

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
October 27, 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, 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, November 10, November 24, December 6, Truth in Taxation, 9:00 a.m., and December 8. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. prior to regular School Board Meetings.

Public Forum will be held: October 29 – East Bethel Community School, at 7:00 p.m.

Site Report – St. Francis Elementary School

Principal Kathy Kohnen reported that the Q Comp goal at the site is Read to Learn, Read for Fun, and Read for Life. Ms. Kohnen distributed posters of the “Read” message. Ms. Kohnen talks to the students every morning about word recognition. Word walls are in every classroom. The word walls go with the RIT scores in math. Under each RIT score there is a list of vocabulary in math and reading. The posters are on hallway walls, on classroom walls, and sent home in newsletters. Dean of Students Scott Kruger provided information about the installation of bus patrol students. 21 students of the 39 were in attendance at the meeting, and were installed as bus patrol students. The most important aspect of patrol’s position is student safety. The main roll is to encourage students to observe safety rules and to be a positive roll model to all students. Honesty and integrity is emphasized. Officer Steiger installed the students.

Consideration of Visitors

Teacher Tim McLean addressed the School Board. He reported the significant increases in academic performance of St. Francis students at every level. In terms of the state mandated reading, math, and writing tests required for graduation, it can be said that students attending St Francis schools outscore their peers in every district which adjoins, with the gap growing every year. Mr. McLean reviewed the many credentials and awards received by teachers, finance awards to the Business Department, and the leadership role our District has in Q Comp and the Teacher Academy program. To not pass this levy would endanger the years of steady progress. We all need to begin seeing the same future, because this vote involves the future of our kids.

Agenda

Motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Grams to accept the agenda with revisions. Mr. Vogel read a portion of policy 111 regarding changes to existing policies and requested that the policies 501 – 512 be moved on the agenda to new business for first reading. After discussion the policies were moved to new business.

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Mr. Haag and seconded by Ms. Lipinski. Mr. Vogel requested that Item F. be removed and considered separately.

A. THAT the Minutes for September 22, as revised, and October 13, 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:

NON-CLASSIFIED

GREHEK, KAREN, Educational Assistant, EBCS, \$10.21/hr., 2.5 hrs./day, 173.0 days effective 10.27.08.

MCQUERTER, EDITH, Educational Assistant, SFHS, \$11.46/hr., 7.0 hrs./day, 172.0 days effective 10.27.08.

MULLIGAN, COLLEEN, Educational Assistant, EBCS, \$11.11/hr., 2.0 hrs./day, 171.0 days effective 11.3.08.

MULLIGAN, COLLEEN, Educational Assistant, EBCS, \$11.11/hr., 1.8 hrs./day, 173.0 days effective 11.3.08.

WALLIN, DANA, Educational Assistant, SFHS, \$11.46/hr., 7.0 hrs./day, 172.0 days effective 10.21.08.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

CLASSIFIED

DERUNG, LILLIAN, Teacher, EBCS, Return from Maternity LOA effective 10.21.08.

OSTER, LACY, Special Education Teacher, EBCS, Maternity LOA beginning 1.26.09.

NON-CLASSIFIED

BOUTEN, TRICIA, Educational Assistant, SFE, Personal LOA beginning 9.23.08.

GOLYER, SANDRA, Bus Driver, Transportation, Medical LOA beginning 9.29.08.

VELASCO, JOY, Educational Assistant, SFHS, Return from Medical LOA effective 10.13.09.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:

CLASSIFIED

DAHL, CAROL, Basic Skills Teacher, CCCS, retirement effective 10.31.08.

MODEEN, JAMES, Teacher, Crossroads, Deceased, Termination effective 10.13.08

STOECKEL, NEIL, Teacher, SFMS, Deceased, Termination effective 6.30.08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

HAGFORD, CATHERINE, Educational Assistant, EBCS, Resignation effective 10.24.08.

C. THAT the Claims and Accounts be approved as presented.

D. THAT Investments be approved as presented.

E. THAT the Out of State Travel – DECA be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the DECA proposal for an out-of-state trip to Kansas City, MO on November 21 – November 23, 2008 to attend the Central Regions Leadership Conference be approved as requested.

S. 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)

\$600.00 (in kind), To SFE for donated prizes which will be used for Accelerated Reader program.

\$200.00, SFE APT, payment to Alice Balance for Family Reading/Math night

\$1,762.97, Target “Take Charge of Education” to CCCS for general building supplies

Motion carried.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator be approved as presented for the 08-09 and 09-10 school years.

Mr. Vogel reported that he felt the position was important however thought the District should keep the dollars in the classroom and wait to fill the position until after the election. Mr. Anderson reported that when the District was in search for a superintendent, promoting a curriculum program was high priority. He believes it is an important investment and dollars well spent. Ms. Kelly feels a curriculum position adds to every classroom in the District.
Motion carried with one nay, Mr. Vogel.

Reports

Student Report

LaNae DesRosier and Dylan Sowers provided the report. DECA is hosting dodge ball tournament on November 5, in support of Muscular Dystrophy Association. T-shirts are being made for the event with donations being received from businesses. HOSA is hosting a volleyball tournament on October 29, with proceeds going to Multiple Sclerosis. There will be a Badminton Tournament November 6, for the American Heart Association. The Peace Project will be October 28, with students going on the football field and making a peace sign. David Banks agreed to do photographs. Those students not wishing to participate they can remain in directed class.

Superintendent Communications and Report

Communications and Report - Mr. Saxton reported that the School Packet was not on the website but is now. Mr. Saxton attended the Schools for Equity in Education (SEE) meeting. The legislative platform was the main agenda item with equalization being the biggest issue. A letter will be mailed to parents regarding the levy funding being used for learning not building. The Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator position interviews have taken place, nine people reviewed applications, and three candidates were interviewed. A person has been selected and will be contacted. November 4, is a National Election and results will come through Anoka County. Ms. Kelly requested that Mr. Saxton look at what the District has for policy regarding bullying. The Student Wellness committee wishes to expand the membership and focus the mission of the group. Mr. Saxton recognized Ms. Hawkins for receiving an award from Minnesota Association of School Business Officials for meeting the criteria of the Minnesota Association of School Business professionals.

School Board Reports

Ms. Kelly attended the Regional SEE meeting and the legislative platform will be approved at the last meeting in November. She met with Deb Griffiths to plan the meeting for legislators the end of January. At the Student Wellness Committee meeting it was reported that the in policy is 100% compliant. The committee is requesting that a curriculum representative be added. The Community Relations Committee now talks of areas of the committee involvement as "the Wheel". Members of the committee create the spokes of the wheel, i.e. churches, businesses, students, staff, and School Board. Those wishing to attend the dialogues on November 19, and December 3, will need to register.

Ms. Lipinski will not be able to attend the insurance meeting due to a previous commitment. She will be attending the Halloween costume parade at St Francis Elementary School.

Mr. Anderson attended the Public Forum October 22. He attended the SMC meeting at the St. Francis Middle School. Mr. Anderson acknowledged Ms. Hawkins for the award received for the financial department of the District.

Mr. Grams attended the Public Forum. He held up a picture taken of a classroom with 31 desks for a first grade class, and noted how congested it would be.

Mr. Haag attended the SMC meeting at Cedar Creek Community School, with discussion including elementary sites having one SMC, just as the 6-8, and 9 -12 sites. Mr. Saxton will meet to discuss with elementary site leaders.

Dialogue session – Mr. Grams reported that some custodial staff talked about the levy.

Administrative Reports

Targeted Academic Intervention Program (TAIP) – Mr. Gilbertson, TAIP Coordinator, provided an overview of the program, status, and reports on the progress. The program is K – 8 which provides supplementary instruction to students identified as being significantly at risk in reading and math. The overall focus is regular education. TAIP exists as a result of the District participating in the alternative delivery of specialized instruction services program sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Two years ago a proposal was approved for implementation of the program. The end of year evaluation follows the required format from MDE. Based on the evaluation of the students by Reading and Math Specialists 88% overall of the targeted students were determined to have demonstrated improvement in the areas in which they received supplementary instruction. The District has been notified of approval for another year.

Johnson Controls – Craig Wright, Performance Assurance Lead Engineer, provided a brief overview of the 13th year of the performance contract. Denise Cote', Performance Assurance Engineer, was also in attendance. The District has recognized 2.6 million dollars in measureable savings over the past 13 years, which is \$328,000 in recognized savings above and beyond what was projected from the onset. Johnson Controls needs to review their programming for the District. Mr. Wright conveyed that there will be renewed expectation to focus on serving and performing site visits and observations. Discussion followed. Mr. Wirz and Mr. Tom Larson will meet with Mr. Wright and Ms. Cote' to review the renewed performance of site observations. An update of performance or evaluation will be reported to the Board over the next six months.

Enrollment Report - Ms. Hawkins provided an analysis of the year end 2007-08 and 2008-09 October 1 counts. The weighted average daily membership (WADM) is what revenue is based on and at this time of year an analysis is done to show what the actuals are. Overall the 07-08 WADMs was 8.17 students less than what was projected October 2007, which is 0.12% of the total WADMs. The same model was used for 2008-09 to establish that budget. October 1, 2008 enrollment is 58 more students than what was projected.

Primary Elections - Ms. Hawkins reviewed the handout of 2005 and 2007 Primary Election expenses, number of voters, total registered voters, and the percentage of registered voters. Districts are no longer required by law to hold a primary election. The District will need to file prior to January if a Primary Election will be held. Discussion regarding a Primary Election will be on the November 10, School Board agenda.

Mr. Saxton referenced the handout of 2008-09 Revenue by District for Anoka County School Districts which shows the total funding level of Independent School District No. 15 in relationship to Anoka County schools.

Staff Letter – Mr. Fink addressed the School Board regarding levy perspectives. The letter distributed from “Teachers’ Concern for Futures of ISD 15” included a sentence that generated many calls. Any future improvement in the teachers’ salary schedule will come only from any future increases in state aid. The purpose of the statement is asking teachers to take a leap of faith. That this levy is important, more important than teachers getting a salary increase in the next contract. The working conditions of teachers are more important than the next contract. Mr. Fink spoke of the investment this district has made in new teachers and professional development program. For the teachers this levy is about the students and classroom, whether or not we can do our job next year as well as this year. Mr. Fink thanked the School Board for offering this levy, it is important.

Old Business

Safe Trails Grant – City of East Bethel

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Board endorses and supports the plan brought forward by the City of East Bethel to seek a funding for a

Safe Routes to School grant. Furthermore, the Board supports the concept of the grant and will be willing to grant easement, with guidance and approval by administration, on a route to be taken through Cedar Creek Community School and East Bethel Community School property.

Motion carried.

School Forest and Outdoor Classroom Areas

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that approximately one acre currently known as the woods between St. Francis Middle School and St. Francis Elementary School that is within that part of Outlots 6 & 13 Village of St. Francis that are owned by ISD No. 15 (see background for full legal description of property) be designated as an outdoor classroom and Minnesota School Forest.

Motion carried.

Crossroads, Site Management Council Constitution

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Crossroads School and Vocational Center SMC Constitution be revised as presented.

Motion carried.

New Business

Policy 705

Mr. Vogel opened discussion regarding the new policy and that he feels it is written and open for interpretation, and needs more clarification. Mr. Larson reported that the policy is modeled after the Minnesota School Board Association policy. The Courier is a District publication. The policy would change the way in which advertizing is done. Discussion continued.

Policies 501 – 512

The School Board should review the changes and revisions to the policies and contact Mr. Reker with questions. Mr. Vogel requested that a vehicle use policy be addressed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m. _____

Harry Grams, Clerk