

## **SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

### **Monday, April 6, 2009**

The Board of Education of Independent School District #299, Caledonia, Minnesota, met in a special 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, Matt Hendel, John Klug, Jean Meyer, Michelle Werner, Charlie Wray arriving at 7:45 p.m., and Spencer Yohe. Also present were Superintendent Michael Moriarty, Nancy Runningen arriving at 7:35 p.m., and Connie Hesse. Others present were Karen Schiltz, Barb Meyer, Chuck Schulte, Dave Klinski, and Kim Kranz.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Spencer Yohe to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED**

The board had a working session to discuss options for the replacement of the middle school/high school principal position and the pro's and con's of each of the options presented.

##### **Option #1:**

Replace the current MSHS Principal, who is retiring, and keep the Elementary Principal/Testing Coordinator/title Program Director position as it currently is operating. Keep the superintendent position as is until the board has the opportunity after next year to hire someone to fill a newly created combined position if that is what is deemed appropriate at that time.

##### **Pro's:**

- A principal in both buildings
- Job responsibilities defined
- Status quo
- Adequately managing student issues and problems arising
- Do not have to renegotiate a contract
- Strong principal if we want to move to a multi-district superintendent

##### **Con's:**

- Declining enrollment/declining needs
- Decrease staff size
- Resources are fewer
- Put dollars in the classroom

**Option 1A:** After one year, hire a superintendent on a part-time basis

##### **Option #2:**

Assign the current elementary principal to the MSHS principal position. Hire a Dean of Students to work with student in both buildings. Add a part-time position to take over the role of Testing Coordinator/Title Program Director, and keep the Superintendent position as is until the Board has the opportunity, after next year, to hire someone to fill a newly created combination position if that is what is

deemed appropriate at that time.

Pro's:

- Duties more clearly spelled out
- More flexibility

Con's:

- March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to reassign duties
- Moving a successful principal to questionable ground
- Most expensive option
- More dramatic change in operations
- Too many unknowns

Option #3:

Assign the current elementary principal to the MSHS position. Hire a Dean of Students who will also be the Testing Coordinator/Title Program Director. Assign the elementary principal duties to the superintendent until the district has the opportunity to post the new combined position and hire someone.

Pro's:

- Save approximately \$17,800 over Option #1
- Dean of Students help with student management

Con's:

- Renegotiate contract
- Dean of Students cannot evaluate teachers
- Dean of Students cannot suspend students without proper licensure
- Dean of Students not as effective to go to court
- Pay extra money for hours outside school day
- Superintendent out of district so Dean of Students would have to be available for a need that may arise
- Moving a successful principal to questionable ground
- Several new administrators in the district at the same time

Option #4:

Move as many grade levels as possible to the new MSHS building and keep the current elementary building as a pre-school to first or second grade learning center and the district offices.

Pro's:

- More students under the principal more of the time
- Save \$17,800 over Option #1 and possibly save some on benefits

Con's:

- Lack of public support for elementary students in one building
- Not saving a lot of money for the uncertainty of the change
- Having younger and older students together in one building
- Playground equipment/facility modifications

Option #5:

Negotiate contracts to reduce costs

Option #6:

Reduce elementary principal contract to 0.50

**CLOSED SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY FOR 2010-2012**

Moved by John Klug, seconded by Jean Meyer to close the meeting at 8:30 p.m. to discuss negotiations strategy for the 2010-2012 school year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Spencer Yohe to convene the special school board meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Matt Hendel, seconded by Charlie Wray to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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Jean Meyer, Clerk