

SCHOOL BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15  
St. Francis, Minnesota  
April 28, 2008  
Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Directors H. Grams, S. Grams, Haag, Kelly, Lipinski, Vogel, and Superintendent Saxton.

Others present were Director of Business Affairs Mae Hawkins, Director of Human Services Jay Reker, Director of Special Services Jacque Stein, Director of Community Services Tom Larson, Student School Board representative LaNae DesRoser, and community members.

Board Calendar Dates: Regular Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Center May 12, May 27, June 9, and June 23. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 12 and June 9. The Retiree Recognition program will be held on May 27, at 6:00 p.m.

### **Consideration of Visitors**

Ms. Ness addressed the School Board regarding questions she has of the bus garage and submitted questions to Chair Anderson. Mr. Day acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the positive educational experiences of the services his children receive at Lifelong Learning Center (LLC). Mr. Day also mentioned that there were higher numbers of students than those listed in the LLC portion of the Organizational Analysis Study. Ms. Weidner presented and distributed questions regarding the transportation repair contract. Ms. VanDenburgh attended the Cedar Creek Community School PTO meeting and commented on staffing numbers and how the numbers might affect the possible fall 2008 operating levy referendum.

### **Communications**

Mr. Saxton reported that Awards Night at Crossroads will be held May 8.

The Youth Hockey Program is reviewing the possibility of building an ice arena.

A positive and supportive email was received from a representative of the Business Expo. The Expo was held at the St. Francis High School on April 5. Representatives will attend and report on the expo at the May 12, School Board meeting.

Mr. Saxton wants a complete annual evaluation. He wants to take the performance pay off the table.

### **Agenda**

Motion was made by Ms. Grams and seconded by Ms. Lipinski. Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Grams. Mr. Vogel requested that E. be considered separately.

A. THAT the minutes for April 14 be approved as presented.

B. BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No.15 that the Personnel actions as listed below be approved:

#### **EMPLOYMENT:**

##### CLASSIFIED

**ZAK, NANCY**, Teacher, Long Term Substitute, CCCS, Salary Teacher 1, effective 04/24/08.

##### NON-CLASSIFIED

**ABRAHAM, DAWN**, Career Planning Advisor, SFHS, \$18.82/hr., 7.5 hrs./day, 173 days/yr. beginning 05/06/08.

**BACHELOR, LAURA**, Cook, Temporary, Nutrition Services, SFMS, \$12.63/hr., 7.5 hrs./day, 66.0 days beginning 08/26/08.

**BAUER, MICHELLE**, Educational Assistant, EBCS, Temporary, \$11.11/hr., 3.0 hrs./day, 33.0 days beginning 04/16/08.

**DAVIS, WAYNE**, Bus Driver, Transportation, \$12.40/hr., 7.0 hrs./day, 32.0 days /yr. beginning 04/21/08.

**ERICKSON, ALYSA**, Career Planning Advisor, SFHS, \$18.82/hr., 7.5 hrs./day, 173 days/yr. beginning 04/29/08.

**HILLESHEIM, TERI**, Educational Assistant, Sandhill, \$11.11/hr., 5.25 hrs./day, 24.0 days beginning 04/28/08.

**KURVERS, HEATHER**, Educational Assistant, EBCS, \$11.02/hr., 3.5 hrs./day beginning 04/14/08.

**MATHWIG, TAMMY**, Administrative Assistant, Nutrition Services, CSC, \$13.89/hr., 3.0 hrs./day, 172.0 days/yr. beginning 05/19/08.

**POWERS, TIFFANY**, Educational Assistant, SFE, \$11.11/hr., 5.25 hrs./day, 22.0 days beginning 04/28/08.

**WOHLFORD, VIOLET**, Cook, Nutrition Services, SFMS, \$14.50/hr., 7.50 hrs. per day beginning 08/26/08.

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE:**

CLASSIFIED

**MERKOURIS, ANN**, Dape Instructor, District Wide, return from Medical LOA beginning 04/21/08.

**O'CONNELL, TIM**, Social Worker, CCCS, return from Family Medical LOA beginning 04/14/08.

**ORPEN, TERESA**, Teacher, SFHS, Childcare LOA beginning 2008 school year first trimester.

NON-CLASSIFIED

**BITTNER, JULIE**, Educational Assistant, SFE, Medical LOA beginning 04/09/08.

**DADY, KELLY**, Educational Assistant, SFE, Medical LOA beginning 04/22/08.

**MADSON, BECKY**, Student Census Coordinator, CSC, return from Maternity LOA beginning 04/15/08.

**MAY, RICHARD**, Custodian, SFMS, Medical LOA beginning 04/22/08.

**SOLBERG, CARL**, Educational Assistant, SFHS, Medical LOA beginning 04/28/08.

**RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:**

CLASSIFIED

**HELLE, JAYMIE**, Counselor, SFHS, Resignation effective 06/06/08.

**PANSCH, CASSIE**, Teacher, SFHS, resignation effective 06/06/08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

**JENSEN, BEVERLY**, Educational Assistant, SFHS termination effective 04/12/08.

**TAUS, DONALD**, Bus Driver, Transportation, termination effective 09/25/07.

C. THAT Claims and Accounts be approved as presented.

D. THAT Investments be approved as presented.

F. THAT the School Calendar Revision be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 revise the School Calendar to include two days of senior exemption.

G. THAT the St. Cloud University Student Teaching Agreement be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, State MNSCU Board of Trustees (St. Cloud University), for the purpose of providing supervisory services for students from St. Cloud State University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairperson and clerk be, and they hereby are, authorized to execute such agreement.

H. THAT the Out of State Travel Request – SFHS Debate be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High School Debate proposal for an out-of-state trip to Las Vegas, NV June 15 – June 21, 2008 be approved as requested.

I. THAT the Out of State Travel Request – Skills – USA be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High School Skills – USA proposal for an out-of-state trip to Kansas City, MO June 21 – June 28, 2008 be approved as requested.

J. THAT the Gift Acknowledgements be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the following gifts be hereby accepted as set forth in the attached donor form(s)

\$700.00, St. Francis Lioness Club, two \$350 scholarships one girl and one boy to be used at Vo-Tech  
\$350.00, Howard McCarty Unit 290 American Legion Auxiliary, to SFE Susan Hoefs grade 3 classroom project, making lap blankets for seniors

\$740.00, CCCS PTO, to CCCS for snacks during MCA testing

\$150.00, SFE APT, for blankets for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade pen pals

\$118.75, SFE APT, to SFE for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade F/T to pen pals

\$225.00 (in kind), American Legion, nine American Flags for classrooms at SFMS

\$352.40, CCCS PTO, to CCCS for 5<sup>th</sup> grade party

\$500.00, CCCS PTO, to CCCS for technology teachers' equipment and supplies

\$300.00, SF Ice Breaker Cup Golf Tournament, B. Johnson & R. Anderson memorial scholarship

\$20,000.00, East Bethel PTO, to EBCS for classroom furniture

\$100.00, SFE APT, to SFE for 4<sup>th</sup> grade music program

\$3,000.00, Hoffman Enclosures, two \$1,500 scholarships

Motion carried.

E. THAT the Contract with the City of St. Francis be approved as presented.

Motion was made by Mr. Haag and seconded by Ms. Grams.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No.15 that a contract for services with The City of St. Francis for Independent School District No. 15 to provide ordinary and routine preventative maintenance and repair services on City vehicles, excluding police cars be approved.

Mr. Vogel requested more information regarding the contract. Mr. Saxton explained that this would be a one year pilot and similar to a cooperative with the city to share equipment that the District has and fill the need for the city. Ms. Hawkins explained that the city approached the District and currently have vehicles serviced out of the District. Motion carried with six Directors voting aye and one nay, Mr. Vogel.

## **Reports**

### *HOSA, VICA and Speech Students*

Mr. Ron Larson recognized activity groups, and the 80 individuals involved in the Spring Production of West Side Story. Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) St. Francis, had eight first place winners in the medical division at State competition. Eleven VICA students competed in Skills USA with two students competing in June at the National Leadership and Skill competition. Sam Homan was awarded first place in the Power Equipment Technology competition receiving \$8,000 in scholarships and \$500 in tools. Dan Gerdin was awarded second place in the Power Equipment Technology competition receiving a \$5,000 scholarship and \$400 in tools. Four students competed in the Minnesota State High School League Speech Tournament. Noah Muonio performed his speech, Dr. Strangelove, for the School Board.

### *6-12 Core Curriculum Development Days*

Mr. Keillor reported that over the past six months the Joint Standing Committee has reviewed ways to address a proposal for curriculum development program. The proposal requests that next year the District on three Fridays in mid trimester provide one day at the 6-12 level, where students come to school later than normal so that teachers meet to discuss, organize and implement a vertically aligned curriculum.

Ms. Scardigli reported on two sets of standards that teachers are bound to teach in Mathematics and Social Studies. Areas are targeted that focus on standards. The District is held accountable to the standards and that is why the need to align where things are taught. Mr. Johnson communicated the importance of teachers meeting to keep students on track. Mr. King reported that exploratories are ways to offer multiple short classes that are high interest, hands on, activity oriented ways to connect students to schools. Two students along with two School Board members demonstrated ways to resolve conflict. Mr. Davis reviewed what would happen with teachers at the high school with the shortened day. Teachers would conference with students talking with them about their grades, attendance, required classes that are still needed, a path towards their future, tests/projects outstanding, and things to help the student be more successful in the process. School Board members should submit any questions regarding the proposal to Mr. Keillor, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Neubauer, or Ms. Scardigli.

### *Lighthouse Program*

Ms. Schultz, Dean of Students, reviewed the program that includes 45 freshman and 45 sophomores. The program provides additional support for students transitioning into high school concentrating on attendance, academics and behavior. There has been tremendous growth in student success. A student and parents shared positive experiences with the School Board about the program.

### *Student of the Month*

Mr. Davis, Assistant Principal, explained the program which began in September 2002. Each department at the high school selects a student on certain criteria based accomplishments on abilities, improvement, academic performance, leadership, or overcoming specific obstacles. The students are recognized at a monthly breakfast supported by the local businesses.

### *Fifth Grade in 2008-09*

Principals Ms. Kohnen and Mr. Johnson provided an overview of the plan for fifth grade students at the middle school next year. With staff reduction and four classrooms available at the middle school room, fifth

grade will be accommodated. Students will ride the same bus and be dropped off first. Lunch will be separate from the middle school students. When middle school students leave the building fifth grade students will have their specials (art, music and technology). Fire drills and lock downs will be coordinated. Health Services and Nutrition services are currently being reviewed.

#### *Level Three School Board Hearing*

Mr. Reker reported that there has been a request from Education Minnesota Nutrition Services for a level three grievance hearing. The three School Board member representatives will be Ms. Lipinski, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Grams, with the hearing will be held May 5, at 4 p.m. Director Grams left the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

#### *Students' Report*

LaNae DesRoser provided the student report. Next week is Spring Week. A Volleyball tournament will be held May 5. Battle of the Bands is May 7. HOSA competed in State Competition, which was very interesting. Elections for Student Council will be held this week. Outdoor Activities Class for Seniors will be camping.

#### *School Board Report*

Mr. Haag attended the Minnesota State High School League Spring Review. He also attended the Spring Play. The Foundation 15 Banquet April 23 was successful.

Mr. Vogel attended the all District Band Concert. He mentioned the curbing at the high school is deteriorating.

Mr. Grams reported the great turnout at Foundation 15 Scholarship Banquet, and thanked all the sponsors and items donated. He attended the Spring Play, and acknowledged the performance.

Mr. Anderson extended congratulations to the students and staff who participated in West Side Story.

Foundation 15 Banquet was a great event. ECSU will be moving locations. School Board members have a schedule for writing an article for the Courier. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Tom Larson presented an overview and demographics of the District at the Ham Lake Lions, April 22.

Ms. Lipinski chaperoned at the middle school dance. She also attended the St. Francis Elementary building a book event. Negotiations have begun with Educational Assistants.

Ms. Kelly and Mr. Anderson are on the Oak Land Vocational Board who recently approved the budget and cooperative billing. The billing is approximately \$46,000 for this year. This amount has dropped considerably, with the biggest change due to the Business Managers from the three Districts participating in the budget process. Ms. Kelly thanked Ms. Hawkins for her participation in the cooperative budget. Sober School name will be changed to Recovery School and the location will be at the Oak Land Site in St. Francis. The High Risk program will be moved to Crossroads. Ms. Kelly attended Schools for Equity in Education April 18. Mindy Greiling, Education Finance Chair, reported on the new Education Funding Reform Bill House file 4178 and Senate file 3828 which will be presented next year. There is a bill going through now that gives schools a one time appropriation of \$51 per student. Ms. Kelly clarified the purchase of buses from the transportation budget regarding a comment by Ms. VanDenburgh. The School Board previously approved the transportation budget, there was no excess in transportation for purchase of buses, it was not additional dollars it is the same budget however comes before the Board when bus(s) are purchased.

#### *Superintendent's Report*

Mr. Saxton requested input from the Board regarding an Issues, Analysis and Planning Session for Operating Levy discussion. The session will be held May 5, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the High School Media Center.

Mr. Anderson reported that the evaluation document for the Superintendent will be given to Board members.

#### **Other Matters**

##### *Operating Levy Discussion*

Discussion included: request for scenario of portable and current levy how much District can ask taxpayers for, using last years levy amount, worse case scenario if the levy does not pass, is there consensus to go out for levy renewal – yes, has FPAC come up with scenario, FPAC recommended going out for levy and doing the research, to show what amount is with inflationary increases, show graph comparison of surrounding Districts, show graph comparison of State giving 0,1 or 2% increase, and what would it take to have zero cuts. Mr. Saxton recommended that Board members visit classrooms to look at current class sizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry Grams, Clerk