

SCHOOL BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15  
St. Francis, Minnesota  
October 13, 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 Human Services Jay Reker, Director of Community Services Tom Larson, Student Representatives LaNae DesRosier and Dylan Sowers, and community members.

Board Calendar Dates: Regular Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Center, October 27, November 10, November 24, and December 6, Truth in Taxation, 9:00 a.m. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. prior to regular School Board Meetings.

Public Forums will be held: October 22 – St. Francis Elementary School, October 29 – East Bethel Community School, all forums begin at 7:00 p.m.

### **Site Report**

Principal Dale Johnson provided a report on the recent Math adoption. Teachers will attend four sessions over the year to learn different areas to begin transition of algebra in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Teachers will be taking exploratory classes. Assistant Principal Patrick Hoth reviewed the Peer Mediation program. Assistant Principal Bobbi Hume reviewed data from the fall MAPs score recently released. The students from St. Francis Middle School scored higher than sixth graders nationwide in reading and math. Students are also right on target in the 2008 MCA II math and reading scores. Lower science scores will be studied to set goals for the coming year. When data is received it is reviewed with teachers. Mr. Hoth reviewed the proactive approach taken in student achievement. Three specific areas are Academic Interventions, consisting of 1) Red Folders – progress reports, 2) PIES sheet – Partnership in Educational Success, and 3) TAIP – the Targeted Academic Intervention Program.

### **Consideration of Visitors**

The following addressed the School Board. Ms. Bengtson, Office Professional, acknowledged the School Board and District for the support and opportunity for 15 Office Professionals to receive professional development by attending the Minnesota Association of Educational Office Professionals Fall Conference. Ms. Ness communicated that the Board and District could use lessons in the law regarding the levy. Ms. Van Denburgh noted that she has not received the CD's she requested. She shared her opinion on racial issues and problems, and suggested that education be in all levels regarding racism.

### **Agenda**

Motion was made by Mr. Haag and seconded by Ms. Lipinski to accept the agenda with revisions.  
Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

A. THAT the Minutes for September 22, 2008 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

**HANSON, LAUREL**, Teacher, First Grade, SFE, 8.0 hrs./day, 163.0 days, BA60, effective 10.2.08.

**ZAK, NANCY**, Enrichment Teacher, CCCS, BA1, 8.0 hrs./day, 139.5 effective 10.27.08.

**NON-CLASSIFIED**

**BAUER, CHRISTOPHER**, Guitar Instructor, Sandhill, \$25.00/hr., effective 10.16.08.

**PHILIPPI, KARI**, Educational Assistant, EBCS, \$12.91/hr., 5.0 hrs./day, 146.0 days effective 10.6.08.

**RILEY, KATHLEEN**, Educational Assistant, SFE, \$12.31/HR., 4.50 hrs./day, 144.0 days effective 10.6.08.

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE:**

**CLASSIFIED**

**ANLAUF, MARK**, Teacher, SFHS, General LOA beginning 8.27.08.

**DERUNG, LILLIAN**, Teacher, EBCS, Maternity LOA beginning 9.2.08.

**HASSELBERG, MARIANNE**, Teacher, SFHS, Maternity LOA beginning 12.8.08.

**SCHURKE, LAUREL**, Teacher, EBCS, Return from Maternity LOA effective 9.29.08.

**NON-CLASSIFIED**

**HECKENLAIBLE, MARLYS**, Cook, Nutrition, Return from Medical LOA effective 9.22.08.

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

**NON-CLASSIFIED**

**HINCHCLIFFE, THERESA**, Educational Assistant, SFHS, resignation effective 10.1.08.

**SIMPSON, GWYN**, Nutrition, Termination effective 9.22.08.

C. THAT Approval of Extended Travel – DECA be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High School DECA program for an extended trip, October 26 - 27, 2008 be approved as requested.

D. THAT the City of East Bethel Ice Arena Contract be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the lease agreement with the City of East Bethel for 230 hours of ice time be approved as presented.

E. THAT the Non Resident Student Agreement be approved as presented.

G. 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)

\$1,600.00, St. Francis HS Volleyball Booster Club, for 9<sup>th</sup> grade coaches salary

\$625.00, Anonymous Donor, to EBCS to be used at Principal's discretion

\$100.00, Joe and Heidi Goodin/Michelle Coleman, "Refer a Friend, Build your community" donation made possible by Residential Mortgage Group

\$50.00, RMG Mort. Co. & Zoe & Dan Buettner, to CCCS Art Supply budget

\$1,300.70, Target, to EBCS to be used at Principal's discretion

\$2,000.00, Isanti Lions Club, for 2007-08 scholarships

\$5,000.00, St. Francis American Legion & Legion Auxillary, 5 \$1,000 scholarships

\$60.64, Anonymous Donation, 8 reams colored copy paper each to Mrs. Score and Mrs. Anderlie 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes

\$500.00, Kohl's, to EBCS at Principal's discretion

Motion carried.

**Reports**

*Student Report*

LaNae DesRosier and Dylan Sowers provided the report. HOSA is hosting a volleyball tournament on October 29, with proceeds going to Multiple Sclerosis. DECA is hosting dodge ball tournament on November 5, in support of Muscular Dystrophy Association. The last football game is October 15. Speech and Debate were in the top 5% of National Forensic League due to the success last year. Diversity dialogue

is very important and October is “Say No to Bullying”. The Color of Fear will be shown December 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. which is an award documentary about racism. There will be discussion following. Sadie Hawkins will be October 24. The Diversity Club provided the idea for students to form a peace symbol in the middle of the football field. A couple companies have provided ideas for card swipe student IDs. An idea from the Senior Summit is to add more color to the walls and hallway by the counselor offices, hall of students.

#### *Superintendent Communications and Report*

Communications and Report - Mr. Saxton reported that the two public forums have gone well. Mr. Saxton and Mr. Grams attended the TIES annual meeting. Ben Silberglitt from TIES, has great ideas for data and will coming to the District for further training. Mr. Tom Larson and Mr. Saxton attended the City of Oak Grove meeting and presented the DVD and power point presentation of the District. They also attended the City of Andover meeting. Mr. Saxton participated in the East Bethel Community School Grandparents Day with approximately 200 grandparents in attendance. Breakout sessions for the legislation platform will be given at the Schools for Equity in Education (SEE) meeting October 14. The State Forrester suggested that trees at East Bethel Community School property be thinned. Mr. Saxton distributed a response from Ms. Hawkins to an email regarding a question on the inflation rate regarding the levy. There was a request to run an ad in The Courier which will not be run, as it does not fit with our education mission. Mr. Neubauer and Mr. Saxton attended a meeting at the University of Minnesota dealing with policies. Mr. Saxton will be requesting future input from the School Board for the name of a business community member to review policies from a District standpoint. Mr. Saxton acknowledged Ms. Kohnen for the “Above and Beyond” award given by the Metropolitan Principals’ Academy.

#### *School Board Reports*

Mr. Haag reported that after talking with Principal Darin Hahn there have been no racial incidents at Cedar Creek Community School to date. On October 6, the Site Management Council (SMC) Organizational Meeting was held, and conferences were also held. Mr. Haag requested that Mr. Saxton research the possibility of hiring an employee to specifically respond to the continuing Public Data information requests from one community member.

Mr. Vogel requested that a Primary Election discussion be held at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Grams attended the TIES Annual meeting. He attended the SMC meeting at St. Francis Elementary School and viewed a picture of a classroom with 31 desks, which is very congested. Mr. Grams acknowledged the PTA parents that assisted at the Open House.

Mr. Anderson attended the Indian Education annual meeting on September 29, which now has 77 members. On October 1, Mr. Anderson attended the ECSU Cooperative annual meeting. The Fall Fest at the Lifelong Learning Center (LLC) was held October 4, with approximately 180 participants. Conferences were held at the Middle School with good interaction on October 9. The Public Forum was October 10, at the LLC.

Ms. Lipinski attended the Student of the Month breakfast at the high school with her daughter who was a recipient. She acknowledged the event and nice experience. Ms. Lipinski acknowledged the freshman football team for their positive record. Ms. Lipinski clarified some of the verbiage that was exchanged during Consideration of Visitors. Issues are taken seriously regarding what is considered appropriate.

Ms. Kelly attended a meeting with Deb Griffiths to plan a legislative kickoff which will take place in January. Ms. Kelly will attend the SEE meeting October 14, to review a draft of the legislative platform.

Ms. Kelly attended both Public Forums, and commented about the positive atmosphere and good questions at the LLC. Ms. Kelly handed out pink levy cards at the high school on October 9. Mr. Saxton verified through the Minnesota School Boards Association that hand outs from parents to parents voluntarily is authorized.

Ms. Kelly acknowledged the use of her pole barn for sign painting. Ms. Kelly communicated regarding the Consideration of Visitors comments that two dialogues regarding diversity isn’t enough. Ms. Kelly reported that it has been stated that dialogue is just a beginning of moving forward as a school district and as a community. Ms. Kelly stated that outside the work day teachers can have their political opinion.

Mr. Reker provided a report of the cost to date beginning January 1, 2008, for employee time to respond to requests for information from the District. The cost currently for employee time is up to \$11,144.53. Legal costs for similar requests of information in 2005 - \$396, 2006 - \$254, 2007 - \$1,567.50, and 2008 through August - \$4,365. These fees do not include the law suit regarding Open Meeting Law that was brought against the District by a community member, which the judge ruled in favor of the District. The District continues to get requests. Mr. Reker provided information regarding response time to requests for information and Minnesota Statute 13.04 subd. 3 and rights of individuals who are subjects of data. Mr. Reker will continue to track the cost for employee time.

#### *Administrative Report*

Social Studies Core Curriculum – Ms. Cuscaden and Mr. Waterworth, Peer Leaders with the high school and middle school reviewed what the Social Studies team is doing in regards to reverse bussing. Reverse bussing are the days where staff for core subjects of science, language arts, social studies, and math are getting together on a 6 – 12 basis. Teachers look at ways to improve teacher practice and improve student achievement. The agenda to set goals for future meetings was held August 26. A common concern was to know each other, which is needed to function as a team to be successful. Feedback from the meeting and questions asked will be used to assess team needs to improve as teachers with the goal of improving student learning.

#### Safe Trails Grant – City of East Bethel

Mr. Larson introduced Mr. Jack Davis, Public Works Manager for City of East Bethel, provided information about the trail system in East Bethel. The focus of the grant is to link bordering neighborhoods with a safe and healthy way for students to walk or bike to school. The grant also would create a community pedestrian walking system eventually linking all pedestrian trails in the county area. The city is requesting the District partner in applying for the grant. The city would request an easement to construct a trail through Cedar Creek and East Bethel Community School properties. A resolution will come before the Board on October 27.

#### St. Francis Elementary School Forest and Outdoor Classroom Areas

Ms. Grzesiak, third grade teacher, presented a power point presentation of a request to increase classroom space. Ms. Grzesiak and other District staff met with DNR and other members of state agencies about use of spaces around the school. How a school forest is created was discussed. This additional classroom space would increase hands on experience in areas of science, math, literature, and reading. The opportunities can increase critical thinking skills, and provide cooperative learning activities and strategies for students. Grants will be applied for to fund creating this classroom. A resolution will come before the Board when a legal description of the property involved is secured.

#### **Old Business**

##### *Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement 2007-08*

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement for 2007 - 08, upon review, is accepted and shall be distributed to the residents of ISD No. 15.

Motion carried.

#### **New Business**

##### *Crossroads, Site Management Council Constitution Revision*

Ms. Collins reported that revisions to the constitution have been in the process for one year. The constitution is modeled after the high school's constitution. This is a first reading.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Harry Grams, Clerk