

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, September 17, 2007

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 7:09 p.m. Members present were Naomi Fruechte, Matt Hendel, John Klug, Joyce Knutson, Michelle Werner, and Charlie Wray. Also present were Superintendent Michael Moriarty, Principals Brian Doty, Ronald Helmers arriving at 7:30 p.m. and Connie Hesse, and Nancy Runningen. Others present were Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Jane Palen, Janelle Field-Rohrer, Andy and Sheri Allen. Absent was Director Jean Meyer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Joyce Knutson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Joyce Knutson to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2007, regular school board meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT & AUTHORIZATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Moved by Matt Hendel, seconded by Joyce Knutson to approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$352,832.19 including check numbers 45656 through 45834 plus a check made payable to Winona Controls in the amount of \$24,381.00 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$605,000.00. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy and Sheri Allen addressed the board with their concerns involving the water running off the school property onto their property. The Allen's requested that the Board respond to their concerns with a plan to stop the water from running onto their property within thirty (30) days. They stated that if the school board can make a concrete resolution to fix this problem and have it fixed by next spring, they will forget about any damage that has been done to their property. After much discussion, the board decided to have the Building and Grounds Committee meet regarding this issue.

Moved by Matt Hendel, seconded by Joyce Knutson to have the Building and Grounds Committee take a look at this situation and report back to the board at the October 15th school board meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Resignations

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by Joyce Knutson to accept the resignation of Ms. Pamela Fahy as a part-time middle/high school special educational assistant effective immediately. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Contract Change

Moved by Naomi Fruechte, seconded by Charlie Wray to accept the contract change for Mrs. Judy Flaten as the part-time elementary guidance counselor and middle school reading teacher for a contract increase of 50% to 80% beginning the 2007-2008 school year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Memorandum of Understanding

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Matt Hendel to offer Mr. Keith Hollatz a part-time special educational teacher position at an hourly wage of \$36.88 based upon the teacher master agreement of MA+30/13 with the understanding that this position will continue as long as the student he is assigned to remains enrolled at ISD #299 or until this student is assigned to a regular classroom setting whichever comes first. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

New Hires

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by John Klug to ratify a contract for Bonnie Schmitz as a part-time middle/high school cook beginning the 2007-2008 school year at III/P at \$9.20 per hour. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Teacher Recall

Moved by Matt Hendel, seconded by Michelle Werner to recall Mrs. Becky Newgaard as a kindergarten teacher for the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year during the medical leave of absence of Mrs. Janelle Klug at MA+30/10 at \$25,748.00 based on the 2005-2007 Teacher Master Agreement. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Policy #608 – Organization of Grade Levels

Moved by Matt Hendel, seconded by Michelle Werner to adopt the updated Policy #608 – Organization of Grade Levels. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement for the 2006-2007 School Year

Moved by Joyce Knutson, seconded by Charlie Wray to approve the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement for the 2006-2007 school year as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approval of Levy Limitation Certification for 2008

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Matt Hendel to certify the Levy Limitation Certification for taxes payable in 2008 in the amount of \$1,955,084.52. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Doty informed the board that middle school start up went well. Middle School orientation was well attended. Summer School was successful. They are in the process of getting the student organizational groups in the middle school established. Homeroom is starting five minutes earlier this year which is working out well. The board informed Mr. Doty that they would like the fifth graders informed in the spring of each year of their elections for band and/or choir before they enter sixth grade in the fall of the school year.

Mr. Helmers informed the board that the high school start up went well. They are still working on some scheduling conflicts. Ms. Kay Dahle and he met with students in grades 9 through 12 at the beginning of the school year on various issues. He shared with the board a copy of the Guidelines for Studying and Writing Handbook that was compiled by teachers this summer. Homecoming is the first week of October. He informed the board that he is working on getting more textbooks for the Spanish class, as due to more students and changes in the scheduling they are short textbooks in that area. He discussed with the board the problems they are having with offering Advanced or AP classes as students tend to drop the class after the schedule is already in place.

Mrs. Hesse reviewed with the board the SAR Report and commended both staff and students on the great state test results. She distributed to the board the Summer Success 2007 budget. There was a 98% attendance for the Home & School Connection held on Tuesday, September 4th. The CLIMB Theatre Lyceums will be held on Friday, September 28th.

Superintendent Moriarty informed the board that there is a 7.7% decrease in the levy from last year due to the fact that the school's operating levy expires this year, and because of this the school district is not required to hold a Truth In Taxation Hearing. He will notify the Houston County Auditor of this change. The elementary gym floor is complete and the new volleyball standards are in place. He complimented our school insurance company, Continental Western, in being so good to work with during this project. The middle/high school energy project is complete. They are currently looking at a way to get additional cooling in the middle/high school server room and will report back to the board at a later time on ways this can be done. The old garage near the elementary building has been removed. He told the board that he would like them to think about raising the limit amount from \$500 to \$1,000 for items that need to be tracked on the school district inventory list for capital and fixed asset items.

Mrs. Runnigen is in the process of finishing the fall catalog. The ACT Prep Workshop will be held on September 29th. The adult basic education classes will be starting in October. The SAC Program currently has 42 students enrolled for the fall. The On-line Agreement for 2007-2008 with the Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical has been completed. There are currently 14 students enrolled for Honors On-line classes this fall. The ECFE Program began on September 17th. The School Readiness Program currently has 60 children enrolled. She is continuing to work on the Year of the Writer for this year.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

District No. 299 Policy Manual Review

The board reviewed Section 800 of the District No. 299 Policy Manual with no changes to be made. The board will review Section 900 at the October regular school board meeting.

Handicap Parking at the Middle/High School Building

The Board of Education met with Mr. Donald Moore prior to the school board meeting at the middle/high school fields. The board discussed ways to have more senior citizen and/or handicap parking at the middle/high school fields during sporting events. Superintendent Moriarty will be in contact with the City of Caledonia to see if zoning permits are required to create a parking lot and street access. He will also obtain cost estimates to upgrade the access street and create a parking lot. He will report back to the board at the October school board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Referendum Planning

Superintendent Moriarty informed the board that the required mailing of the referendum brochure will need to be mailed out the week of October. 8th. Directors Michelle Werner and Matt Hendel will help create this brochure. It was the consensus of the board to have the public hearings on the following dates and places: Tuesday, October 23rd, Brownsville Community Center 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, October 25th, Caledonia MS/HS Auditorium 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, October 30th, Eitzen Community Center 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday, November 1st, Crooked Creek Community Center 7:30 p.m. Chair Fruechte stated that she would like to have an opportunity for the public to speak and for the board members to share with the community why this referendum needs to be passed at each of the public hearings.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Joyce Knutson, seconded by Matt Hendel to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Jean Meyer, Clerk