

SCHOOL BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15  
St. Francis, Minnesota  
Dialogue Session – 6:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.  
January 26, 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, 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, and community members.

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

**Site Report – East Bethel Community School**

Ms. Scardigli, Principal, gave a power point presentation of a day in the life of a student at East Bethel Community School. Each day the core components are covered in academics which include, literacy, math, science, social studies, and health in one trimester. Specials are taught in a four day rotation which include art, music, technology and phy ed. Leadership is promoted in the school. Monies were raised by selling pencils and gift cards were donated to three families. 29 baskets of food were donated at Thanksgiving. Student Council runs a book store. The Bus Patrol is another form of promoting leadership. Bus safety is taught every year. An all school lyceum was given on bullying. Reading takes place in many forms. Educational field trips are important. The school participates in outreach activities, one event being a hat and mitten drive. The 2008 goal focused on mathematics with the MAP assessment resulting with every grade level meeting or exceeding their goal. In 2009 the goal is a shift to reading.

**Consideration of Visitors**

Diane Gilderhus was present to represent the high school music boosters and is available if the Board has any questions.

**Agenda**

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

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Kelly noted that under Personnel items Diane Johnson and Barb Moll be moved to the Classified section under Leaves of Absences. Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as revised by Mr. Haag and seconded by Ms. Lipinski.

Mr. Vogel requested that item E, and Mr. Haag requested item G be considered separately.

A. THAT the minutes of January 12 be approved as presented.

B. THAT 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

**CARDA, JARALYN**, Teacher, EBCS, Long Term Sub effective 2.17.09

**POWERS, TIFFANY**, Teacher, EBCS, Long Term Sub effective 1.26.09

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE:**

CLASSIFIED

**JOHNSON, DIANE**, EBCS, Return from Medical LOA effective 1.12.09.

**MOLL, BARB**, Special Education Teacher, SFHS, Maternity LOA effective 4.20.09.

NON-CLASSIFIED

**AMDAHL, SHIRLEY**, EBCS, Return from Medical LOA effective 1.12.09.

**GOLYER, SANDRA**, Transportation, Return from Medical LOA effective 1.20.09

**COOPER, JOE**, Transportation, Medical LOA beginning 12.10.08

**HALL, ANNETTE**, Educational Assistant, SFMS, Medical LOA beginning 1.20.09.

**SPENCE, BECKY**, Transportation, Medical LOA beginning 12.18.08.

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

CLASSIFIED

**HYNES, TOMCZYK, BARBARA**, Language Arts Instructor, SFHS, Retirement effective 11.26.08.

NON-CLASSIFIED

**DADY, KELLY**, Educational Assistant, Crossroads, Layoff effective 2.6.09.

**JOHNSON, AMY**, Educational Assistant, Crossroads, Layoff effective 2.6.09

C. THAT Claims and Accounts be approved as presented.

D. THAT Investments be approved as presented.

F. THAT the Out of State Travel – SFHS 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 out-of-state trip to Menomonie, WI February 26 – February 27, 2009 be approved as requested.

H. 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)  
\$2,260.00, St. Francis Wrestling Booster Club, for salary of 9<sup>th</sup> grade wrestling coach  
\$20.89, CCCS PTO, to CCCS for books for Family Reading Night  
\$625.00, Medtronic, to EBCS Principal supply budget  
\$200.00, SFE APT, to Karen Griffin to purchase iPods for children that struggle with behavior or social skills  
\$1,000.00, Oscar & Val Carlson, 2007-08 JDK scholarship recipient is Eric Sievert

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Grams second by Ms. Lipinski.

E. THAT the Early Childhood Advisory Council Contract be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Entertainment Contract between A Touch of Magic and the District 15 Early Childhood Family Education Advisory Committee for a preschool show be approved.

Mr. Vogel inquired about contracts coming before the Board. Ms. Hawkins reported that contracts do come before the Board and that fundraising is done to provide for family events.

Motion carried.

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

G. THAT the ADT Security Services, Inc. Contract be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the contract with ADT Security Services, Inc. for a security system for St. Francis High School be approved.

Mr. Haag inquired about staff having card access, and Principal Neubauer explained how the system would work.

Motion carried.

**Reports**

*Superintendent Communications and Report*

Mr. Saxton reported that it is Snow Week and the high school. All students that attend a St. Francis activity this week will be admitted free with admission fee donated by St. Francis Activities/Athletic Department and the Student Council to fight cancer. Make a Wish Foundation will be granting a wish to a St. Francis student on January 30, at the basketball game.

Mr. Saxton met with Board members to review the Superintendent goals set last fall. Mr. Anderson reported that goals were reviewed up to date and some of the goals have been accomplished. One goal remains in progress, and there is one more evaluation in the spring.

Mr. Saxton referenced a letter sent to Board, Superintendent, and legislators regarding cold weather. Mr. Saxton accumulated reoccurring questions, added answers, and posted to the website.

A call was received from a salesperson from Elk River Ford regarding vehicle purchases and a donation of \$100 to the District. Mr. Saxton has inquired with Minnesota School Boards Association regarding such a program.

Mr. Saxton attended the School for Equity in Education (SEE) Legislative kickoff. A handout was distributed regarding the Federal stimulus dollars, with dollars flowing through the State before being distributed to districts. Governor Pawlenty will release the budget proposal January 27, which could have an affect on the actual dollars districts receive. Citizens can review the Governor's proposal, and what districts' will receive at the SEE website, under Brad's Blog.

Mr. Saxton reviewed an article, it's inaccurate and confusing statements that were published in the Scotsman newspaper. The article and corrected facts will be posted to the District website.

Mr. Larson attended the East Bethel Economic Committee in Mr. Saxton's absence. The next meeting is February 19. The committee will consider the levy dollars and prioritize how to utilize the funds in working with economic development.

Mr. Saxton met with Transportation Supervisor Dean Krause and Rich Enga regarding the affects to transportation when considering space solutions. In working out the costs, which would involve the purchase of additional buses, the result would be cost prohibitive. The previously scheduled Public Forum for January 27 is cancelled. A future Public Forum should be scheduled after a Planning Committee is formed and discussions have taken place regarding start and stop times, grade configuration, levy, and space issues for 2010-2011. Mr. Vogel presented ideas for the eighth grade students to be educated at the high school. The ideas should be brought to the Planning Committee to be discussed.

### *School Board Report*

Mr. Haag received calls regarding the previously proposed grade reconfiguration.

Mr. Vogel requested that Mr. Neubauer expound more on the meeting with Music Boosters. Currently there is no additional funding to hire more staff, but in the future when funding does become available that some of the suggestions in the report could be considered.

Mr. Grams attended the girls hockey game and acknowledged how advanced the team is. He attended the single act play at the high school. Mr. Grams acknowledged the new posters hanging at the high school.

Contract negotiations continue with custodians. He assisted with the Lions pancake breakfast.

Ms. Kelly attended the lunch bunch at Sandhill Center and answered questions when talking with community members. On January 15, Ms. Kelly and Mr. Anderson attended the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) Conference. January 14 was the Communications meeting and the group continues to establish ways to improve communications in the community. January 21, was the Oak Land Board meeting. Administrator Steve Allen has submitted his resignation. On February 4 there will be an Oak Land meeting with Superintendents to look at the future use of Oak Land. Mr. Vogel inquired about the formation of Oak Land. Mr. Saxton will forward a copy of the Oak Land Joint Powers Agreement to Mr. Vogel. On January 22, Ms. Kelly attended the Legislative kickoff. The history of school funding was discussed. Ms. Kelly recognized the staff on the high school SMC in how they responded to the previously proposed transfer of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students into the high school. The Wellness Committee met today. The MSBA Officer workshop will be January 31, and Ms. Kelly will attend.

Ms. Lipinski reported that Melissa Borstner scored her 1000 point at the basketball game. Wrestling is going strong. The Youth Gladiators held a youth tournament. She attended conferences at the high school. She heard positive comments from high school staff regarding 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the high school, and concerns from middle school staff.

Mr. Anderson attended the middle school SMC meeting and discussion included the exploratory classes, grade reconfiguration, petition from 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, scheduling, and the Legislative Action Committee. Mr. Anderson acknowledged Steve Allen for his leadership with the Oak Land Vocational Programming. He attended the MSBA Leadership Conference and summarized a seminar regarding a School Board interacting together. MSBA has a website with an update posted weekly.

Ms. Kelly encouraged School Board members that cannot attend their adopted school SMC meetings to contact the site leader for up to date information.

### Dialogue Session

Mr. Haag reported that custodians communicated concerns in equity across District groups regarding pay raises, freezes, and insurance premiums. One individual requested information in declining enrollment, and concerns over reductions to be made. The individual was complimentary of St. Francis Elementary School and the Lifelong Learning Center and what has been done for his family.

### *Administrative Reports*

#### Johnson Controls

Mr. Larson introduced Denise Cote', Performance Assurance Engineer, to provide an update to the fall report regarding the energy management contract with Johnson Controls. Ms. Cote' has met with Mr. Larson and Mr. Wirz several times since the October 27, report to the Board. The avoided cost for year 13, which spans the period from January 1 – December 31, 2007, were substantially higher than originally reported and exceeded the guaranteed amounts for that period. During 2007, the St. Francis District facilities avoided \$233,664 in utility costs. The total benefit for the project at the end of Year 13, including all measured and stipulated benefits, is \$5,639,811. Ms. Cote' summarized the entire performance contract review.

### **Other Matters**

The School Board recessed for a 10 minute break prior to going into closed session at 8:55 p.m.

#### *Closed Session – Negotiation Parameters*

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that a closed session be conducted for the purpose of discussing labor negotiation strategies under subd. 1 (b) of the Open Meetings Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D.03

Closed Session: Motion by Mr. Anderson, second by Mr. Haag. Vote 6-0 Time: 9:09 p.m.

Resume Open Meeting: Motion by Mr. Haag: I move that the open meeting be resumed, second by Mr. Grams. Vote: 6-0 Time: 10:11 p.m.

Board members discussed the future negotiation process for employees groups.  
Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph D. Haag, Clerk