

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
March 10, 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 Resources Jay Reker, Director of Community Services Tom Larson, Student School Board representative, LaNae DesRosier and community members.

Board Calendar Dates: Regular Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Center, March 24, April 14, April 28 and May 12, 2008. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 14 and May 12.

Site Report – Crossroads by Keri Collins

Crossroads currently serves approximately 58 students. Approximately 85% of the students are from Bar None and Sherriff's Boys Ranch. The building maximum is 125 students. However, the district technology department is also using some of the space which brings the capacity to approximately 110 students. The focus is on basic education however, there are also some electives including woodworking, art and landscaping. Supplemental services include Title 1 Reading and Math as well as Future's Prep. Students are provided with a variety of experience, because the students have gaps in education, difficulty with traditional classroom, difficulty focusing in the traditional classroom, and strong need for positive reinforcement. All are invited to the Crossroads Annual Awards Night on May 8, from 5-8 p.m.

Consideration of Visitors

The following community members addressed the School Board. Ms. Maureen Ness regarding the contract with Springsted, Inc. Ms. Brenda Haller regarding the many benefits Lifelong Learning Center (LLC) has been for her family. Ms. Nicki Vincent representing the Early Childhood Advisory Council. She also echoed Ms. Haller regarding the many benefits of LLC as well as inviting everyone to a conference to hear Arthur J. Rolnick on March 19, at the Marquette Hotel, downtown Minneapolis.

Communications

Mr. Saxton asked Mr. Reker, Director of Human Resources (HR) to discuss the licensed staff reduction and the process for placing district staff. Mr. Reker stated that principals are given budget allotments and site standard requirements (administration, office professionals, PE, music, etc. per number of expected students) by Ms. Hawkins. Buildings have this as a base. The principals meet with their SMC's and staff to develop a staffing plan for their building. The principals provide the detailed information to HR on the number of staff needed and what positions are needed prior to the staffing meeting. The principals place all tenured staff into the positions in their buildings. HR reviews the information to be sure that the positions and tenured staff positions are accurate prior to the staffing meeting. They also review tenured staff who are returning from leave of absences to be sure they are placed prior to probationary staff. HR/principals first look at tenured teachers who have not been placed due to a reduction in staff at a building. The licensure/interest is reviewed prior to placement based on two things; 1) seniority, and 2) alignment. If a teacher loses a position in social studies and there is not a social studies position open, the licensure is reviewed to see if they can be placed in a position in a different building.

This year the district was not in a position of laying off any tenured staff. Mr. Reker emphasized that the placement of probationary staff is solely the decision of the building principal/program supervisor. The principal/program supervisor will either place their current probationary staff if possible or they may decide to keep a position open, post the position and interview. Probationary staff who have been laid off are welcome to apply and interview for any of these positions. The District is laying off approximately 20 probationary teachers.

The only change this year is that we have reductions which we have not recently had. The staffing meeting for placement of staff is building specific. The District has right of assignment. Teachers cannot be placed in specialist positions unless they are appropriately licensed. There is a letter that is processed by the HR department that is distributed at the same time district wide.

Mr. Anderson clarified that as long as the staffing falls within the budget parameters provided, the principals make

the decision as to who the staff will be in their building.
The District currently has 11 teachers retiring.

Mr. Saxton has been meeting with the local city administrators to see what general concerns are (i.e.; East Bethel was recently discussing a new septic system that could potentially involve schools in that area). He has also been meeting with the superintendents of Princeton and Cambridge as we share the Oakland Vocational Center opportunities. The amount of money that the District receives for these vocation areas is by accessing Perkins grant dollars. Equalization in school funding continues to be important to districts likes ours that do not have a large business tax base and require more assistance from private property tax base. Ms. Kelly has been active for four years in SEE.

ModSpace has a schedule to remove the portables by the end of spring break. We want to make sure that the crane is not operated while our students are on-site. There is a proposal from Don Liftow in the Board packet.

Mr. Saxton will be out of town on March 24 – 28.

Cedar Creek Community, East Bethel Community, and St. Francis Elementary Schools parent meetings will be attended by Mr. Saxton during the PTO/APT meetings.

Mr. Saxton was in attendance at St. Francis Middle School (SFMS) to discuss the grade five students who will be attending that building next year. The grade five students could have all specials during the end of the day when the SFMS students are gone for the day. Grade five will get off the bus first with the grades K-4 brought to SFE. Grade five will be in the lunchroom alone. Grade five will also be picked up after grades K-4.

Financial Planning Action Committee (FPAC) original meeting was set on 4th due to caucus day. Now legislation has changed and the meeting can be held on caucus day. The new FPAC date is rescheduled to March 19.

Roger Worner Associates memo was distributed to Board members and placed in the public binder.

Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Grams and seconded by Ms. Grams. Mr. Vogel and Mr. Grams requested item A be removed for discussion. Mr. Vogel requested item H be removed for discussion. Ms. Lipinski requested item B removed for discussion.

C. THAT the Gift Acknowledgements be approved as presented.

\$70.00 (in kind), Leonard Roskoski Family, to Science Dept. SFHS, Meade Refractor telescope, Star Finder software, and various eyepieces

\$250.00 (in kind), Leonard Roskoski Family, Yamaha trombone to SFHS music dept.

\$243.95, CCCS PTO, microphones for gyms and multi-purpose room

\$250.00, Lee Carlson, Lee Carlson endowment scholarship

\$1,000.00, Family of Fred Dawson, scholarship to student who was in Mary Dawson's class at EBCS.

\$1,500, St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, 3-\$500 scholarships to students with 3.0 GPA, involved in community and attending college for business

\$500.00, East Bethel Senior Center, Inc., student scholarship for student majoring in math and science.

\$2,000, 2-\$1,000 scholarships, students have a GPA of 3.0 and attending college for business

\$100.00, SFE APT, to SFE for library

\$49.54, SFE APT, for air books/tests

\$3,000, St. Francis American Legion, 3-\$1,000, 06-07 scholarships

D. THAT the Approval of Extended Trip – SFHS Wrestling be approved as presented

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High School Wrestling program for an extended trip, February 27-March 1, 2008 be approved as requested.

E. THAT the Approval of Extended Trip Request – HOSA be approved as presented

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High School HOSA program for an extended tip, April 22-April 24, 2008 be approved as requested.

F. THAT the Approval of Extended Trip Request – Speech Team be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Speech Team extended trip, March 13-March 15, 2008 be approved as requested.

G. THAT the Approval of Extended Trip Request – SFHS Marching Band be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the St. Francis High School Marching Band proposal for an extended trip to Sauk Rapids, Melrose, and Alexandria, MN on June 27 returning June 29, 2008 be approved as requested.

Motion carried.

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

A. THAT the minutes for February 25 be approved with revisions. Ms. Grams abstained. Motion carried.

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

B. BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Personnel actions be approved with the addition of Mr. O'Connell's first name.

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

EMPLOYMENT:

NON-CLASSIFIED

FERGUSON, CYRIL, Educational Assistant, SFE, \$11.46/hr., 6.5 hrs./day prorated from 173.0 days beginning 03/05/08.

SHERGA, COURTNEY, Educational Assistant, SFMS, \$11.46/hr., 7.0 hrs./day prorated from 173.0 days per year beginning 02/28/08.

VASECKA, DOUGLAS, Bus driver, Transportation, \$12.40/hr., 6.0 hrs./day, 43.0 days beginning 03/01/08.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

CLASSIFIED

JONES, TOM, Teacher, SFMS, Military LOA beginning 02/25/08 through 03/11/08.

O'CONNELL, TIMOTHY, Social Worker, CCCS, Child Care LOA beginning 03/29/08.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:

CLASSIFIED

ANTHONY, KATHERINE, Language Arts Teacher, CSVC, Resignation effective end of school year 07-08.

ARNOLD, NEALA, Media & Computer Tech Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

BIERS, KJIRSTEN, Math & Basic Skills Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

BROWN, DONALD, Math Teacher, SFMS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

DELANO, JENNIFER, Math/Reading Teacher, SFMS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

HANCE, ANGIE, Art Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

HILLMAN, HOLLI, 2nd Grade Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

HYLEN, ANGELA, Enrichment Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

JOHNSON, ANDREA, Math Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

JOHNSON, BRIAN, Music Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

JOHNSON, KATHERINE, 3RD Grade Teacher, CCCS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

JULSON, SARAH, Basic Skills Teacher, CCCS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

KUSCH, ERIC, Physical Education Teacher, SFMS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

LARSON, SUZETTE, Basic Skills Teacher, CCCS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

MILLER, DANIELLE, 4TH Grade Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

PROKOP, DEBRA, D.W. ELL Tchr & EBCS Basic Skills Tchr, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

SCHLUETER, TRACEY, Basic Skills Teacher, SFE, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

THUL, LISA, 3RD Grade Teacher, CCCS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

VETTER-LANE, CAROL, LD Teacher, SFHS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

WINTER, STACI, 3RD Grade Teacher, CCCS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

WOLD, HEIDI, Basic Skills Teacher, CCCS, Layoff effective end of school year 07-08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

MCMANUS, SANDY, Educational Assistant, Sandhill, resignation effective 03/01/2008.

WILKINSON, KRISTIN, Health Educational Assistant, Sandhill, resignation effective 03/20/08.

Motion carried.

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

H. THAT the Approval of Extended Trip Request – Career Center/Vocational Classes be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Career Center Vocational Classes extended trip, May 8, 2008 be approved as requested.

Motion carried.

Reports

Administrative Reports

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Ms. Sandy Farder, ISD No. 15 Adult Basic Education Teacher presented information regarding the ABE program which is housed at Lifelong Learning Center. This program is a wonderful resource to our community as they reach to individuals in our community in the following program areas; GED, Adult Diploma, ESL, Workforce preparation, Basic skills enhancement, Citizenship Education, Test Preparation, College Preparation. Mr. Farder brought with her four participants of the program each with their own testimony of the results of the ABE program.

PISA Program for International Student Assessment/OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

Principal Neubauer was asked to review the PISA test which is a test given internationally. The PISA assessment is under the umbrella of the OECD. There were 166 schools tested in 2006. SFHS was one of those schools tested. This is a low-stake test that the students took. ***The students were paid \$50 by OECD to take the test on a Saturday.*** The students were randomly selected students. We provided the company with a list of all of our 15 year old students. They selected 60 students, 48 participated. We had to provide a certain number of students or our school could not participate in this international test. We also had to provide an individual to go to Washington DC for training at a cost to PISA. However, the company sent their own test proctor on the date of the testing. Finland scores the highest on this test. This test was started in 2000 testing students on literacy, math and science. While the United States has over 4.5 million students in the age range, only 5,611 were tested. The United States is also quite diverse. When students were selected you are getting students with every background possible. In some of the other countries tests, by the time the students are age 15 there has been some separation occurring. Some of them have only the top third of the students still in school at that time so you are testing the upper echelon in regard to intelligence. The math assessment also was given using the metric system which we do not use in our country, however, it is taught to the students. While our diversity may have hurt with our overall test scores it is generally felt that it helps with our creativity.

Testing and Altered Day Request

Principal Neubauer requested two-hour, late start on April 15 and 16 for the seniors to allow the underclassmen to take MCA in a more quiet setting. Staff is needed for proctoring the tests. The Commons and IMC area available for seniors who need to come into school to study. SFHS may use the new classrooms for the testing.

Construction Update

Mr. Tom Larson reported that the construction is coming along well. In the spring the landscaping will be completed.

Portable Update

Mr. Tom Larson provided the Board with a graph showing the timeline of the removal of the portables.

Student Report

LaNae DesRoser reported that today was the first day of the third trimester. The girl's basketball team has made it to state. SFHS is provided an opportunity for the students to ride a bus to the tournament for \$5.00. The student must have a note from home permitting absence from school along with a ticket to the game.

School Board (Ms. Grams left the meeting)

Ms. Kelly provided information from the Sun Newspapers regarding education in China. She also went to the Senate committee last Wednesday regarding education. There is very limited money for schools this session. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Anderson have an appointment with Senator Jungbauer March 11. Discussion will include the possibility of special legislation for ISD No. 15 rather than relying on the possibility of equalization among other topics. Ms. Kelly recently attended a meeting with Oak Land. Cambridge is no longer going to offer automotive classes due to cutbacks. There have been some changes since Pine County Tech is no longer going to be working with Oak Land.

Ms. Lipinski was chosen to go on an 8th grade field trip to Maple Grove with approximately 150 students. Today there was an Insurance and Wellness Committee meeting. The healthcare plan that we currently offer was reviewed. The insurance company provided information on programs the District could offer our employees to possibly lower their insurance rates.

Mr. Anderson congratulated the girl's basketball team on their journey to state. The District had four wrestlers participate in the state tournament. A recent survey regarding district communication was supposed to come back to the Courier for tallying. The Courier will provide the surveys and the summary to Ms. Kelly, Mr. Haag, Mr. Vogel, and Mr. Saxton for review. There are currently 50 surveys returned. Surveys were also available on the website.

Mr. Grams attended the CCCS winter festival. This is a fund raiser for the PTO. It was a great community session. Mr. Grams also attended the SFE SMC meeting. There is a misconception that the vote last fall meant that the referendum had failed for next year already and did not understand that the District will be going out for referendum dollars again this fall. Mr. Grams read to Ms. Prowizer's SFE Elementary class and was very impressed with classroom management of five year olds. He also expresses his wish for the girl's basketball team to do well at State. Boy's Basketball Regional tournaments are at 7:00 p.m. This is Mr. Ron Larson's last year of coaching basketball. Ms. Lipinski, Mr. Grams and Mr. Haag will be meeting together to discuss grievance with mechanics within the required 15 days.

Mr. Vogel questioned why there was nothing on the website about the girls playing basketball at the Regions. There was also nothing on the sign out front of the high school. While this information may have been imbedded within the athletic pages of the district website, it seems as if an accomplishment like this should be on the main page. Mr. Vogel also feels that the District is not responding completely to community questions for information. The Knowledge Bowl recently had their banquet with Mr. Bo Stevens. There are 25 student participants in this program.

Dialogue with the School Board

Mr. Grams and Mr. Vogel were available prior to the meeting for community members who may have questions of Board Representatives. The Courier protocol came up. Are there policies regarding who can write articles for the Courier? People want balance and opinion pieces because it looks like a newspaper. The Courier has advertising from local business. School Board minutes are published, legislators are also published.

Mr. Tom Larson responded that in the mid-80s there was a local paper. We had Newline 15 for awhile. The superintendent at that time asked to publish it for the community. In the mid-90's the District was assuming a \$50,000 loss so went out for advertising. The Courier has news about the community which includes the schools. The District can only afford to put it out one time a month. There are additional cutbacks. This is a school publication. How do the legislators submit their articles? There is a concern that they are using the Courier as forum for their agenda. The Courier stops publishing the legislative updates about three months prior to election to avoid a possible conflict. The Courier is not a newspaper it is a school publication. The communication committee will discuss this in more detail in the future.

The other topic during the dialogue session was the March 4, Star Tribune article and the pedestrian crossing on Highway 47. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Anderson will bring that up with Senator Jungbauer as well as traffic and safety near the high school.

Mr. Haag publicly offered a thank you to Mr. Ron Larson and his family for 28 years as basketball coach for St. Francis. The Foundation 15 fundraiser will be held on April 18, at the Refuge. See Mr. Saxton and Mr. Grams for tickets.

Mr. Anderson will not be here on March 24th. Ms. Kelly will be chair person.

Superintendent's Report

Jan Rhode previously came to the District for a work session with the Board. She also has an exercise in identifying your type of personality and how you work together and make decisions. Mr. Anderson has talked with Ms. Rhode about providing this program for the current Board.

Other Matters

Approval of Revised Policy 310 – Field Trips

Motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Lipinski

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 adopt revised policy 310 Field Trips as recommended.

Mr. Vogel requested that this resolution be tabled until the next board meeting.

Motion failed.

Approval of Contract – Springsted, Inc

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the proposal for data analysis and scientific polling services with Springsted, Inc. with a base cost of \$16,187 plus \$900 for travel, consultation and miscellaneous costs be approved.

Springsted, Inc. was used previously by the District in the last successful referendum. They are able to take the data

on the voters of the District so that we are able to focus our attention into a certain precinct for example. The cost of this survey gives us a random sample of the public. This will gather perception from the community to help guide in decision making. Many districts do this every four to five years for services and programming that the community wants. The cost of this survey is approximately \$17,000 regarding a \$50 million dollar budget. There are approximately 17,000 registered voters in ISD No. 15. Mr. Grams, Mr. Haag and Mr. Vogel would both like additional information prior to making a final decision. Mr. Saxton will call Springsted, Inc. about completing a presentation to the Board. Any questions that the Board might have should be directed to Mr. Saxton. Motion was rescinded by Ms. Kelly and Mr. Grams.

Approval of Transportation Vehicles

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the agreement with Superior Transit sales for the district to purchase two used 2006 Chevrolet Minotour Thomas Handicap/Wheelchair buses, that the district had previously been leasing, for a purchase price of \$32,000.00 plus taxes and applicable fees per bus be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the agreement with Superior Transit sales for the district to purchase two new 2009 16 Passenger Chevrolet Minotour Thomas Handicap/Wheelchair buses for \$47,950.00 plus taxes and applicable fees per bus be approved.

The difference between purchase and lease is the interest. If it falls within the budget of the department why does it come to the Board? This is a current termination of a lease that the Board voted upon previously. The buses have a three year warranty, so they have one more year warranty.

Motion carried.

The meeting had a 10 minute recess prior to going into closed session at 10:45 p.m.

Closed Session-Negotiation Parameters

Motion was made by Mr. Haag and seconded by Ms. Lipinski. Vote: 6 – 0.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that a closed session be conducted for the purpose of discussing labor negotiation strategies under subd. 1 (b) of the Open Meetings Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D.03

Resume Open Meeting: Motion by Mr. Grams: I move that the open meeting be resumed, second by Mr. Haag. Vote: 6 – 0.

Board members discussed negotiation strategies for employee groups whose contracts expire June 30, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m. _____

Harry Grams, Clerk