

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
August 11, 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, Haag, Kelly, Lipinski, Vogel and Superintendent Saxton. Absent: Director S. Grams.

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, and community members.

Board Calendar Dates: Regular Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Center, August 25, September 8, September 22 and October 13. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. prior to regular School Board Meetings.

Consideration of Visitors

Maureen Ness – Letter sent in July, 2008 to Mr. Saxton with no response to this date. She urged the Board to follow-up with Mr. Saxton on responding in a timely manner to her request.

Communications

Mr. Saxton attended a 7AA Regional Meeting held to discuss scheduling of winter activities.

He also attended SEE Legislative Meeting regarding funding at the state level. There is a draft legislative document.

July 28, he met with company regarding Safe Schools program. Our district is participating in this program to provide all employees with updated information regarding several areas. This is an on-line service that allows employees to log-in and take the required classes for the specific work group that they are assigned to. The District is requiring all employees to do this during the first trimester of the 2008-09 school year.

August 7 and 8 DLT met. They plan to focus on engaging community relations to communicate with the community. DLT members are to provide a goal to Mr. Saxton that is SMART.

Angie Scardigli was hired as EBCS principal by an interview team process.

ACT was taken by 234 students, (last year 214). The district has received the test results from the State of Minnesota. These results are embargoed until August 14. After this date they can be obtained by the public. All of the District scores have increased from previous year.

The ISD 15 Leadership Conference begins tomorrow at the High School. All Board Members are invited to attend.

Open House schedule was dispersed to Board Members.

Public Forums will all be held at 7:00. All Board Members are assigned to specific buildings to attend the open houses and be available to the public.

If a Board Member wishes to attend any other open house that would be good. No more than three can attend at one location.

SFMS -Mr. Anderson, SFHS - Ms. Kelly, (Ms. Kelly has a child attending SFHS would so would request another Board member attend), Crossroads School - Mr. Vogel, CCCS -Mr. Haag, EBCS - Ms. Grams, SFE - Mr. Grams and Ms. Lipinski who will walk around school to make connections while she is attending with her child, and LLC - Ms. Lipinski. T15 is located in Coon Rapids. Mr. Saxton will check on representation for this.

St. Cloud State University, Dr. Miller sent a letter of appreciation regarding Mr. Paul Neubauer speaking in the School Communications class.

The School Board email account has been set up. Mr. Saxton will provide the School Board directions. There will be read-only access to this information.

Maria Boca from the Minneapolis paper is writing her last article representing the district. She would like to attend the next Senior Summit and would like to be appraised additional information on it.

Agenda

Motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Haag to accept the agenda with the postponement of the Closed Session – Annual Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent until the next meeting when Director S. Grams is in attendance.

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Mr. Haag and seconded by Mr. Grams. Mr. Vogel requested that D. be considered separately.

A. THAT the minutes of July 14 and July 17, be approved as presented.

B. THAT the Personnel actions be approved as presented.

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

EMPLOYMENT:

CLASSIFIED

ANDERSON, PRISCILLA, Occupational Therapy, E.S.Y. /E.C.S.E., L.L.C., \$27.00/hr, 3.0 hrs./day, 6.0 days, effective 7.7.08.

LAHOUD, ANDY, Teacher, Math, Long Term Substitute, SFHS, BA1, \$13,040.00, 8.0 hrs./day, 62.0 days effective 8.27.08.

OLSON, DIANNA, Teacher, Math, SFHS, BA1, \$39,120.00, 8.0 hrs./day, 186.0 days effective 8.27.08.

SCARDIGLI, ANGELA, Elementary Principal, EBCS, Elementary Class II, Step 1, \$88,916.00, 8.0 hrs./day, 228.0 days/yr. effective 08.11.08

SCHMITZ, MEGAN, Speech /Language, E.S.Y. /E.C.S.E., L.L.C., \$27.00/hr, 3.0 hrs./day, 7.0 days, effective 7.7.08.

SWENSON, JOEL, Teacher, Language Arts, SFMS, BA1, \$39,120.00, 8.0 hrs./day, 186.0 days effective 8.26.08.

WINTER, KELLY, Teacher, Math 6th Grade, SFMS, MA 3, \$55,420.00, 8.0 hrs./day, 186.0 days effective 8.26.08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

PETERSEN, CORALIE, Educational Assistant, SFHS, \$11.46/hr., 7.0 hrs./day, 172.0 days effective 9.2.08.

SHERGA, COURTNEY, Educational Assistant, SFHS, \$11.46/hr., 7.0 hrs./day, 172.0 days effective 9.2.08.

TATLEY, JENNIFER, LPN Health Assistant, T-15, \$13.61/hr., 6.5 hrs./day, 173.0 days effective 8.27.08.

TRANDEM, LEE, Custodian, Night Lead, SFMS, \$15.27/hr., 8.0 hrs./day, 261.0 days effective 8.6.08.

WHITTLEF, VICKI, Custodian, SFHS, \$15.90/hr., 8.0 hrs./day, 261.0 days effective 8.6.08.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:

CLASSIFIED

BEADLE, MEGAN, Teacher, Art, CCCS, resignation effective 6.6.08.

DERGANTZ, SUSAN, Teacher, Language Arts, SFMS, retirement effective 6.5.08.

HENNINGSSEN, EDEL, Teacher, Current LOA, resignation effective 8.10.08.

HINSETH, JULIE, Teacher, Grade One, EBCS, resignation effective 8.8.08.

HOVDE, DAVID, Teacher, Science, SFMS, retirement effective 6.5.08.

JOHNSON, CRAIG, Teacher, Social Studies, SFMS, retirement effective 6.5.08.

THOEMKE, JOCELYN, Teacher, Art, SFMS, resignation effective 8.5.08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

BROWNING, NICOLE, Educational Assistant, SFHS, resignation effective 7.24.08.

DOBISCH, MICHELLE, Kids Connection Coordinator, LLC, resignation effective 7.30.08.

WINKELMAN, LORELEI, Educational Assistant, SFHS, resignation effective 7.18.08

C. THAT School Board Revised Policy 106 be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the School Board Policy 106 – Meetings of the School Board previously adopted January 28, 2008 be approved as presented.

E. THAT the PBR Consulting Contract be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the contracts with PBR Consulting for student management services for the 2008-09 school year in an amount not to exceed \$50,450.00 be approved.

F. THAT 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)
\$2,500.00, Future Fisherman Foundation, integrate fishing and boating activities into the classroom

Motion to consider Approval of Revised Policy 109 by Mr. Vogel and seconded by Mr. Grams.

D. THAT School Board Revised Policy 109 be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the School Board Policy 109 – Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations previously adopted February 9, 1998 be approved as presented.

Mr. Vogel opened discussion to keep Section V. RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC as it was previously. Ms. Hawkins stated that the changes are with the recommendation of the Minnesota School Board Association to comply with Minnesota State Legislation. It is thought that the intention for this specific wording is to assist meetings maintain reasonable length of time for the overall meeting. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Haag felt that the newly proposed wording is more consistent with other updated policies.

Mr. Vogel made a Motion for Section V. of Policy 109 to remain as it read previously. There was no second to the Motion. Motion failed.

Motion for the Approval of Revised Policy 109 carried with one nay, Mr. Vogel.

Reports

Administrative Report – Q Comp Study by Randy Keillor

Mr. Keillor presented the Q Comp Study report provided by Dr. Tim Sheldon, University of Minnesota CAREI Study. This Q Comp Study began one year ago tomorrow. During the past year he and an assistant have been in our district on numerous occasions as well as having been in phone contact with several ISD No. 15 employees.

He stated in his report that ISD No. 15 Teacher Academy has shown substantial and positive effects on:

- District's approach to professional development
 - Culture of the district
 - Evaluative role staff and teachers plan in St. Francis.
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- Most important change is explicitly linking professional development to positive, observable changes in the classroom and other work settings.
 - Professional staff members are challenged to set goals for themselves grounded in research on best practices.

- Teachers must demonstrate proficiency in attaining these goals through observations by peers and administrators during the four classroom visits.
- Link between professional development and professional behavior provides catalyst for permanent change

Redefined the professional development model with teachers.

- More likely to reflect on their roles as teachers and facilitators of learning.
- Creating objectives that can be observed and assessed by administrators and peers
- Increasing understanding of the roles in the district as a result of combined Teacher Academy classes and meetings
- Process is clear, not overly rigid or prescriptive.

Changing the professional culture of the district

- Common language for district staff and increased opportunities for collaboration
- More likely to take risks because observations are support structure rather than a punitive act.
- Observations are rewarding and helpful for both observer and teacher observed. We had approximately 1,200 observations last year alone.
- Important factor in attracting and retaining high quality staff.

Strengthened the evaluation process

- Observation process provides opportunities for teachers
- Develop new skills
 - Work on challenges
 - Adjust behaviors in a timely manner
 - Extending teacher duties increases leadership capabilities of young teachers who become “catalysts for continued momentum and change.”

Student performance in both reading and math has improved.

2005 is the base of the new norms for the entire country. It is also the year before we began the Q-Comp program. You will find that our students are doing better in 2008 than they were in 2005. District data is showing that students are continually scoring above the national average and scoring better now with the Q-Comp program.

Recommendations:

1. Monitor and respond to burdens on teachers
 - a. Develop new skills
 - b. Work on challenges
 - c. Adjust behaviors in a timely manner
2. Expand communication of activities and success to
 - a. All stakeholders
 - b. School Board
 - c. Parents
 - d. Prospective teachers
 - e. Staff

Mr. Keillor played a DVD that was developed by staff. DVDs were dispersed to the School Board.

Ms. Lipinski asked what the model would look like if there is increased class size if the referendum does not pass. The Q-Comp funding is isolated general fund revenue. It is difficult to say what it would look like.

The law was originally funded at \$260/student. It has not been part of the increase in the last couple of years. There is nothing built in to recognize the additional costs. There are 80 teachers who are doing 8-10 observations during an entire school year to make work-load manageable. Mr. Keillor explained the observation process. Teachers are given the opportunity to become better teachers and hopefully have their growth reflected in their classroom as well.

Paperwork challenge is also listed as an area of improvement for the Teacher Academy.

Amy Kelly felt the DVD was an excellent tool to provide to employees, parents and community regarding our school district. Ms. Lipinski asked if it could be playing on the school monitors at SFE.

School Board Reports

Joe Haag-attended reviewal of Mr. Neil Stoeckel at Carlson-Labotte Funeral Home in Cambridge.

Condolences are extended to his family.

Mr. Vogel asked about taking care of the graffiti at the high school. Mr. Wirz will complete.

Mr. Grams met with Native American Youth Group. A few items are being worked on and discussions taking place of the focus of the group. The St. Francis Lions have a youth program entitled, "Lions Quest" that they would like to incorporate in our schools in the absence of the DARE program. It is funded by the Lions. There are three different programs. Mr. Grams recommended it would be good to get on a future agenda to explain the program. Cambridge, Centennial and St. Michael are currently using this program. He will check with them. He attended Neil Stoeckel's funeral and extends his deepest condolences to the family during this very difficult time.

Mr. Anderson-Expressed his condolences to the family of Mr. Stoeckel.

Ms. Kelly-Extends her condolences to the Neil Stoeckel family. Her son received SFHS schedule and is excited for the new year. Thank you to administration and custodian staff for preparing buildings. Ms. Kelly also appreciates that the Public Forums are announced earlier. The forum dates will be given to the principals, school newsletters, email UAll, and will also be part of the welcome back day.

Dialogue Session

Dialogue with community members shows that issues are re-occurring statements from the past. Some of them from even seven or more years ago. One area is regarding the current land that the district owns. There seems to be misunderstanding on intention and cost of the land. Concern on how monies are spent and that they are not spent wisely. It is requested that we discuss specifics. Three of the last four years the District received an award for financial management. Contract bussing also continues to come up. The District has done a good job of using funds for bussing provided. When the board decided to go with one question on the upcoming levy rather than several questions. Ms. Kelly mentioned that \$671.65 was decided on due to inflationary amount knowing that the state is in a \$850 million deficit and the dollar amount could be changed if the state provides additional funding. The land was appraised. Purpose of the levy request needs to be explained to the community.

Board member volunteers for future Dialogue Sessions: August 25th Mr. Haag and Mr. Grams
September 8th Mr. Vogel and Ms.Lipinski.

Superintendent Report

Safe Schools

Mr. Reker and Mr. Saxton discussed the Safe Schools program. Handouts of specific courses were distributed that are available as well as a listing of which classes will be required by work groups.

Mr. Saxton discussed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is a direct result of legislation from the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. He discussed how AYP worked and where St. Francis is currently with this system.

There are some states that are deciding to not accept funding from the federal government due to unrealistic goals that are being placed on our students as well as the withdrawal of federal funds when AYP is not met.

Schools can be in AYP for one area one year, correct that area and then go into AYP in another area. There are situations in our district where this has meant as few as 20 students. It can mean that ISD No. 15 will lose funding to assist Title 1 students at the elementary level as well as cost up to \$80,000, which comes from district Title I dollars, to hire someone from the state to come and speak to this AYP punitive result.

Old Business

Motion made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Grams to approve School Board Policy 105.1.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 adopt new policy 105.1 School Board Procedures: Rules of Order

Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Haag and seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve School Board Policy 106.1.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 adopt new policy 106.1 School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Haag and seconded by Ms. Lipinski to approve School Board Policy 106.2.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 adopt new policy 106.2 – Consent Agendas

Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. _____

Harry Grams, Clerk