

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bjerklie
Bruns
Larson
C. Larson
Rantala

ABSENT: A. Larson
Beaudry

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 Orr School, September 27, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Superintendent spoke and explained why the meeting would not be closed to discuss the topic of closing schools. Dr. Rick indicated that the attorney was not in attendance and explained the process of closing schools. Notification would have to be given for two weeks outlining the time with the time and place of the meeting(s), along with the description and location of the schoolhouse and the reasons for the closing(s) in the official newspaper of the district. There would be a hearing officer present to conduct the meeting along with a court reporter. The public would be able to speak at the hearing and address their concerns. Dr. Rick emphasized that there was no intent to hide anything from the public.

Discussion followed.

Board Member Bruns indicated that she didn't see the need for the board to rush the process of closing schools.

Board Member Beaudry arrived at 5:06 p.m.

Board Member Rantala expressed the need to see the revised financials to make decisions.

Board Member Bjerklie said that a month ago we had an update on the district's curriculum and the board will need to plan for next year. The board also needs to plan a schedule for sports for 2011.

Board Chair B. Larson indicated that the schedules should be done by November.

Superintendent Rick told the board that he will be bringing the district's sports schedule to the board in October. Dr. Rick said that the district is exploring a lot of things before November including looking at 6 & 7 period days.

Board Member Beaudry asked the Superintendent twice, if he thought educationally to have both schools together next year was the best scenario.

Dr. Rick replied yes it would be.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Rick indicated that there would be a financial impact if both schools were left open and that education would be better in one site, but politically it wouldn't be.

Board Member Rantala recommended that the AlBrook and Cotton sites be scheduled to be closed.

Board Member Chet Larson spoke to the board about his concerns regarding grandfathered in building codes.

Director of Facilities and Grounds, Tom Cundy, indicated that he wasn't aware of any grandfathered in building codes, but he would check into the matter.

Superintendent Rick reported the following: 1.) The district is moving forward on the biomass project. On Monday September 20, 2010 the district met with Reed Erickson from DEET. On Friday, September 24, 2010 the Superintendent, Board Chair B. Larson, and John Henry met with the Fond du lac tribe to discuss the biomass project. Fond du lac would be a potential biomass resource and agreed to make a presentation to the board sometime next month; 2.) There was a Tower-Soudan School Community meeting last Monday, September 20, 2010 where questions were answered. There will be another get together with committee members after the board meets with members of the Vermilion Country School. Troy Swanson will call to schedule at a future date; 3.) There will be a Community meeting tomorrow at the Babbitt-Embarrass School to discuss the remodel of the school; 4.) Education planning will be coming together within the next 30 days; 5.) Transition planning – the names of schools could be named by the school board as St. Louis County South / St. Louis County North / St. Louis County Central, etc.; and 6.) there will be RAMS meeting on Thursday, September 30, 2010.

Orr School Principal Kevin Abrahamson reported briefly to the school board on promoting classroom engagement and gave out several handouts.

Orr School Dean of Students John Jirik reported a good start to the school year. Mr. Jirik said that it was a fun day meeting with all the elementary parents and the high

school students loved getting back to school. The Dean indicated that they are not where they want to be academically but they are improving dramatically. It has been nice to see Mr. Abrahamson in the classrooms encouraging the teachers to do different things in learning; It has been a good experience combining Jr. and Sr. football teams with the Cook School and the kids absolutely love it.

John Henry of Johnson Controls reported: On the North site they are preparing for the October 14, 2010 EAW meeting. They are prepared for the hearing concerning the storm water and waste water; On the South site all footings are prepared. Last Thursday bids were received and will be on the next agenda. On the MPCA South site everything went through, all trees are cleared and course grading is being done. The construction will work through the winter.

Discussion followed.

Board Committee Report:

Board Member Beaudry reported that he attended the last continuing education meeting. Mr. Beaudry asked the question as to the rationale of holding these meetings during the day; Mr. Beaudry also attended the Title I MOU Committee.

Superintendent Rick explained that the Title I teachers are included in the teachers contract, but they aren't included in the entire contract, pay scale, severance pay, FTE and seniority.

Board Member Rantala said that he has not met with the City of Babbitt yet and was waiting for the community meeting on September 28, 2010. Mr. Rantala also indicated that at the community meeting he will be presented with a check from Cleveland Cliffs for the amount of \$5,000. for the Babbitt-Embarrass School pool.

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Rantala to approve consent agenda:
September 13, 2010 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; Policy: 5.21 Donations:
1.) \$525.69 from Target "Take Charge of Education," for the Cherry School;
2.) \$2,101.35 from Target "Take Charge of Education," for the Cook School.

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

Board Chair B. Larson explained that the Superintendent Search was discussed last Wednesday.

Board Member Bruns indicated that she does not want to hire an outside firm for the Superintendent Search.

Motion by Bruns and seconded by C. Larson not to hire an outside firm to hire the Superintendent.

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

Board Member Bjerklie commented that the board should consider asking the Superintendent to stay until the spring of 2011 or until a replacement could be found.

Superintendent Rick responded that due to all that is going on with the restructuring of the district, he would consider it.

Member Beaudry indicated that the board should discuss this at a Board Study Session of which, the School Board agreed.

Discussion followed as to the content in the posting of the Superintendent.

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Beaudry to post the Superintendent of Schools position.

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

Motion by C. Larson and seconded by Beaudry to grant permission to sell the district's 1999 Pontiac, vehicle #73.

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

Motion by Beaudry and seconded by C. Larson to approve 2010 Payable 2011 Proposed Levy at maximum.

Business Manager Kim Johnson explained the new online process to certify the proposed 2011 tax levy. Ms. Johnson gave the school board a handout on the levy and recommended that the board certify the maximum, which would allow for changes.

Dr. Rick explained that the district also received approval of the Q-Comp.

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

Motion by Bjerklie and seconded by Beaudry to award a quote for the 3320 John Deere Tractor to Five Seasons Sports, Eveleth, MN for the amount of \$31,998.00.

Director of Facility & Grounds, Tom Cundy, explained the need for the tractor at and recommended the purchase of the tractor for the Cherry School.

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Bruns to offer Karyn O’Kane a 1.0 FTE probationary teaching contract for the 2010-2011 school year, at Step H BA 15, effective September 9, 2010, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement ISD # 2142 and SLCTEM.

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

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Beaudry to reduce the ITV teaching assistant position held by Chris Gabrielson, from 4 hours per day to 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 16, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year.

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

Motion by Bruns and seconded by C. Larson to hire Chris Gabrielson as a teacher aide for an additional hour per day, 5 days per week, effective October 16, 2010, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Bjerklie to hire Brandi Lislegard as an instructional aide for an additional 1.5 hours per day, Tuesday through Friday, effective September 13, 2010, with terms and conditions of employment in accord with master agreement ISD # 2142 and Teamsters Local #346.

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

Comments from the Board:

Board Member Rantala stated that he appreciated the reports from Kevin Abrahamson and John Jirik.

Board Member Bjerklie also indicated that he appreciated the reports from Kevin Abrahamson and John Jirik.

Board Member Beaudry thanked everyone in Orr for their hospitality.

Board Member Bruns thanked everyone for coming and said that it's always glad to see good attendance. Ms. Bruns thanked Kevin Abrahamson and John Jirik for their reports.

Board Chair B. Larson explained to the school board that there is land that could be purchased in the South and as a board we should be discussing it.

Board Member Bjerklie indicated that if there is an opportunity for the school, we should be looking at it.

Board Member Bruns asked how much the purchase price was.

Board Chair B. Larson said that it would be \$90,000 and there is a willing seller.

Comments from visitors:

Arlette Krog, president of the Cotton Civic Club in Cotton explained to the board that her organization sponsors the Fiddle Fest every year. The organization is concerned about losing the Cotton School building which usually hosts the event. Next year will be the 30th annual Fiddle Fest and they would like to be able to use the new part of the school building, gym and classrooms. Ms. Krog asked is it would be possible to utilize the school building and added that Gov. Rudy Perpich declared Cotton for the place for the Fiddle Fest. Ms. Krog would need to know by January 1st.

Thomas Gadlowski said that it was discouraging news about the operating levy. He asked that the school board do a feasibility study for the North and South Schools.

A Board Study Session was scheduled for Friday, October 1, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. at ISD # 2142 District Office.

The meetings was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.