

THE REORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Simonson
 Johnson
 Cox

The Reorganizational 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 12, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by A. Larson to approve the agenda.

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

The acceptance and oath of office for the following was administered to the newly elected officials by the Board Chair: Zelda Bruns, District #1 (Orr); Gary Rantala, District #4 (Babbitt-Embarrass); Chester (Chet) Larson, District #6 (Cotton), and Robert J. Larson, District #7 (AlBrook).

Board Chair Bruns gave an instruction handout to the board concerning nominations.

Board Chair Bruns asked for nominations for Chairperson.

Board member C. Larson nominated Robert J. Larson as Chairperson.

Board member Rantala nominated Darrell Bjerklie as Chairperson.

Board Chair Bruns asked for any other nominations three (3) times, hearing none she called for a vote for Robert J. Larson as Chairperson.

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

Board Chair Bruns called for a vote for Darrell Bjerklie as Chairperson.

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

Robert J. Larson was declared the Chairperson.

Zelda Bruns handed the meeting over to the new chairperson.

Board Chair Robert Larson asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson.

Board member Rantala nominated Darrell Bjerklie as Vice Chair.

Board member A. Larson nominated Zelda Bruns as Vice Chair.

Board Chair Robert Larson asked for any other nominations three (3) times, hearing none he called for a vote for Darrell Bjerklie as Vice Chairperson.

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

Board Chair Robert Larson called for a vote for Zelda Bruns as Vice Chairperson.

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

Zelda Bruns was declared the Vice Chairperson.

Board Chair Robert Larson asked for nominations for Clerk.

Board member C. Larson nominated Andrew Larson as Clerk.

Board Chair Robert Larson called for a vote for Andrew Larson as Clerk.

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

Andrew Larson was declared the Clerk.

Board Chair Robert Larson asked for nominations for Treasurer.

Board Member A. Larson nominated Darrell Bjerklie as Treasurer.

Board Chair Robert Larson called for a vote for Darrell Bjerklie as Treasurer.

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

Against-None

Darrell Bjerklie was declared the Treasurer.

The Reorganizational Meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m. and the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142 was called to order by Chairperson Robert Larson at 5:09 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent Sidney L. Simonson reported the following: Mr. Simonson explained his handout that was given to the board on the District AYP improvement plan. He also indicated that principals will be meeting with their teachers in regards to the AYP plan and the individual teacher accountability checklist, which he created.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Bruns to approve the consent agenda: December 9, 2008 Regular School Board Minutes; Policy: Donations: 1.) Five Dell computers, model GX280, # 1T9PG81, #6H4RG81, #2N9PG81, #DP9PG81, #6FS1T71, 5 keyboards, 5 mice and 5 power cords from the USDA Forest Service, Superior NF, Kawichiwi Road of Ely, MN for the Tower-Soudan School; 2.) \$32.34 from ASD.com, Inc. of Murfreesboro, TN for the Cook School; 3.) \$300.00 from VFW Post 1757 of Cook, MN for the Cook School Math League; 4.) \$50.00 from the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Women's Circle of Angora, MN for the Cook School; 5.) \$950.67 from Enstrom Studio, Inc. of Bovey, MN for the AlBrook School band; 6.) Eight (8) rocking chairs valued at \$75.00 each from Mark Carlson of Arrowhead Regional Corrections, made by the residents of NERCC, for the ECFE program; 7.) \$2,119.00 K-12 Arts Challenge Minnesota grant, from the Minnesota State Arts Board for the AlBrook School; and 8.) \$500.00 from "Saturday Night Country...Live!" for the Orr School music program.

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Bruns to approve the State Bank of Tower and Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund (Cadre Services) as designated depositories for district funds.

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

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bruns to approve salaries and other compensations for 2009 with the exception to raise the hourly salary from \$8.50 to \$15.00 per hour.

Board Vice Chair indicated that she seconded the motion in order to allow discussion on the compensations enclosure.

Board Member C. Larson said that the hourly compensation was \$15.00 an hour when he was previously on the board.

Board Member Rantala said that he would like \$15.00 per hour, but with the budget shortfall that the district is experiencing it would not be a good thing.

Board Member Bjerklie indicated that with this budget he couldn't vote for it.

Board Member Bruns explained that the teachers have indicated that they are not getting a raise; however, this statement is not true. Ms. Bruns said that they would receive a 3.7% raise with their step and lane, so in fact they are receiving a raise.

Discussion followed.

Yes- C. Larson

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by A. Larson to retain the same amounts as last year on the salaries and other compensations for 2009 as presented.

Yes- Rantala

Against- A. Larson, B. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns

Board Vice Chair Bruns commented that last year the former board member Larry Salmela said that the hourly rate of \$8.50 was ridiculous and indicated that it should be at least \$10.50.

Motion by Bruns and seconded by C. Larson to retain the same amounts as last year on salary, mileage, per diem and other compensation with the exception of increasing the hourly salary to \$10.50 per hour.

Salary: For regularly scheduled school board meeting to be \$225.00 per month, and an hourly rate of \$10.50 per hour for additional meetings that require attendance at meetings, workshops, and conventions, including travel time.

Mileage: Follow IRS established rates.

Per Diem: Shall be consistent for all employees at the following rates:

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|------------------|-----------|---------|
| Within Region 7 | Breakfast | \$5.00 |
| | Lunch | \$7.00 |
| | Dinner | \$15.00 |
| Outside Region 7 | Breakfast | \$10.00 |
| | Lunch | \$15.00 |
| | Dinner | \$20.00 |

Yes-Bruns, A. Larson, B. Larson, C. Larson

Against-Beaudry, Bjerklie

Appointments made by Board Chair Robert Larson for 2009 calendar year:

Continuing Education Tom Beaudry

Staff Development Bob Larson

Human Rights Officer (s) Andrew Larson

Zelda Bruns

MSHSL Board Representative Darrell Bjerklie

Legislative Liaison Gary Rantala

Zelda Bruns

Board Representation for Negotiations Contract Renewals:

Teachers -

Zelda Bruns

Darrell Bjerklie

Gary Rantala

Teamsters – (Aides, Food Service, Clerical, Health Services (COTA))

Bob Larson

Darrell Bjerklie

Operating Engineers – (Custodians, Bus Drivers)

Bob Larson

Chet Larson

Principals -

Andrew Larson

Zelda Bruns

Non-bargaining Unit Employees - Tom Beaudry

Zelda Bruns

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Beaudry to recognize Colosimo, Patchin, Aronson, Kearney & Brunfelt, Ltd. Law Firm as legal counsel for ISD # 2142 for the year 2009.

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

Against- None

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bruns to award the official district newspaper bid to the Cook News Herald at \$1.19 per column inch on 14 column, for 2009.

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

Against- None

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Bjerklie to accept final ISD # 2142 audit and activity audit for the year ending June 30, 2008.

Vice Chair Bruns commented that the board was given the audit and met with Greg Knutson, auditor with Walker, Giroux, & Hahne, Ltd. at the board study session and it was recommended to pass the audit.

Greg Knutson advised the board to be on top of their decision making process.

Kim Johnson, Business Manager, commented that if there were any questions to please come in and see her. Ms. Johnson also indicated that the audit was open to the public.

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

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Rantala to approve the final 2009 School Board Meeting Calendar.

Discussion followed.

Board Vice Chair Bruns commented that meeting dates be changed to meet at the sites when school is in session and suggested options.

Board member C. Larson indicated that the meetings should start at 6:00 p.m. making it easier for the public to attend.

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Rantala to approve changes to the 2009 School Board Meeting Calendar as follows: The Cherry School meeting be moved to April 13, 2009, and the AlBrook School meeting be moved to October 13, 2009; meetings on June 8, 2009 and August 24, 2009 would meet at the ISD # 2142 District Office; and all meetings would begin at 6:00 p.m.

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

ISD # 2142 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 2009 CALENDAR

THE SCHOOL BOARD CALENDAR FOR JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2009 AT 6:00 P.M.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday, January 12, 2009 | (Reorganizational meeting) | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, January 26, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, February 9, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, February 23, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, March 9, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, March 23, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, April 13, 2009 | | Cherry School |
| Monday, April 27, 2009 | | Orr School |
| Monday, May 11, 2009 | | Cotton School |
| Tuesday, May 26, 2009 | | Cook School |
| Monday, June 8, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, June 22, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, July 20, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, August 10, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, August 24, 2009 | | ISD # 2142 District Office |

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Monday, September 14, 2009* | Babbitt-Embarrass School |
| Monday, September 28, 2009 | Tower-Soudan School |
| Tuesday, October 13, 2009 | AlBrook School |
| Monday, October 26, 2009 | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, November 9, 2009 | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Monday, November 23, 2009 | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Tuesday, December 8, 2009 (Truth and Taxation) | ISD # 2142 District Office |
| Tuesday, December 15, 2009 ** | ISD # 2142 District Office |

- * **Certify proposed Tax Levy (on or before September 30, 2009.)**
- ** **Adopt Final Levy (prior to December 30, 2009.)**

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Rantala to approve the amended Final 2009 School Board Meeting Calendar.

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

**PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE OF
 POSITIONS, AND CURTAILMENT OR
 DISCONTINUANCE OF PROGRAMS**

Member Bjerklie moved, that

Whereas, there has been a reduction in student enrollment and this reduction in student enrollment must include discontinuance of positions, and curtailment or discontinuance of programs and

Whereas, as determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

Be It Resolved, by the School Board of ISD 2142,

That the School board hereby directs the superintendent of schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs and positions, and, as a result of reduction in enrollment, make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, the curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions, curtailment of positions.

The motion for the foregoing was duly seconded by Member Rantala and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: A. Larson, B. Larson, C. Larson, Beaudry, Bjerklie, Bruns, and Rantala.

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Rantala to approve Maria Zahorik as bus driver, bargaining unit, not to exceed full time equivalency for this position, effective January 5, 2009, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and Operating Engineers #70.

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

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Bruns to offer Karyn O’Kane a .1 FTE probationary teaching contract for the 2008-2009 school year, effective September 8, 2008, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Bruns to offer Stephanie Beaudry a .2 FTE probationary teaching contract for the 2008-2009 school year, effective November 19, 2008, contingent upon securing variance or provisional licensure from the Department of Education, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement between ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Rantala to accept Sidney L. Simonson’s retirement / resignation as Assistant Superintendent, effective, June 30, 2009.

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

Member Rantala commented that Mr. Simonson supported him in his time of need and that he greatly appreciates him on a personal basis.

Motion by Bruns and seconded by C. Larson to accept Cheryl DeTurk’s letter of resignation as Indian Home School Liaison, effective January 23, 2009.

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

Comments from the Board:

Member Beaudry congratulated all board members who shifted into new positions and congratulations to Sid on his retirement.

Member Bjerklie congratulated Sid on his retirement. Ms. Bjerklie indicated that the board has some tough decisions ahead and hoped that the board will make the right decisions.

Member A. Larson welcomed Gary Rantala to the board; congratulated Sid on his retirement and indicated that they had good meetings today.

Member C. Larson welcomed Gary Rantala to the board and congratulated Sid on his retirement.

Member Bruns commented that they had an interesting day today with Johnson Controls and the future is not going to be easy. The school board has to do what they think is best for the kids. We're here for the kids and we have to keep that in mind. We will miss Sid.

Member Rantala indicated that he is fortunate to be working with this group of board members and appreciated participating in these communications. Congratulations to Sid.

Member B. Larson said that discussion will be important. The board got closer to making decisions today. Mr. Larson would like to look into public relations and publicity to promote the district. Mr. welcomed Gary Rantala to the board and congratulated Sid on his retirement.

Member Bruns made an additional comment that she was impressed with the things being done at the Babbitt-Embarrass School from Principal Gary Friedlieb.

The board meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.