

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009.

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

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 the Cook School on Monday, August 10, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Member Rantala asked that an item be added to the agenda, for the board to reconsider Plan D for school sites.

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Beaudry to approve adding the item to reconsider Plan D for school sites.

Yes-A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, Rantala
Against- B. Larson, C. Larson

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Rantala to approve the agenda as amended.

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

Superintendent Charles Rick reported the following: 1.) We have activities going on for the start up of the school year; 2.) Long Range Plan: The principals have attended a meeting today on Multi-culturalism with U of M speaker, Laura Bloomberg; and 3.) In the past couple of weeks we have had District-wide Community Informational meetings. There were approximately 325 people in attendance overall.

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bruns to approve the consent agenda: July 20, 2009 Regular School Board Minutes; July 27, 2009 Special School Board Minutes; *Program: 5.31: 2009-2010 School Food Service Catering Renewal Contract with AEOA; 5.32: 2009-2010 Student Handbook.*

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

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Rantala to award the bread bid to Sara Lee for the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by Bjerklie to award the milk bid to Franklin Foods for the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by C. Larson to award the coal bid to C. Reiss Coal Company for the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Beaudry to award the propane bid to Ferrellgas for the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Beaudry to bring Plan D forward for reconsideration and discussion.

- 1.) Thomas Fink spoke first, but realized that he wanted to speak on the following item 6.22.
- 2.) Troy Swanson from the Tower Chamber of Commerce spoke about the problem with the numbers and that there is no support for option H. Mr. Swanson proposed that the North site be moved to the Frazier Bay Road area and Tower would be behind it.
- 3.) Christina Hujanen favored a new school for Tower-Soudan/Cook/Orr because of transportation. Ms. Williams said that Cook was too far to travel.
- 4.) Steve Abrahamson, Mayor of Tower said that the City Council of Tower cancelled their meeting tonight to attend the board meeting. Mr. Abrahamson said that the Tower School will eventually close. He asked the school board to step back and talk with the Ely School District.
- 5.) Tom Heinowski spoke about the Northern sites being 10 miles apart and how important it is to get the vote. Mr. Heinowski asked the board to look at the numbers.

- 6.) Tim Kotzian, City Council of Tower, said that the referendum is destined to fail and the Tower-Soudan/Orr/Cotton Schools will fail. Mr. Kotzian said that the district must work with Ely and compromise the location between Tower and Cook otherwise the people in the Tower-Soudan area are going to vote no for the bond referendum.
- 7.) Dena Suihkonen told the board that the plan won't be approved by the state. Ms. Suihkonen said that she is afraid of the board running out of money at the new sites, leaving little for the sites which are going to be re-modeled.
- 8.) Mary Beth Williams-Reller explained that she attended the meetings and has been involved in education. Ms. Williams-Reller indicated that she doesn't know of any Tower-Soudan students that will go to Babbitt-Embarrass. She said that students need to go to a school from K-12.
- 9.) Koreen Hill asked the school board to reconsider.
- 10.) Jenny Palmer thanked board members Rantala and Beaudry and asked the board to reconsider and think of the kids.

Board Member Bruns spoke about the amount of miles that students would have to travel from Orr. Ms. Bruns indicated that the Gheen site should be the primary and asked the board to think about it. She said that she wants this bond referendum to pass but the Gheen property would have less prep involved.

Board Member C. Larson said that he is not concerned about which site is primary and which site is secondary, his concern is what will be the best building and the cost. Mr. C. Larson indicated that both will be under consideration.

Doug Hildebrant of Architectural Resources indicated that they could do an equity study on both the primary and secondary sites.

Kirsten Richels stated that the plan is not workable and will fail.

Board Member Rantala said that he is also concerned about Tower. Mr. Rantala said that the school board has been working with the Ely District, but we can't wait 2 to 3 year for them to come around. He indicated that is was a business owner in Tower and has numerous relatives in the area and is in favor of a K-6 in Tower. Mr. Rantala talked about the mileage between Ely/Tower/Babbitt/Cook and said that he doesn't see Tower students going to Cook.

Board Member Bruns indicated that she doesn't see support for a school site between Cook and Tower. Ms. Bruns told the audience that the board cannot make the Ely District come on board. She indicated to residents of Tower that she understands their feelings.

Board Member A. Larson said that this has been a long and difficult process. The option for failure of District # 2142 is not an option. Mr. A. Larson sited the different options and said that we haven't had the time to think this through thoroughly. We need to come up with another solution. We need to come up with something we can agree on.

Board Member Beaudry said that this has been a tough situation to have a new school where all 4 schools would be happy.

Christina Rankila said that she feel the bond referendum will fail because of the conversation of the people she's talked to.

The vote was taken for reconsideration of Plan D.

Yes-A. Larson

Against-Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to approve the Southern (Sewell property) primary and (Hussey property) secondary sites as recommended by Johnson Controls, Inc.

Yes- A. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala

Against- None

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by Rantala to approve the Northern (Tschida property) primary and (Luecken property) secondary sites as recommended by Johnson Controls, Inc.

- 1.) Bob McClain questioned the minimum amount of acreage mandated for schools.
- 2.) Tom Fink spoke on the Lueken property and what an excellent site it is. Mr. Fink indicated that is the district puts a new school between Cook and Tower we will get all the votes.
- 3.) Lori Udovich said that she is in favor of a new school for Cook and Orr but not in favor of moving the school further South. The plan will fail if we leave it the way it is.
- 4.) Bill Conger, a member of the selection committee, visited the sites. Mr. Conger said that it's not where we wanted it to be, but the site is the best we could come up with.
- 5.) Tony Udovich of Orr, said the Gheen site is a better location and should be the primary site; the Olson site should be secondary.
- 6.) Beth Youngstrom indicated that if the Northern site is moved to Gheen, her kids won't go there.

Board Member Bruns spoke on the Northern primary selection site being at the Olson Road. Ms. Bruns said that from Orr to Olson road site it is 14.2 miles and to Cook it is 4.8 miles. She said that she has a problem with not keeping her promise. Ms. Bruns is in favor of the Gheen site being the primary site of choice.

The vote on the Northern primary site was taken.

Yes- Beaudry, Bjerklie, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala
Against- A. Larson, Bruns

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Beaudry to approve the elimination of the Orr School bus route currently held by bus driver, Bret Wardas, effective September 8, 2009 for the 2009-2010 school year.

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

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by A. Larson to accept Eric A. Simonson's letter of resignation as custodian, effective August 14, 2009.

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

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to approve the 2009-2010 Fall coaching staff, dependent upon appropriate levels of high school (grades 9-12) participation, as follows: Cotton School: Head Football-Peter Wood; Assistant Football-David Erickson.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Beaudry to eliminate the In School Suspension Monitor position held by James Boutto, effective the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by A. Larson to eliminate the instructional aide position, 4 hours per day, 5 days per week, held by Roger Esterby, effective the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by Bjerklie to eliminate the instructional aide position, 6.5 hours per day, Tuesday, Thursday and every other Friday, held by Michelle L. Bailey, effective the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to eliminate the teacher aide position, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, held by Lynn Johnson, effective the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by A. Larson to eliminate the instructional aide position, 6.5 hours per day, 2 days per week, held by Michelle Desannoy, effective the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Bjerklie to eliminate the instructional aide position, 6.5 hours per day, 1 day per week, held by Jutta Karin Schultz, effective the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by C. Larson to reduce the teacher aide position from 4 hours per day, 5 days per week to 2 hours per day, 5 days per week, held by Jessica Kudis, effective the 2009-2010 School Year.

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

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bjerklie to eliminate the In School Suspension Monitor position; increase the ITV Teaching Assistant position from 1 to 2 hours per day; reduce the teacher aide position from 3.5 to 3 hours per day, held by Vicky Preston, effective the 2009-2010 School Year, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by C. Larson to increase the instructional aide position by 1 day per week, held by Cindy Paakonen, effective the 2009-2010 School Year, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Beaudry to approve a leave of absence for Jessica Halley effective on or about October 29, 2009 until January 4, 2010, in accord with Master Agreement Article XI, Section 4, Subd. 3, between ISD # 2142 and EDMNSLCT.

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

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by Rantala to offer Scott Chiabotti a 1.0 FTE contract as Dean of Students for the 2009-2010 school year, effective September 2, 2009, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Beaudry to accept Heather Kowarsch's letter of resignation as head volleyball coach for the 2009-2010 fall season.

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Bruns to accept Kim Mattson's letter of resignation as a teacher, effective September 1, 2009.

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

Comments from board:

Board Member C. Larson introduced Harley Olson to everyone and said that Mr. Olson was around when ISD # 2142 was formed.

Board Member Rantala said that it has been an arduous day but we have to keep this district alive.

Board Chair B. Larson scheduled a Special Board Meeting for August 17, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office.

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bruns to schedule a Special Board Meeting for August 17, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.