

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
September 22, 2008
Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 7:02 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 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, October 13, October 27, November 10, and November 24. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. prior to regular School Board Meetings.

Public Forums will be held: September 23 – St. Francis High School, October 10 – Lifelong Learning Center, October 22 – St. Francis Elementary School, October 29 – East Bethel Community School, all forums begin at 7:00 p.m.

Consideration of Visitors

None

Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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

A. THAT the Minutes for September 8, 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

BRIDGEMAN, NATALIE, Enrichment Teacher, EBCS, BA1, 8.0 hrs./day, 175.0 days effective 9.15.08.

HEHIR, NICOLE, Math Teacher, EBCS, BA1, 4.0 hrs./day, 175.0 days effective 9.15.08.

THORSON, LINDA, Math Teacher, EBCS, MA1, 4.0 hrs./day, 186.0 days effective 9.22.08.

WALKER, JULIE, FACS Teacher, SFMS, BA2, 8.0 hrs./day, 168.5 days effective 9.22.08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

DZIUK, CHERIE, Educational Assistant, CCCS, \$11.46/hr., 6.25 hrs./day, 172.0 days effective 9.10.08.

NELSON, MICHELLE, Health Education Assistant, District Wide, \$18.70/hr., 6.0 hrs./day, 173.0 days effective 9.17.08.

PRATER, LEANNE, , Pre-school Instructor, LLC, \$18.70/hr., 3.75 hrs./day, 83.0 days effective 9.15.08.

SAMPSON, RACHALE, Educational Assistant, CCCS, \$11.46/hr., 6.25 hrs./day, 172.0 days effective 9.12.08.

SCHULTZ, RICHARD, Lead Technology Technician, SFMS, \$39,129.00, 8.0 hrs./day, 260.0 days effective 9.29.08.

SCHUMACHER, PAULETTE, Educational Assistant, CCCS, \$11.46/hr., 6.25 hrs./day, 172.0 days effective 9.12.08.

SIMPSON, GWYN, Helper/Server, Nutrition, SFHS, \$11.02/hr., 2.25 hrs./day, 173.0 days effective 9.15.08.

STRAWSER, RACHEL, Educational Assistant, SFHS, \$11.46/hr., 7.0 hrs./day, 172.0 days effective 10.6.08.

TABOLICH, BRIAN, District Technology Specialist, SFHS, \$13.61/hr., 7.5 hrs./day, 204.0 days effective 9.29.08.

TOIKKA, KELLI, Helper/Server, Nutrition, SFMS, \$11.02/hr., 2.5 hrs./day, 173.0 days effective 9.8.08.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

CLASSIFIED

BUETTNER, DANIEL, Teacher, CCCS, Parental LOA effective 11.4.08.

KOEPSSELL, DEBORAH, Teacher, CCCS, Return from Medical LOA effective 9.8.08.

HANSON-VANESSEN, REBECCA, Teacher, SFHS, Return from Maternity LOA effective 9.18.08.

PETERSON, SUSAN, Teacher, CCCS, Return from Medical LOA effective 9.22.08.

SCHURKE, LAUREL, Teacher, EBCS, Maternity LOA effective 9.2.08.

VANDEBOGERT, TIFFANY, Teacher, SFMS, Maternity LOA effective 9.22.08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

LARSON, SUZETTE, Pre-school Instructor, LLC, LOA effective 9.16.08

NEWSTROM, TRACY, Health Education Assistant, SFE, Unpaid LOA effective 9.15.08.

OLDENBORG, KAREN, Educational Assistant; Office Professional, SFMS, Medical LOA effective 10.9.08.

RIEKEN, JACQUE, Educational Assistant, SFMS, Medical LOA effective 9.2.08

VELASCO, JOY, Nutrition, SFHS, Medical LOA effective 9.25.08.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:

CLASSIFIED

HANSON, LAUREL, Teacher, First Grade, SFE, retirement effective 9.30.08.

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

D. THAT Investments be approved as presented.

E. THAT Approval of Out of State Travel – Broadcasting be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that The Crier proposal for an out-of-state trip to St. Louis, Missouri on November 13 - 16, 2008 be approved as requested.

F. THAT Approval of Out of State Travel – The Crier be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that The Crier proposal for an out-of-state trip to St. Louis, Missouri on November 13 - 16, 2008 be approved as requested.

G. THAT Approval of Extended Travel – Student and Congress be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Student Congress extended trip to Detroit Lakes, MN October 10 - 11, 2008 be approved as requested.

H. THAT Approval of Extended Travel – Speech be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Speech Team extended trip to Grand Rapids, MN March 12 – March 14, 2009 be approved as requested.

I. THAT Approval of Out of State Travel – Broadcasting be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that The Crier proposal for an out-of-state trip to St. Louis, Missouri on November 13 - 16, 2008 be approved as requested.

J. THAT Approval of Extended Travel – Physical Education be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Physical Education class extended trip, May 2 – May 4, 2009 be approved as requested.

K. THAT Approval of Extended Travel – Physical Education be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Physical Education class extended trip, October 4 – October 6, 2008 be approved as requested.

L. THAT the Emma B. Howe Family YMCA Contract be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that ISD No. 15 enter into the agreement with the YMCA for location of recreation and leisure services for students with disabilities served by the Transition 15 program.

M. THAT Approval of Extended Travel – 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 trip, November 13 – November 14, 2008 be approved as requested.

N. THAT Approval of Extended Travel – 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, December 19 – December 20, 2008 be approved as requested.

O. 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)

\$100.00, Wells Fargo/Jennifer Olson, to CCCS for general supplies

\$50.00, Brian and Bridget Marsolek and Residential Mortgage Group, for Mrs. Hooper's 2nd grade classroom budget

\$4,274.78, St. Francis Middle School SMC, to SFMS for locks on hallway lockers

\$35.00, Wells Fargo Foundation Education Matching Gift Program, to SFHS at Principal's discretion

\$1,600.00, St. Francis Jaycees, for school supplies 1/3 to each of the three elementary schools,

CCCS, EBCS, and SFE

Motion carried.

Reports

Student Report

LaNae DesRosier and Dylan Sowers provided the report. Homecoming week is taking place with the coronation on September 23, Pep Fest on the 25th and many different activities being sponsored by Student Council. Activities include, sun glasses day, tie die day, workout day, school color day, and the dance after the football game.

Superintendent Communications and Report

Communications - Mr. Saxton met with Ben Siberglitt from TIES. Discussion included data, ways to use data, training for Principals in Cognos, and possible questions for a Curriculum Assessment Coordinator. The professional review team meetings have started.

Mr. Saxton attended the Schools for Equity in Education. Speakers spoke of No Child Left Behind.

At the Superintendent's back to school meeting there was great anticipation that the state would continue to raise the bar on rigor. The state's concern with testing is not setting the bar with standards.

Mr. Larson and Mr. Saxton presented information on the levy to the City of St. Francis, and Mr. Larson presented to the City of East Bethel.

Mr. Saxton has been asked to serve on the Economic Development Authority Ad Hoch committee for East Bethel.

Mr. Saxton continues to meet with employees regarding information available about the levy.

Report – Mr. Saxton provided a report on the mold discovery at the high school.

Commissioner of Education Alice Seagren invited Mr. Saxton to participate with five superintendents, Bob Meeks from MSBA, Lee Warren MARSD in discussion and input over issues on the Governor's agenda for 2008-09. Commissioner Seagren and Mr. Saxton discussed the federal review that is coming to Minnesota to review Q comp. Ms. Seagren indicated an interest in coming to St. Francis to get information. Randy Keillor was asked to go to Washington DC to explain performance pay as it relates to unions.

Mr. Saxton requested input or comments regarding the draft of proposed superintendent goals for 2008-09. There were no comments. Reports will be given to the School Board to review progress.

School Board Reports

Ms. Kelly and Mr. Anderson attended and are members of the Delegate Assembly. The Assembly is a policy making body voting on policies that will go to the Capitol during the legislative session. A copy of the format to submit resolutions is available through Ms. Kelly. Ms. Kelly attended the SEE membership meeting. It is safe to say the message heard is in this legislative session that there will be no additional funding. More funding goes into health and human services versus education. Ms. Kelly attended a levy workshop. Discussions included what districts did to pass levy referendums. At the Communications meeting the new brochure was approved to be mailed. Ms. Kelly acknowledged the high school SMC and how they work together towards resolve for the building and budget reductions should the levy fail. The Community Relations Committee meetings are going well. Community members are attending. The next meeting will be November 12 at the United Methodist Church.

Ms. Lipinski attended the football game and acknowledged the Youth Football Program members lining up the gauntlet for players to enter the field. Youth Soccer night will be September 23. Ms. Lipinski and Mr. Anderson attended the Soccer Booster Club meeting regarding concern over the Extended Trip request not being completed according to policy. The team was not compromised and did attend the tournament. Ms. Lipinski was at St. Francis Elementary and commented that it was good to see students using the gymnasium again.

Mr. Anderson acknowledged Ms. Kelly for remaining engaged and representation as a School Board member. Mr. Anderson requested that Mr. Grams be an alternate representative for the Delegate Assembly. Mr. Vogel inquired whether the School Board election will require a primary election. He requested that this be added as an agenda item in the future. Mr. Vogel requested that the Extended Travel forms coming before the board be completed consistently.

Dialogue Session - Ms. Grams reported that there were three community members at the Dialogue Session. There was a question, if there are any elementary students remaining at Sandhill. There are none with the exception of pre-school. Another question is the timely manner of response by the Responsible Authority for requests. Ms. Grams suggested a simple acknowledgement that the request was received. There was some question about wording regarding school district publication, versus the newspaper, and the language being communicated as a constant - district publication.

Mr. Haag inquired whether or not Mr. Reker responded to Ms. Grams request at the last meeting regarding costs of the District to put together the requests for information regarding staff. Mr. Reker will respond later in the meeting. Mr. Haag inquired whether nationwide financial turmoil has affected the District investments. Ms. Hawkins replied no.

Administrative Report – Peer Leader Test Report & Student Achievement

Ms. Worden and Ms. Wallace-Nelson provided the report. A comprehensive study of RIT scores was completed over the past five years. The RIT is a scaled score for student achievement in math, reading, and language. The score lets the District know how students are doing compared to the normed scoring done by NWEA. The teaching staff has been trained that the RIT score has bench marks to try to achieve throughout the grade levels. The point of the report is that when efforts are focused in staff development and goal setting that it makes a drastic difference in student achievement.

Ms. Wallace-Nelson is the site chair at East Bethel Community School. She highlighted the activities that have been done and impacted the success of the students. The systematic process is used for goal setting. The data is reviewed for strengths and weaknesses, and a goal is set for the year. Professional Development activities will target the goal, implement, collaborate as a team, assess, and then celebrate.

Ms. Worden expanded on the role of the Math Specialists, staff assigned to a building to support mathematics on a daily basis for students. The specialist role: to reinforce the basic skill taught at each grade level, after two years delivered grade level curriculum with an adapted pacing schedule and modified level of rigor, reorganized to provide re-teaching of concepts that are missing from student "toolbox" of skills, a study group was formed, and the key elements to continued success are followed.

Fees for Request of Information

Mr. Reker provided information and requested clarification about the cost to the District for the research, and labor fees to generate answers to community inquiries. Not all information is totaled yet. Legal fees have not been tabulated. A request from a community member is requesting legal fees beginning January 2005 which the lawyers are working on. During the Dialogue Session Ms. Grams explained to the community member how billing from attorneys is generated. Citizen would be agreeable to the lump sum figure that was requested in the letter. Ms. Grams commented that if a question is asked and answered, the problem that is occurring is the answer if not liked and it is asked again. Mr. Reker noted that much of the information requested is on the website, contracts, salary ranges, schedules, and benefits. Mr. Reker reported that for one person who has made 44 requests beginning January 22, 2008, labor costs to date are \$3,800, and \$1384.87 for another person requesting information, neither amounts include legal fees. The question has been asked of legal counsel, when is this harassment? Ms. Grams suggested that continued frivolous requests for information be responded to however it is important that staff are not taken away from daily duties to respond. These requests are wasting tax dollars. Ms. Kelly would like to know the total including legal fees.

New Business

Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement

The annual report was sent to the Board by email. If there are any questions please forward to Ms. Scardigli.

Other Matters

Proposed 2008 Payable 2009 Property Tax Levy

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 Proposed Property Tax Levy for 2008 payable 2009 be certified to the County Auditor as follows: All Levy Areas - \$ Maximum

A vote of the motion was taken without discussion, however not carried. Discussion followed. Ms. Hawkins explained that the analysis includes revenues that include the levy component but does not include all revenues of the District. The analysis shows what happens when the operating referendum expires. The debt service reflects the refunding done by the District. This is a proposed property tax levy. The Department of Education continues to work on health and safety approval. This is always approved as a maximum because the numbers continue to change until October 1. The exact amount will come back to the Board for final approval in December. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. _____

Harry Grams, Clerk