

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
Dialogue Session - 6:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
January 25, 2010

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Kelly at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: Directors: Anderson, H. Grams, Haag, Van Denburgh, Vogel and Superintendent Saxton. Absent: Director S. Grams.

Others present were Director of Business Services Mae Hawkins, Director of Human Resources Jay Reker, Director of Special Services Jacque Stein, Director of Community Services Tom Larson, student representative Jakki Thompson, and community members.

Board Calendar Dates: Regular Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Center, February 8, February 22, March 8, and March 22, 2010. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular meetings.

Consideration of Visitors

Zachary Knudson, student, welcomed Ms. Van Denburgh, and acknowledged leaders Mr. Saxton, Mr. Neubauer, Ms. Wagner, Mr. Davis, and the police force for the strength shown in the crisis that occurred earlier today. He stressed that the actions not be reflective of the student body, and to let it be known that these acts will not be tolerated.

Cameron Ferguson, student, expressed he was not sure what do when hearing two different reports whether school would be delayed two hours or closed for the day.

Mr. Starr addressed the Board regarding Education Funding and encouraged the Board to keep information current and out to the public in the Courier and on the Website. Mr. Starr donated \$100 to be used towards a reward fund for information leading to the person or persons responsible for the vandalism at the high school.

Agenda

Motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Haag.
Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the revised Consent Agenda by Mr. Grams and seconded by Mr. Haag. Ms. Van Denburgh requested that items D, E, F, G, H, I, L, N, O, P, Q be considered separately.

A. THAT the minutes of January 11 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:

LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

CLASSIFIED

PETERSON, DIANE, Teacher, SFE, Return from Medical LOA effective 1.7.10.

NON-CLASSIFIED

JUSTIN, SHARON, Nutrition, SFHS, Return from Medical LOA effective 1.11.10.

MADSON, BECKY, Office Professional, CSC, Maternity LOA effective 3.26.10.

MILLER, KATHLEEN, Medical LOA effective 2.5.10.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:

NON-CLASSIFIED

BROWN, ELLEN, Job Coach, T-15, Termination effective 1.19.10.

C. THAT Claims and Accounts be approved as presented.

J. THAT the Out of State Travel Request for Skills USA be approved as presented.

K. THAT the Calendars for 2010-2011 & 2011 -2012 be approved as presented.

M. 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)

\$665.00, Lifetouch, to EBCS for purchase of general supplies

\$30.00, Wells Fargo Foundation, to EBCS for purchase of general supplies

\$500.00, Kohl's, to EBCS for purchase of general supplies

Motion carried.

D. THAT Investments be approved as presented.

Motion was made by Ms. Van Denburgh and seconded by Mr. Anderson. Ms. Van Denburgh inquired as to the safety of the investments. Ms. Hawkins reported that the investments are highly conservative and in high rated banks or bonds of other school districts and municipalities. The OPEB Trust funds are in long term investments and rated at least AA.

Motion carried.

E. THAT the Community Education Pre-School Instructors Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Community Education Pre-School Instructors be approved as presented for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Ms. Van Denburgh explained why she pulled the contracts. She commented that in running for office she ran with the platform of being conservative in the spending of money, and with the possible reductions to public education, believes financially responsible to vote no on contracts even with small increases. Mr. Reker explained that teachers had no increases in the salary schedule but are allowed to move to an earned advancement.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh. 5 -1

F. THAT the Community Education Kids Connection Instructors & Assistants Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Community Education Kids Connection be approved as presented for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh. 5-1

G. THAT the Community Education Coordinators Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Community Education Coordinators be approved as presented for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh. 5-1

H. THAT the Community Education Pre-School/ECFE Instructor Assistants/Office Assistants be approved as presented.

Motion was made by Mr. Haag seconded by Mr. Anderson.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Community Education Pre-School/ECFE Instructors Assistants/Office Assistants be approved as presented for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh 5-1

I. THAT the Office Professionals Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Office Professionals be approved as presented for the 2009-2011 school years.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh. 5-1

L. THAT the Approval of the Plato Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the contract with PLATO, Inc. for the purchase of an internet based learning program for secondary students costing an average of \$19,451 per year be approved.

Ms. Van Denburgh inquired as to the number of months, determination of users, and cost benefit to users. Mr. Saxton explained seats are available 24/7, utilization of seats during the day, and how it allows the students more flexibility in the program while still having remediation. The contract will be purchased through the Oak Land Consortium. The Affinity Program, piloted this past year, was too confining for students. The District received positive feedback from Princeton and Cambridge of the Plato Learning program. The program was reviewed by the building technology committee, site management committee, subcommittee of peer leaders, and a District Adhoc committee. Mr. Neubauer explained how the 25 seats were arrived at. Ms. Hawkins explained the Title funding and use of dollars. Some of the funds used are restricted and specifically designed for students needing remediation in math.

Motion carried with two nays, Ms. Van Denburgh and Mr. Vogel. 4-2.

N. THAT the Nutrition Services Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Nutrition Services Employees be approved as presented for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh. 5-1

O. THAT the Educational Assistants Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Education Minnesota St. Francis/Educational Assistants be approved as presented for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh. 5-1

Ms. Van Denburgh questioned a Board member voting on a contract if a spouse is an employee of the contract and whether that Board member should abstain. Abstention goes in the majority. The state statute is 471.88 subd. 21 and was recently approved.

Motion was made to suspend item O. by Mr. Vogel and seconded by Ms. Van Denburgh.

Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve item O. was made by Mr. Grams and seconded by Mr. Haag.

Motion carried with aye votes from Mr. Haag, Mr. Vogel, and Ms. Kelly, nay Ms. Van Denburgh, and abstentions by Mr. Grams and Mr. Anderson. 3-1-2

P. THAT the Advantage Collection Professionals, Inc. Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the contract with Advantage Collection Professionals, Inc. for collection of bad check services be approved.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh. 5-1

Q. THAT the Lead Technicians Contract be approved as presented.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the terms and conditions of employment with Lead Technician be approved as presented for the 09-10 and 10-11 school years.

Mr. Reker explained the position of a Lead Technician.

Motion carried with one nay Ms. Van Denburgh. 5-1

Reports

Student Report

Jakki Thompson provided the student report. Current records: girls' basketball 13-2, boys' basketball 2-11, girls' hockey 3-16, and boys' hockey 10-6-1. Hockey player Joey Benik was highlighted in the ESPN Rise magazine. Speech is beginning. Knowledge Bowl held a tournament. The Music Man will be the spring play. One Act is The Man Turned Into A Stick. The Band Concert is rescheduled for January 31. The annual Skills USA Ice Fishing Tournament will be held. Snow Week begins this week.

Superintendent Communication and Report

Mr. Saxton explained a One Act Play.

Mr. Saxton provided a summary of the actions taken regarding the vandalism that occurred at the high school. A timeline of events was sent by Mr. Neubauer and forwarded to the Board members. The website continued to be updated. The District is registered now with Twitter. Procedures will be looked at, and how the District interfaces with the media will be reviewed. The Board will be contacted, and a phone tree will be established.

The inquiry received regarding the Targeted Intervention program was discussed at the December 14, Board meeting. The Grant is written every year. Mr. Becker, Ms. Stein, and Mr. Gilbertson are involved in writing of the grant and funding is used for at risk students.

Race to the Top application was submitted in advance of the deadline. It is a state grant. If the state is awarded the funding in early April, the District will have 90 days to submit the final grant application. There is a component tied to Q Comp. Huge part of the grant funding is related to data and data collection. At the 7AA meeting discussions were regarding travel and number of contests.

Attended "Media in Times of Crisis" at the Minnesota School Boards Association, MSBA, conference. The speakers at the MSBA conference talked about funding and delayed funding. Ms. Hawkins explained the state-action would not affect District No. 15.

At the Teaching Learning Initiative some workshop attendees worked on Google documents. Mr. Becker is working on the program for Title utilizing data to make the best decisions.

Technology at the elementary schools is progressing.

The District Leadership Team is addressing enrollment, environment, and technology.

The Communications Committee met last week.

Mr. Saxton attended a SMART Board workshop at TIES on Saturday, January 23.

Mr. Saxton and Ms. Kelly participated in a meeting held in Braham through the Tandberg camera without leaving the District.

There is a meeting with Ms. Fuller, Oak Land, and Superintendents on January 27.

Dialogue Session

Mr. Anderson reported one community member communicated two concerns. The first, regarding the Courier Newspaper cost. Dollars come from Fund 04. Second, the instructional cost of salaries. The community member might come to comment before the Board at a later date.

School Board Reports

Mr. Haag acknowledged the Office Professional group regarding the negotiation process.

Mr. Vogel acknowledged Educational Assistants for negotiating in timely manner. Transportation met in first mediation meeting. At Knowledge Bowl varsity took 1st, junior varsity took 1st, and 1st team overall.

Mr. Vogel referenced a certified letter and will inquire with administration. He requested an update regarding specific concerns. Ms. Kelly encouraged Mr. Vogel to call administration.

Mr. Grams agreed the need to inquire regarding the certified letter received. He attended the MSBA conference, one idea is to keep key community informed. He attended Native American Youth class. Ms. Van Denburgh also intended the Native American Youth class. She attended the Phase II MSBA training. She received the certified letter and encouraged the Board to consider meeting in closed session. Mr. Anderson attended MSBA conference. He attended a demographic workshop. Ms. Kelly attended MSBA conference. The Race to the Top and Q Comp tables were busiest with many questions about Q Comp. She attended the Schools for Equity in Education membership meeting. There is a Task Force established to review assessment and accountability. Senator Bakk, who is running for Governor, has a great depth of knowledge in regards to equalization and the formula, and financial issues districts face. Kathy Saltzman has a bill to introduce with regards to increasing equalization. There will be a legislative kick off at the Kelly Inn. The new platform will be forwarded to Ms. Kowitz and on to Board.

Administrative Report

District Web Site – Ms. Miller provided highlights of the District web site. The handout provided is a Site Map of the web site. There are over 750 pages on the site. The Directory of staff and calendars are great features. The number of visitors to the site was also presented. Staff is in training and encouraged to set up web pages. Mr. Vogel acknowledged the up to date content of the site, and also encouraged requests for information from staff to send in new information. Mr. Grams commended Ms. Miller for her efforts.

Old Business

Revised Policy 534 – Chemical Use/Abuse

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 adopts revised Policy 534 – Chemical Use/Abuse

Motion carried.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Haag and seconded by Ms. Van Denburgh. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned 9:40 at p.m.

Joseph D. Haag, School Board Clerk