

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2142, ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS, HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:       Bruns  
                                  B. Larson  
                                  C. Larson  
                                  Feist  
                                  Rantala  
                                  Swanson  
                                  Zupetz

ALSO PRESENT:       Rick  
                                  Cox  
                                  Johnson

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 March 28, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Yes – Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Feist, Rantala, Swanson, Zupetz  
Against – None

Superintendent Rick reported the following: 1.) On Wednesday there will be a meeting with Director of Facilities and Grounds, Tom Cundy, to start a moving plan for the summer; 2.) The Superintendent will be attending a meeting at the Mesabi Range Community and Technical College on Wednesday, March 30, 2011; and 3.) There will be a retirement workshop presented by Lisa Williams on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Mesabi Range Community & Technical College in Virginia.

Kevin Abrahamson reported the following: 1.) Mr. Abrahamson indicated that the next six (6) weeks will be busy with state and NWES MAPS testing; 2.) All the paper/pencil testing materials have arrived at the sites and are being inventoried by the counselors; 3.) The number of curriculum meetings is winding down.

Board Chair Bruns asked if the new English/Language Arts curriculum will be in place next year.

Mr. Abrahamson indicated that it is to be determined.

John Henry of JCI reported the following: 1.) At the Cherry School the painting is going on right now with the windows going in this week. The project is moving

forward; 2.) South Ridge School the concrete is now being poured, the painters have started and tile people are scheduled to start in a week; 3.) The North site will be starting within the next ten (10) days; 4.) The Tower-Soudan School the bids came in on budget and they will be ready to start after the bids are awarded; and 5.) Babbitt-Embarrass School prints are due this week.

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Zupetz to approve consent agenda: March 14, 2011 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; Policy: 5.21 Donations: \$570.00 from the Tower Fireman's Relief Assn. for the Tower-Soudan participation fees; \$50.00 from Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats of Babbitt, MN for Babbitt-Embarrass Prom Committee.

Yes – Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Feist, Rantala, Swanson, Zupetz  
Against – None

Member B. Larson introduced the following resolution and moved as follows:

### **RESOLUTION CLOSING THE ALBROOK SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the administration of Independent School District No. 2142 posted and published the required statutory notices calling for a hearing on the proposed closing of the AlBrook School; and

WHEREAS, a hearing was held and conducted on December 15, 2010, presided over by hearing officer John T. Oswald, retired District Court Judge, at which hearing those who chose to speak and address the board and hearing officer were allowed and permitted to do so and to offer any additional evidence; and

WHEREAS, the administration of the school district through its attorney presented facts justifying and supporting the closure of the AlBrook School; and

WHEREAS, the hearing officer, John T. Oswald, retired District Court Judge, issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Recommendations to the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the school board of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, Minnesota, had the opportunity to read and review the transcript of the hearing, the exhibits introduced, the Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendations of the hearing officer, and all other evidence and exhibits of record; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, Minnesota, at its meeting of March 28, 2011, took the opportunity to deliberate, discuss, examine and to consider the hearing officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendations, and all other evidence and exhibits of record;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the school board of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, Minnesota, as follows:

1. That the AlBrook School shall be closed as a school building at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 educational year, or as soon thereafter as the

administration deems to be practical and feasible, based upon the completion of the new combined school project.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by C. Larson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Bruns, Feist, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala, Swanson, and Zupetz.  
and the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Member C. Larson introduced the following resolution and moved as follows:

### **RESOLUTION CLOSING THE COTTON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the administration of Independent School District No. 2142 posted and published the required statutory notices calling for a hearing on the proposed closing of the Cotton School; and

WHEREAS, a hearing was held and conducted on December 16, 2010, presided over by hearing officer John T. Oswald, retired District Court Judge, at which hearing those who chose to speak and address the board and hearing officer were allowed and permitted to do so and to offer any additional evidence; and

WHEREAS, the administration of the school district through its attorney presented facts justifying and supporting the closure of the Cotton School; and

WHEREAS, the hearing officer, John T. Oswald, retired District Court Judge, issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Recommendations to the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the school board of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, Minnesota, had the opportunity to read and review the transcript of the hearing, the exhibits introduced, the Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendations of the hearing officer, and all other evidence and exhibits of record; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, Minnesota, at its meeting of March 28, 2011, took the opportunity to deliberate, discuss, examine and to consider the hearing officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendations, and all other evidence and exhibits of record;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the school board of Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County Schools, Minnesota, as follows:

1. That the Cotton School shall be closed as a school building at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 educational year, or as soon thereafter as the administration deems to be practical and feasible, based upon the completion of the new combined school project.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by B. Larson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Bruns, Feist, B. Larson, C. Larson, Rantala, Swanson and Zupetz.  
and the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Board Chair Bruns indicated that she wants the same wording for the closure of the Orr School, that the Orr School shall be closed as a school building at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 educational year, or as soon thereafter as the administration deems to be practical and feasible, based upon the completion of the new combined school project.

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Zupetz to name the New North Campus the North Woods School; Mascot-Grizzlies; and School colors-Caroline Blue, Navy Blue, and White.

Yes – Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Feist, Rantala, Swanson, Zupetz  
Against – None

Board Chair Bruns said that everyone was given an opportunity to vote and she believes that everyone is happy with this.

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Feist to accept Carolyn Lamppa's retirement / resignation, as Site I Secretary, effective June 30, 2011.

Yes – Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Feist, Rantala, Swanson, Zupetz  
Against – None

Motion by Zupetz and seconded by Swanson to accept Robin Akerman's resignation as assistant cook, effective March 22, 2011.

Yes – Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Feist, Rantala, Swanson, Zupetz  
Against – None

Motion by Zupetz and seconded by Rantala to approve Maurice J. Best's request for a medical leave of absence as a teacher, effective May 3, 2011 to June 2, 2011, in accord with Master Agreement Article XI, Section 7, Subd. 4, between ISD # 2142 and EDMNSLCT.

Yes – Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Feist, Rantala, Swanson, Zupetz  
Against – None

Motion by Rantala and seconded by Feist to approve Lyn W. Ellingson as the head golf coach for the Babbitt-Embarrass / Tower-Soudan Schools for the 2011 Spring coaching season, dependent upon appropriate levels of high school (grades 9-12) participation.

Yes – Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Feist, Rantala, Swanson, Zupetz  
Against – None

Motion by Bruns and seconded by Swanson to approve Teresa Strong as Superintendent of Schools and the 2011-2014 Superintendent Contract.

Yes – Bruns, B. Larson, C. Larson, Feist, Rantala, Swanson, Zupetz  
Against – None

Comments from the board:

Board member Feist said that she is excited about the new name for the North School and everyone has had a chance to vote. Ms. Feist congratulated elementary student, Jake Hyppa for making it to state in archery.

Board Member Zupetz indicated that she is happy for Teresa Strong and is looking forward to the April 8, 2011 Community Event.

Board Member C. Larson welcomed Teresa Strong as Superintendent.

Board Member Swanson said the iPod meeting was very interesting; Congratulations to Teresa Strong, she is the perfect person at a perfect time.

Board Member B. Larson congratulated Teresa Strong and asked for a presentation to be given to the school board on the status of Community Education.

Principal John Metsa explained that Community Education is meeting regarding new models in Community Education.

Discussion followed.

Board Member B. Larson said that school boards are elected by attendance areas and we need to check into the attendance areas due to district's restructuring. Mr. Larson also indicated that the board needs to start thinking what it is going to do with the old school buildings and possibly think about getting appraisals on them.

Board Chair Bruns said that the cost for appraisals on a commercial building is approximately \$2,000. Ms. Bruns indicated that she had no objection to the appraisals if someone was interested in purchasing the buildings.

Superintendent explained that the district should probably list the buildings through a realtor.

Board Member Rantala said that the board made an excellent choice with Teresa Strong as Superintendent. We have an enormous job coming up this year, but we need to keep moving forward.

Board Chair Bruns scheduled a Special Board Meeting for Monday, April 4, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the District Office. The agenda for the special meeting will be to approve bids for the Tower-Soudan School; reconsider the footprint for the Tower-Soudan School; and approve bids for the new North School. Ms. Bruns announced a board retreat on April 11 and April 12, 2011 at the Gateway Lodge in Orr and the new superintendent will be in attendance. The Principals will be in attendance on April 12, 2011. We are extremely happy to have Teresa Strong as our Superintendent. Ms. Strong

sends her apologies for not being at the board meeting tonight, but she had a previous engagement.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.