 7.) \$100.00 from the Loyal Order of the Moose # 1302, Proctor, MN; 8.) \$50.00 from St. Luke's, Duluth, MN; 9.) \$50.00 from Members Cooperative Credit Union; 10.)

\$100.00 from the Community Memorial Hospital, Sunnyside Health Care Center, Cloquet, MN; 11.) \$50.00 from Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Associates, Duluth, MN; 12.) \$100.00 from Community Printing, Cloquet, MN; 13.) \$50.00 from Raiter Clinic, Ltd., Cloquet, MN; 14.) \$50.00 from the Teamsters Local #346, Duluth, MN; 15.) \$25.00 from Cummings Greenhouse, Duluth, MN; 16.) \$25.00 from Valdastico, Inc., DBA Cloquet Dairy Queen, Richard Spagnolo, Cloquet, MN; 17.) \$30.00 from Proctor Federal Credit Union of Proctor and Duluth, MN; 18.) \$50.00 from American Legion Post #262, Cloquet, MN; 19.) \$150.00 from the Township of Alborn, Alborn, MN for the AlBrook School cheerleaders; 20.) \$50.00 from Community Printing of Cloquet, MN for the AlBrook School cheerleaders; 21.) \$500.00 from Saturday Night Country...Live! of Britt, MN for the AlBrook School music program; 22.) \$200.00 from Federated Co-ops, Inc. of Princeton, MN for the Cotton School; and 23.) \$100.00 from InterBank of Maple Grove, MN for the Cherry School student council. *Program:* 2009-10 Vermilion Community College Concurrent Enrollment Renewal Agreement. No changes have been made in the 2009-10 Concurrent Enrollment agreement.

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- None

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to **authorize Business Manager, Kim Johnson to become an authorized signer on the St. Louis County Schools, ISD # 2142 general checking account with Queen City Federal Savings Bank.**

Superintendent Rick explained the need for the additional name change.

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- None

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Beaudry to **authorize Lisa Williams to access any of the St. Louis County Schools, ISD # 2142 district accounts with Queen City Federal Savings Bank.**

Discussion followed.

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- None

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bruns to **approve that student X2-09 be allowed to return to school on April 6, 2009.**

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- None

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Rantala to **accept the quote from Lenci Enterprises, Inc. of Virginia, MN in the amount of \$39,400.00 for the renovation of the Cherry School handicapped accessible locker room / bathroom project.**

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- None

Motion by Rantala and seconded by C. Larson to **approve the 2009-10 Family Service Collaborative Director contract for Edie Carr.**

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- None

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bruns to **hire Dina Kochevar as a van driver, bargaining unit, not to exceed 3 hours per day for this position, effective April 14, 2009, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Operating Engineers #70.**

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- None

Comments from the Board:

Board Member Rantala said that he had contacted Representative Tom Rukavina in regards to the district's sparcity aid and Rep. Rukavina said to contact Senator David Tomassoni. Mr. Rantala indicated that the district needs to be grandfathered in.

Board Member C. Larson thanked Carolyn Olson for the nice presentation and recommended that she be nominated as teacher of the year. Mr. Larson invited the public to come to the informational meetings with their ideas.

Board Member Bruns commented that as we go forward, we need everyone to know that we are here for the students. We are trying to have surplus money for student programs. Ms. Bruns reminded everyone, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Board Member A. Larson indicated that he hopes that we can get some creative and innovative ideas from the public's comments. Mr. Larson said that he appreciated the presentation of Carolyn Olson.

Board Member Bjerklie thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Bjerklie commented that sometimes it is difficult to get the word out on everything we've done. The school board has done a lot of work on these options, which means survival of the district. We need to unite.

Board Member Beaudry thanked Principal John Metsa for his hospitality.

Board Chair B. Larson thanked Principal John Metsa for his report and refreshments. Mr. Larson also thanked Carolyn Olson for her power point presentation; he indicated that he learned something new. Mr. Larson said that we have a challenge of a bond issue and the future of the school district. Adding all day Kindergarten and new school buses is a good step. Mr. Larson requested that the Superintendent look at new computers for next year and asked for a presentation from Technology Technician, Markus Hoche.

Comments from the Public:

Lois Garbisch commented on the closing of the pools. Ms. Garbisch indicated that there should be a savings of \$24,000. since the pools are now closed. She asked for the figures to indicate the adjustment.

Shirley Nicholas said she had no comment.

Julie Suikonen member of the Tower community indicated that they have raised \$16,000. towards the pool. Ms. Suikonen said that as long as the community is willing to help with the finances, the pools should remain open. At the next board meeting, she hoped that the board would vote yes to keep the pools operating.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Chairperson

Clerk