

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
February 25, 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 Resources Jay Reker, Director of Community Services Tom Larson, Student School Board representatives, Ryan Enerson and LaNae DesRosier and community members.

Board Calendar Dates: Regular Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Center March 10, March 24, April 14, and April 28. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. on March 10 and April 14.

Consideration of Visitors

The following community members addressed the School Board. Ms. Ness asked questions about Kraus Anderson, and read a congratulatory letter she wrote to Mr. Saxton regarding journalism awards. Ms. Jabas commended past and current School Board members, and Superintendent, regarding the information received from the Worner study, and acknowledged the impressive management of the District. Mr. Benkler addressed the academic rankings of students in the United States as compared to other countries.

Communications

Mr. Saxton provided the procedures for late starts and school closings.

Mr. Saxton contacted Maria Baca, Star Tribune, to inform her of misrepresentation of the District in an article written last week.

Mr. Saxton introduced Mr. Randy Keillor who will summarize the Teacher Academy and the mentoring program included in the program. Mr. Keillor explained how the mentor compensation program works in restructuring showing the traditional salary schedule versus the Q Comp schedule. Are the changes made successful? New teachers rank the support system as a more important reason to teach here than the improved salary, young teachers do not want to leave, approximately 1000 teacher observations are done each year. There were dramatic increases in student performance on state graduation tests beginning about 2001, and St. Francis is a model in the state and nation.

Agenda

Motion was made by Mr. Haag and seconded by Ms. Lipinski. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as revised by Mr. Grams and seconded by Mr. Haag.

A. THAT the minutes for February 11 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

HENNINGSSEN, EDEL, Teacher, CCCS, Extension to LOA, General Unpaid 2008-09 school year.

WILLITS, CHRISTINE, Preschool Instructor, Long Term Substitute, LLC, \$18.24/hr., 3.5 hrs./day, beginning 03/17/08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

RUFSHOLM. LISA, Educational Assistant, EBCS, \$11.11/hr., 3.0 hrs./day beginning 02/19/08.

SCHARBER, STEVE, Bus Driver, Transportation, \$12.40/hr., 6.0 hrs./day, 65.0 days/yr. beginning 02/25/08.

TOMAN, CLAYTON, Community Ed Instructor, Sandhill, \$20.00/hr. beginning 02/26/08

LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

CLASSIFIED

MERKOURIS, ANN, Dape Instructor, District Wide, Medical LOA beginning 03/03/08.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:

NON-CLASSIFIED

BLACK, SHAWN, Bus Driver, Transportation, Resignation effective 03/01/08.
JANZEN, KARIN, Helper/Server, Nutrition, Termination effective 02/14/08.
JAWORSKI, FLODENE, Educational Assistant, Transportation, Retirement effective 05/22/08.
MART, FRANK, Bus Driver, Transportation, Termination effective 02/01/08.
WALLACE, JENNIFER, Educational Assistant, SFHS, Resignation effective 02/22/08.

C. THAT Claims and Accounts be approved as presented.

D. THAT Investments be approved as presented.

E. THAT the Managed Print Services Contract be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No.15 that a contract with Marco for print management services for twelve months starting March 1, 2008 for a monthly fee of \$965.24 be approved.

F. THAT the Gift Acknowledgements be approved as presented.

\$50.00, SFE APT, for Social Worker (Kevin Wagner) at SFE
\$200.00, Ham Lake Lions, to SFE for I Love to Read Month
\$20.70, Tammy Luukkonen, to SFE Media Center for book purchase
\$1,528.00, East Bethel PTO, to EBCS for curtains for gym stage
\$1,500.00, Target Corp., to LLC for School Readiness bags for Early Childhood Screening
\$600.00 (in kind), Cindy Trevis, prizes donated to SFE for point exchange awards
\$300.00, Len Roskoski, to SFHS for Noel Johnson scholarship

Motion carried.

Reports

Triple A and Athena Awards

Mr. Ron Larson recognized the following students for their academic and athletic achievements. [Kaitlyn Joos](#) was an entrant in the State Gymnastics meet, and a participant in winning [the North Suburban Conference Championship](#). Four wrestlers will compete in the State Wrestling meet, [Austin Leibel](#), [Brent Molitor](#), [Trent Herold](#), and [Mac Rivard](#). The Athena Award winner for outstanding female athlete is [Ali Schwartzwald](#). The Academics, Arts, and Athletics (Triple A) award winners are [Deidre Held](#), and [Eric Sievert](#).

Procedures for Extended Field Trips

Principal Neubauer requested permission for the site to grant overnight stays for field trips. The request would be for the site to grant permission in the event that there is no opportunity to get School Board approval. The approval form would continue to come to the School Board at the following meeting. School Board granted consensus with the approval also given by the Superintendent or Designee. An email to the School Board upon such an approval was also requested. The policy should come before the Board for revision.

Construction Update

Mr. Larson reported that the terrazzo flooring is completed on first and second floor, however the south stairwell will be done during spring break. Lockers are in place on first floor. Johnson Controls has installed the mechanical controls however the software is not in place. The architectural punch list will be done in the next two weeks, with the final punch list in April. Mr. Neubauer is requesting that teachers have the opportunity to access classrooms in May to note any work yet to be completed over the summer. There is one lift of asphalt to complete in May or June. Things that may be looked at with funds remaining in the contingency fund are, an extension of a sidewalk, and possible landscaping.

Negotiations Update

Mr. Reker reported that negotiations continue with mechanics. The District has received notice that custodian/maintenance would like to begin negotiations, and Mr. Grams has agreed to be the School Board representative. Other groups that will be negotiating are office professionals, educational assistants, classified program supervisors, principals, and directors. Board representation will be selected at a following meeting. The level III grievance meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 6.

Student Report

[LaNae DesRosier](#) and [Ryan Enerson](#) provided the report. Student Council will host a staff breakfast. There is

an art show being held. The Crier will be having a Prom fashion show with monies collected benefiting supplies for the Crier. Ryan Plaisance will be attending the debate nationals. MORP will be February 29. Members of HOSA are accepting donations for the Alexander House. Advisory committees are forming for the vocational programs to assist teachers meet industry standards.

School Board

Mr. Haag inquired when the banner at the high school was hung. Mr. Neubauer responded that it was brought out for section gymnastics and will remain up through girls' basketball sections. Mr. Haag reported that City Council has expressed interest in sharing costs for updating the sound system. Mr. Saxton will report back on some estimated costs.

Mr. Vogel reported that the communications meeting went well. Mr. Vogel referred to calls he continues to get regarding the gas leak issue last spring and communications regarding it. Mr. Anderson recommended that Mr. Saxton meet with the concerned parties of the gas leak communication issue.

Mr. Grams refuted comments made previously in the meeting during consideration of visitors. He commended the District for the education that his daughters received. He commented on the student achievements presented earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Anderson congratulated the wrestling team and representation at wrestling sections. Mr. Anderson attended the seminar School Finance Elections which included research, systems, and strategies for running successful finance elections.

Ms. Lipinski acknowledged the basketball and wrestling competitions coming in the next two weeks. Ms. Lipinski inquired about potential seat belt use. Mr. Krause reported that in the Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation members have drawn a letter not in favor of seat belts. The compartment that students are currently in with high seat backs, are very safe. Nationwide studies show school buses as one of the safest modes of transportation.

Ms. Kelly attended the Springsted sponsored School Finance Elections seminar and reported on how random sampling surveys are informative. Ms. Kelly reported that school spirit is so evident at the sporting events she has attended. Ms. Kelly communicated that at a Schools for Equity in Education meeting last year, national comparisons in education was the topic. The study showed that all students in China do not attend schools because of lack of schools, and many countries do not have the Special Education mandates. All of these issues need to be considered when comparing the United States to other countries.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Hawkins distributed a graph of pupils served in comparison to resident pupil units. When budget reductions were made prior to the passing of the operating referendum it shows the impact to enrollment. Reduced programs may impact enrollment.

Mr. Saxton provided an update to the portables. The School Board previously approved a resolution to terminate the lease with Modular (Mod) Space Corporation. The amount of money to be paid to remove the portables was an issue. Another part of the resolution before the Board is when terminating a lease early, there is a penalty. This is on as a table top resolution because it has been before the Board previously and the updated information from ModSpace was received today. If the Board accepts this resolution a letter will go out February 26, to ModSpace. One reason for the portable update, is to report what happens educationally to the students next year. Cabinet members met with Principals from St. Francis Elementary (SFE) and St. Francis Middle School (SFMS) and also with SFE fifth and fourth grade teachers. Five sections of fifth grade will be placed at the SFMS and remain on the elementary schedule. Fourth grade teachers at Sandhill will be brought back to SFE. Discussion following included, not being in favor of this set up long term, what is SFMS losing to have five classrooms available for fifth grade, and that parameters are the same.

Mr. Saxton reported on the School Finance Elections seminar and the importance of analyzing the community through surveys finding interests of the community.

Old Business

Termination of Modular Space Corporation Leases

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that lease agreements with Modular Space Corporation be terminated effective February 29, 2008 with the following cost provisions:

Removal Costs:	
CCCS	\$ 26,152
SFE – 130’ x 68’	31,570
SFE – 98’ x 68’	<u>27,998</u>
Total Removal Cost	\$ 85,720*

Early Termination of Lease	
CCCS	\$ 12,081
SFE – 130’ x 68’	23,950
SFE – 98’ x 68’	<u>6,289</u>
Total	\$ 42,320@

SFE Mechanical HVAC Replacement	
ModSpace Orig Amt	\$ 31,200
Adjustment	<u>(29,000)</u>
Total	\$ 2,200#

Motion carried.

Other Matters

Policy 573 - Pay Periods

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 adopts Policy 573 as revised based upon the following background information.

Ms. Hawkins reported that this would be an approximate \$50,000 in interest savings to the District.

Motion carried.

Awarding the Sale, for the Payment of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2008A

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

(The resolution of general obligation refunding bonds, series 2008A is attached to the legal minutes at Central Services Center.)

Ms. Hawkins reported that the savings is through reduced future principle and interest on the bonds which reduces the amount that the District must levy, and thus a reduction to taxpayers.

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. _____

Harry Grams, Clerk