

07-08

Fillmore Central School
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
March 25, 2008

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Independent District #2198, Harmony, Minnesota was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of Tuesday, March 25, 2008, in the Fillmore Central Middle School Media Center by Chairperson Sikkink. Present: Superintendent Luehmann, Business Manager Kathy Whalen, Bookkeeper Darla Ebner, Board Members: Ostrom, Ristau, Sikkink, Stevens, Topness, and Torgrimson. Absent: Britton. Visitors: Brenda Lentz, Heath Olstad, Jill Eerdmans, Nancy Harrison and several members of the community.

Member Britton joined the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Recognition of visitors: None.

Stevens moved to approve the agenda with additions.

~ additional resignation

~ update on Senior Class trip by Joe Stevens

~ update on March PTC meeting by Member Topness

Motion was seconded by Topness. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Stevens, Senior Class advisor, thanked the Board for their continued support of the annual Senior Class tour to Washington D.C. This year's Senior Class will be leaving on their trip Friday March 28th.

Topness updated the Board on the Parent-Teacher Committee meeting held Tuesday March 18th. Topness felt increased communication between the Board and the Fillmore Central staff and parents was a main area of concern. A representative from the Board will attend future PTC meetings. Topness and Ristau volunteered as representatives from the Board.

Topness moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2008, regular board meeting. Motion was seconded by Britton. Motion carried unanimously.

Britton moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2008, special board meeting. Motion was seconded by Ostrom. Motion carried unanimously.

Torgrimson moved to approve the monthly claims in the amount of \$639,429.49. Motion was seconded by Britton. Motion carried unanimously.

Principal's report received from Brenda Lentz.

Stevens moved to increase Kaynel Rindels' paraprofessional time 1 hour per day for the remainder of the 2007/08 school year. Motion seconded by Britton. Motion carried unanimously.

Principal's report received from Heath Olstad.

Torgrimson moved to hire Jackie Whitacre to direct the high school spring play. Motion seconded by Topness. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Stevens introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO
THE DISCHARGE OF
THOMAS J. FREDERICK**

WHEREAS, Thomas J. Frederick (hereinafter referred to as “the Employee”) is employed as a cleaner by Independent School District No. 2198 (“the School District”); and

WHEREAS, the School Board of the School District is proposing to discharge the Employee; and

WHEREAS, the Employee is a veteran entitled to rights pursuant to the Veterans Preference Act, Minnesota Statutes, Section 197.46.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2198 as follows:

1. That the School Board proposes that Thomas J. Frederick be discharged as an employee of the School District.

2. That Thomas J. Frederick shall be suspended with pay until final action is taken on his proposed discharge.

3. That the Superintendent is directed to send written notice to Thomas J. Frederick regarding the proposed discharge as provided by law, and said notice shall be in substantially the form as provided in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

4. That said proposed discharge is for the charges and/or reasons stated in the foregoing written notice to Thomas J. Frederick, and said charges and/or reasons are hereby adopted as though separately set forth and resolved herein.

5. That the contents of the exhibits of this Resolution contain private data on individuals pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13. The Superintendent is specifically directed to maintain the private data classification of these materials in accordance with all applicable law, including the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by Board Member Britton and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Britton, Topness, Ostrom, Stevens, Ristau, and Sikink

and the following voted against the same: Torgrimson

whereupon said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

EXHIBIT A

March 25, 2008

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISCHARGE
THOMAS J. FREDERICK**

Mr. Thomas J. Frederick
28246 Morgan Road
Wykoff, MN 55990

Dear Mr. Frederick:

You are hereby notified that at a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 2198 held on March 25, 2008, consideration was given to your proposed discharge as a cleaner of the School District, and a Resolution was adopted by majority vote of the School Board proposing to discharge you as a cleaner of Independent School District No. 2198 upon the following grounds:

1. Insubordination, which constitutes “misconduct” pursuant to the Veterans Preference Act, Minnesota Statutes, Section 197.46.
2. Inability and/or failure to work cooperatively with other employees, including your supervisor, which constitutes “misconduct” pursuant to the Veterans Preference Act, Minnesota Statutes, Section 197.46.
3. Inability and/or failure to take direction from your supervisor, which constitutes “misconduct” pursuant to the Veterans Preference Act, Minnesota Statutes, Section 197.46.

You are further advised that you are entitled to certain rights under the Veterans Preference Act, Minnesota Statutes, Section 197.46, a copy of which is attached to this letter. The Veterans Preference Act provides you a right to request a hearing, in writing, within sixty (60) days of receipt of this notice of intent to discharge. **If you fail to request a hearing within this sixty (60) day period, such failure shall constitute a waiver of your right to a hearing and shall also waive all other available legal remedies for reinstatement.**

Pending the conclusion of a hearing, if requested, and determination of the foregoing charges, you are hereby suspended with pay pending final School Board action.

Any request for a hearing concerning your proposed discharge shall be made in writing and submitted by mail or personal service to Myrna Luehmann, Superintendent of Schools, at the School District Office, 145 Main Avenue South, Harmony, Minnesota 55939. Please also direct any other communications regarding this matter to Superintendent Luehmann.

Sincerely,

Michelle Topness
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District No. 2198

Britton moved to approve the 2008/09 school calendar as presented. Motion seconded by Torgrimson. Motion carried unanimously.

Ostrom moved to accept the retirement request received from Sandy Amundson. Motion was seconded by Britton. Motion carried unanimously.

Stevens moved to accept the resignation received from Alice Bigalk. Motion was seconded by Ristau. Motion carried unanimously.

The board would like to thank Mrs. Amundson and Mrs. Bigalk for their dedicated service to Fillmore Central School District.

Stevens moved to advertise for bids for lawn mowing service for the 2008 and 2009 mowing seasons. Motion seconded by Torgrimson. Motion carried unanimously.

Jill Eerdmans, Fillmore Central Media Center Director, addressed the board regarding the media center budget. She requested one time funding of \$5,000 per media center and an addition \$1,000 per media center added to the 2008/09 book budget.

Torgrimson moved to budget \$2,000 per media center for books for the 2008/09 school year. Motion seconded by Ristau. Motion carried unanimously.

Topness moved to approve the revised 2007/08 revenue and expenditure budget as presented:

	Revenues	Expenses	Balance
<i>General</i>	\$6,126,191	\$6,509,058	\$(382,867)
<i>Root River Program</i>	274,253	274,253	0
Total General	6,400,444	6,783,311	(382,867)
Food Service	313,208	319,094	(5,886)
Community Svc.	343,405	387,093	(43,688)
Construction	5,000	260,000	(255,000)
Debt Service	378,386	361,045	17,341
Total All Funds	\$7,440,443	\$78,110,543	\$(670,100)

Motion seconded by Ostrom. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Stevens introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION DISCONTINUING AND REDUCING
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS**

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 2198 adopted a resolution November 26, 2007, directing the administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and positions, and

WHEREAS, said recommendations have been received and considered by the school board,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2198, as follows:

That the following programs and positions, or portions thereof, be discontinued:

- 1.) Administrative K-8 position duties to be reorganized and assigned to the Superintendent and Dean of Students due to declining student numbers and financial needs
- 2.) Reduce .5FTE at Middle School and reconfigure grades 5-8 classroom structure
- 3.) Due to classroom numbers, reduce K-12 speech clinician position to .5FTE
- 4.) Decrease English and Social Studies sections at High School to accommodate student registrations needs and declining enrollment
- 5.) Eliminate TAG Coordinator and FACS position at K-8 to reduce district expenditures

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member

Britton and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Britton, Topness, Stevens, Sikkink, Ostrom

and the following voted against: Torgrimson, Ristau

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Member Stevens introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION
AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT
OF JESSICA POWELL, A PROBATIONARY TEACHER

WHEREAS, Jessica Powell is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 2198.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2198 that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 5, that the teaching contract of Jessica Powell, a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 2198 is hereby terminated at the close of the current 2007-2008 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that written notice be sent to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal of her contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL

Mrs. Jessica Powell
PO Box 133
Harmony, MN 55939

Dear Mrs. Powell:

You are hereby notified that at a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 2198 held on March 25, 2008, a resolution was adopted by a majority roll call vote to terminate your contract effective at the end of the current school year and not to renew your contract for the 2008-2009 school year. Said action of the board is taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 5.

You may officially request that the school board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract. For your information, however, this action is taken because of the discontinuance of your position; namely, a teacher in the middle school, the financial condition of the school district, and the decrease in enrollment.

Yours very truly,

SCHOOL BOARD OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2198

Clerk of the school board

The motion for the adoption for the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Ostrom and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Britton, Ostrom, Ristau, Sikkink, Stevens, Topness, and Torgrimson

And the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Nancy Harrison addressed the Board regarding the need for better communication between the Board and community members and staff. She would like to see an effort to increase the enrollment at Fillmore Central Schools. She'd like the district to follow up with students that leave the district.

Ostrom moved to approve a student teaching agreement with Luther College for the 2008/09 school year. Motion seconded by Torgrimson. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Luehmann informed the Board of upcoming MSBA Phase III and Phase IV trainings.

Stevens moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Topness. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Topness
Clerk, Independent School District #2198