

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
Dialogue with School Board-6:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting-7:00 p.m.
February 9, 2009

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Kelly at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Directors: Anderson, H. Grams, Kelly, Lipinski, Vogel and Superintendent Saxton. Absent: Director S. Grams and Haag.

Others present were Director of Business Affairs Mae Hawkins, Director of Human Services Jay Reker, Director of Community Services Tom Larson, Student Representative Dylan Sowers, and community members.

Board Calendar Dates: Regular Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Center, February 23, March 9, March 23, and April 13, 2009 Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. prior to regular School Board Meetings.

Consideration of Visitors

Michelle Day, Early Childhood Advisory Council, Lifelong Learning Center, expressed thanks to School Board Directors Mr. Anderson and Mr. Grams for attending their fund raising carnival. There were 180 children that attended the fund raiser.

Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Mr. Grams and seconded by Ms. Lipinski. Motion carried. Mr. Vogel requested that Item H be considered separately.

A. THAT the minutes of January 26, be approved as presented.

B. THAT the Personnel items 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

PETERSON, JUSTIN, Science Teacher, SFMS, Temporary, Salary, BA1, 8.0 hrs./day, 186.0 days prorated, effective 2.10.09.

NON-CLASSIFIED

OLSON-CHRISTOPERSON, STEPHANIE, Educational Assistant, ECSE, \$11.25/hr., 2.75 hrs./day, 58.0 days effective 1.26.09.

BERANEK, BRENDA, ECFE Instructor Assistant, LLC, \$10.92/hr., 2.5 hrs./day, 74.0 days effective 1.29.09.

TOERING, BRENDA, ECFE Instructor Assistant, LLC, \$10.92/hr., 2.5 hrs./day, 50.0 days effective 1.30.09.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

CLASSIFIED

ARNOLD, KATHERINE, Teacher, EBCS, Maternity LOA beginning 2.10.09

KING, SHANNON, ELL Teacher, District Wide, Maternity LOA beginning 3.21.09.

KLINSING, ANDREA, Enrichment Teacher, SFE, Unpaid General LOA beginning 9.2.09.

NON-CLASSIFIED

HALL, ANNETTE, Educational Assistant, SFMS, Return Medical LOA effective 2.9.09.

NELSON, SHELLEY, Job Coach, T-15, Family Medical LOA beginning 1.29.09

OLDENBORG, KAREN, Office Professional, Educational Assistant, SFMS, Medical LOA beginning 3.2.09.

RIEKEN, JACQUE, Educational Assistant, SFMS, Return from Medical LOA effective 2.9.09.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:

CLASSIFIED

VANDEBOGART, TIFFANY, Teacher, SFMS, Resignation effective 2.2.09.

C. THAT the Revised School Board Committee Assignments be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 approve the following revision to School Board Committee Assignments for 2009 as per the following list.

D. THAT the Comparable Worth/Pay Equity Report be approved as presented

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that Pay Equity Report be approved as presented.

E. THAT the 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 trip, March 23-March 25, 2009 be approved as requested.

F. THAT the Extended Trip Request – Skills-USA be approved as presented

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High School Skills – USA proposal for an extended trip to Bloomington, MN, March 27 – March 29, 2009 be approved as requested.

G. THAT the Extended Trip Request – Softball be approved as presented

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High school softball program for an extended trip, April 24-April 25, 2009 be approved as requested.

I. THAT the 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):

\$1,198.50, Lifetouch National Studios, to SFHS used at Principal's discretion

\$100.00, Ameriprise Financial, to SFS used at Principal's discretion

\$25.00, SFE APT, to SFE for Activity Night Nurse – Linda Antonich

Motion carried.

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

H. THAT Approval of Contract – Principals' Association be approved as presented

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with the Principals' Association be approved as presented for the 2008-09 school year.

Mr. Vogel expressed concern that while the principals came in good spirit to the negotiating table he cannot support a contract with an increase at this time. He realizes that this is a one-year contract but feels that freezing salaries would be better at this time. Mr. Anderson commented that this amount was within the parameters that the Board had previously approved for the 2008-09 school year.

Motion carried with one nay, Mr. Vogel.

Reports

Student Report

Dylan Sowers provided the student report. February 4, DECA had a district meeting with many students advancing to state. Make a Wish Foundation, represented by Randy Shaver from KARE 11, came to a home basketball game and presented a new four-wheeler to Brandon Peterson, a junior at St. Francis High School who is battling cancer. Snow week was held this last week and seemed to have good participation. The dance also seemed successful. Today students finished registering for classes for 2009-10.

Superintendent Communication and Report.

Mr. Saxton asked Mr. Keillor, to comment on Q-Comp program within ISD No. 15. Q-Comp has been discussed lately both nationally and within Minnesota. The Minneapolis Star has printed several articles recently regarding Q-Comp but has not contacted ISD No. 15 for any information. ISD No. 15 was one of the first districts to participate in this program. District teachers are required to complete 32 hours of professional development each year. The teachers set goals that may include student scores and/or surveys. Salary increases are based on this rating.

MDE also recently reported results from Hezel Associates from Syracuse, NY. ISD No. 15 St. Francis was one of the schools interviewed by Hezel. The report was provided to the Directors with additional information available. The report states that, "There is a significant and positive relationship between the number of years a school has been implementing Q Comp and student achievement and the number of years a school is in Q Comp with student academic achievement."

Hezel visited 44 schools as part of their study. East Bethel Community School (EBCS) and St. Francis High School (SFHS) were the two sites visited in ISD No. 15. Hezel also visited Cambridge as a district of similar size without Q Comp as comparison. Hezel believes that the state is heading in the right direction.

Mr. Saxton stated that the District was in the Q-Comp program early. The District had already set a basis for professional development so when the money was available the District was ready to enhance it further. Several teachers in the District visit other school districts in the state of Minnesota when they are preparing to move to the Q Comp program. With the information available from Mr. Keillor and others they are well versed to address questions not only from the District level, but statewide.

Mr. Grams asked what the greatest challenge is. Is it grades, teacher improvement, etc? Mr. Keillor stated that the bottom line has to be what is happening to students. The District has to be willing to look at standardized test scores as a part of this information. That does not represent everything that happens to the students. The District needs to look at the types of tests given as well. The MCA-II is a required test by Minnesota.

One of the criticisms is that the classroom configuration is not fair. In the state of Minnesota, our District was in the top 20 for improvement in school year 2006 to 2007. The middle school was in the top five. Many teachers are doing more work with surveying students as part of their Q-Comp evaluation. It is very hard to decide who a good teacher is, but does that mean we don't even try? The District wants to work on defining what a good teacher is and fine-tuning it.

The state is predicting there will be significant numbers of students who will not pass the math test. In the past, ISD No. 15 graduation percentage has been close to 100% in regards to testing. Due to the math test results arriving at the end of the summer, right before their senior year, the District will lose a significant opportunity for remediation.

Mr. Saxton met with the superintendents from Cambridge and Princeton, and with Board members to discuss Oakland.

ISD No. 15 is required to provide professional development due to the fact the District is in AYP for ELL and Special Education. Mr. Saxton has discussed a plan with Ms. Peplinjack, MDE regarding possible revision of implementation of this professional development that may allow the District to redirect funds to the District rather than sending staff out. The District has staff certified for some of this training through the Teacher Academy.

Mr. Saxton met with a representative from Hanover Research to discuss reasons students open enroll out of ISD No. 15.

Licensed staffing meeting will be tomorrow. It takes time to process all of the letters, etc. necessary as a result of this meeting. This is six weeks ahead of the previous year's schedule.

Mr. Saxton will be in St. Paul on February 11. He will be testifying on Q-Comp as a representative asked by Senator Jungbauer.

Mr. Saxton is also planning on attending a Safe Schools conference on February 12 and 13, in St. Cloud.

Reported Gas Smell at Lifelong Learning Center (LLC)

Mr. Larson contacted CenterPoint Energy on February 5, regarding intermittent gas smells at LLC as parents dropped off students in early morning. The ISD No. 15 maintenance staff along with CenterPoint researched extensively. It was found that the leak was in a pipe across the street from the school and has been repaired by CenterPoint.

The Dean of Student positions have been eliminated which enabled an additional classroom teacher and keeps the class sizes lower. The current plan is to move grade five students to St. Francis Elementary School (SFE). Mr. Larson is working with Ms. Antinozzi, Kids Connection Coordinator, and Ms. Klobe, Nutrition Services Coordinator to move the Kids Connection program to St. Francis Middle School. The SFE Media Center and potentially the stage could be used for other services for students.

Mr. Saxton would like the Board to discuss:

- Two-mile walk
- Half-mile safe pathways walk for grades six to 12

Mr. Anderson requested that the full Board be available for discussion on this topic. Mr. Vogel and Ms. Lipinski are not interested in any cut in transportation. Mr. Grams is in favor .5 walk, not two mile. Chair Kelly has also heard discussion that the state may be cutting funding.

Mr. Saxton can bring two separate resolutions to the Board. Director of Business Affairs, Ms. Hawkins, presented the Board with the safe pathways walk map as well as Board policy.

Mr. Larson also presented data on the use of District buildings compared to statewide data. Minnesota community education statewide has 3,095,473 connections, one delivery system. ISD No. 15 has 98,638 connections, one delivery system.

School Board Report

Mr. Anderson - January 28, 2009, Metro ECSU-Budget is right on target. Continue to work on cooperative group. ECSU is looking to expand the board to include a superintendent or designee.

February 2, completed Principal negotiations. Oakland Board met on February 4. Discussions are going well regarding the direction of ALC. Next meeting is February 17. The Insurance committee met on February 5, and continued going through trends to analyze where the District is with cost and future avenues of possibly combining groups or rates. February 5, met with Music Booster club along with Ms.

Kelly to see how they can foster grassroots music throughout the District beginning in early childhood. A task force is being formed with the assistance of Mr. Tom Larson. Joint Standing Committee (JSC) met this evening. JSC is continuing to look through staffing. There are two reports that have been completed on EBCS and SFHS by Hezel. The reports are excellent that discuss highlights but also concerns. It is a great summary of the program for anyone interested in knowing more about Q-Comp. February 11, attended the legislative hearing and visited other legislative representatives with Ms. Kelly.

Ms. Lipinski reported that the Educational Assistants are heading to mediation in March. The St. Francis girls' basketball is going strong. Cedar Creek Community School had whooping cough outbreak. Nursing staff did an excellent job at communicating with families.

Mr. Grams reported on the Make a Wish award given to Brandon Peterson. Site Management Council completed constitution which will come to the Board. The Technology Committee meeting with Mr. Tramm was held recently. Mr. Tramm can get two SMART boards on loan for 90 days for staff to use. Diane Peterson from SFE will be providing additional information. Mr. Grams enjoyed visiting the LLC carnival. He received a call from David Johnson, St. Francis Chamber of Commerce. Scotsman advertisement was a misunderstanding. February 6, the Custodians contract was completed. Everyone worked well together to come to a final contract. JSC meeting was held earlier this evening.

Mr. Vogel reported that community members have called him wondering why two concerts were recently cancelled. He also reported great dissatisfaction with all of the inaccuracies reported in just one recent article in the Anoka Union. He feels that he can talk to the reporter but that while retractions do correct the errors, they are not the answer to miscommunication in our community.

Ms. Kelly attended the Oakland board meeting. She is excited about the direction that the board is moving. The collaboration is good. The Community Relations Committee met and is considering a change of the name to be more reflective of their role in ISD No. 15. They are considering asking a business student to develop a website. Work has been completed to communicate safe zones and place signs in area businesses. The committee is looking at the possibility of fund raising to pay for speakers, with consideration to bagging groceries at local grocery stores, as well dispersing general information. Ms. Kelly recently attended a Minnesota School Boards Association officers' six-hour workshop.

Ms. Kelly will be implementing some procedural changes:

- Consent Agenda-There no longer will be any discussion after a motion and second. If Board members have a concern regarding an item on the Consent Agenda they should call for clarification prior to the meeting. For further discussion by the Board, you may ask to have an item pulled.
- To facilitate a fair discussion on topics Ms. Kelly asks that Board Members wait to be recognized prior to speaking. Ms. Kelly will always be the last to speak.

Ms. Kelly received a phone call from a community member that would donate \$100 for every car that they sell. The district member would have to state that they were from ISD No. 15. She requested this be placed on next agenda.

No community members attended dialogue.

Administrative Report

Mr. Reker, Director of Human Resources, reported that the District has tentative agreements with custodians and office professionals. On February 10, there is a meeting with Classified Program Supervisors, and on February 23, with Directors. Mr. Reker will be scheduling a meeting with the Bureau of Mediations and Educational Assistants. The Board and community are invited to Indian Education sponsored basket weaving at the LLC February 14.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Anderson, second by Mr. Grams. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. _____

Renee Lipinski, Clerk Pro Tem

