

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, January 26, 2009

The Board of Education of Independent School District #299, Caledonia, Minnesota, met in a regular school board meeting in the Caledonia Area Elementary Media Center.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Naomi Fruechte at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Naomi Fruechte, John Klug, Michelle Werner, Charlie Wray, and Spencer Yohe. Also present were Superintendent Michael Moriarty, Principals Connie Hesse and Ronald Helmers arriving at 7:05 p.m., and Nancy Runningen. Others present were Craig Moorhead, Mike Paulson, Phillip Paulson, Joanne Wagner, David Wagner, Karen Schiltz, Barb Meyer, Roger Knutson, Shane Buros, Debra Cody, Tammy Twite, Kim Kranz, and Todd Meiners. Absent were Directors Matt Hendel and Jean Meyer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by John Klug, seconded by Charlie Wray to approve the agenda as amended to include a closed session to discuss contracts. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Michelle Werner to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2008, regular school board meeting and the January 5, 2009, organizational school board meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Charlie Wray to approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$1,179,244.23, including check numbers 48515 through 48736 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$1,500,000.00. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Visitors discussed with the board their concerns about staff receiving salary increases at the same time when budget crunches are happening and having fifth grade students moved to the middle/high school building. The board informed them that the current administrators have assumed additional duties when the school district eliminated one administrator this school year and that moving fifth grade is one of many options they are exploring to help the district use space more efficiently and reduce generating costs. The school board members toured the elementary building to see what space could be utilized by other classrooms in order to close off part of the building to save energy costs.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Maternity Leave Request

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by John Klug to accept the maternity leave request from Mrs. Erchoff-Costet for seven weeks to begin approximately March 21, 2009, and to continue through approximately May 22, 2009. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

New Hires

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Charlie Wray to ratify the hiring of Anna Frauenkron as a part-time ECFE teacher at BA/0 at \$22.93 per hour. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Moved by John Klug, seconded by Michelle Werner to ratify the hiring of Tammy Reichenbacher as a part-time ECFE assistant at V/P at \$9.77 per hour. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions and Reasons Thereof

Member Charlie Wray introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFORE

WHEREAS, there has been a reduction in student enrollment, and,

WHEREAS, this decrease in student enrollment must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 299 as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions and as a result of a reduction in enrollment make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member John Klug. Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Naomi Fruechte, John Klug, Michelle Werner, Charlie Wray, and Spencer Yohe. The following voted against the same: None. Absent were Directors Matt Hendel and Jean Meyer. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

2008-2009 School Calendar Change

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by Spencer Yohe to have school in session on Monday, April 13, 2009, in exchange for Wednesday, April 8, 2009, due to state testing beginning on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. If the school district needs to makeup one snow day after President's Day, the makeup snow day will be on Wednesday, April 8, 2009. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Helmers informed the board that the first day of second semester went well for students. The Middle School Student Council did a nice job arranging activities for the middle school student's end of semester free time. The middle school students are currently participating in a fundraiser selling Pastry Puffins through February 4th. The funds raised will go into their class fund. The high school students are busy preparing for Snow Day Activities for the week of February 9th. He has met with the seventh grade class regarding bullying issues and will be meeting with the sixth and eighth graders too regarding bullying. He is also working on next year's class offerings and schedules.

Mrs. Hesse updated the board regarding the curriculum committee meeting held on January 20th. The elementary staff have been working on the math academic standards. Fitness Fever will begin next week where there will be a student challenge and a staff challenge. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held next week. The Elementary Student Council started collecting Pennies for Patients today. She updated the board with regard to testing.

Superintendent Moriarty informed the board that he is working on the 2009-2010 school calendar and that there may be two calendars to be adopted at the February board meeting because of Labor Day being late this year. The AYP School Improvement Plan was approved by the state and the school district did receive the official notice last week. A reading inservice with the teachers was held last week and teachers are busy developing a reading goal in each of their classes to meet the AYP goals in that plan. He informed the board that the Governor is supposed to give his budget preview on Tuesday. He also recommended the board appoint three board members to a committee to meet with interested neighboring districts to explore the ideas of sharing time between districts. He is reworking the 2008-2009 budget and beginning to review next year's budget. At the April board meeting, Michael's Engineering will be present to update the board with regard to the middle/high school energy project.

Mrs. Runnigen informed the board that they are working on the Winter/Spring brochure. The Community Education Advisory Council met on January 8th. ABE classes are held Tuesday and Thursday nights. They are continuing to take registrations for the SAC Program. They are preparing for Parent/Teacher Conferences for the Hand In Hand Preschool Program. The ECFE Kickoff was held on January 19th with classes beginning January 26th.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Yohe informed the board that he attended the MSBA Convention which went very well.

Directors Naomi Fruechte, Michelle Werner, and Spence Yohe will serve on the committee to explore ideas of sharing time between school districts. Director Jean Meyer will be an alternate to this committee.

Superintendent Moriarty informed the board that Affordable Technology has been doing a nice job working with the school district.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTS

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by John Klug to close the meeting at 8:26 p.m. to discuss contracts. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by John Klug to reconvene the regular school board meeting at 9:06 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approve Administrative Contract for the Principals for the 2008-2010 School Years

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Michelle Werner to ratify the administrative contract for the principals for the 2008-2009 school year with a duty adjustment increase of \$2,000.00 per person and a 3% increase in their salaries for the 2008-2009 school year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Community Education Director

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by John Klug to ratify the administrative contract for the Community Education Director for the 2008-2009 school year with a duty adjustment increase of \$1,500.00 and a 3% increase in her salary for the 2008-2009 school year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by Charlie Wray to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Jean Meyer, Clerk