

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, November 19, 2007

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Naomi Fruechte at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Naomi Fruechte, Matt Hendel, John Klug, Joyce Knutson, Jean Meyer, Michelle Werner, and Charlie Wray. Also present were Superintendent Michael Moriarty, Principal Ronald Helmers, and Nancy Runningen. Others present were Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Elliott Kranz, Don Moore, Dan McGonigle, Ken VanDenBoom, Tim, Janelle, and Kendra Rohrer, and Jim, Sue, and Molly Furlong. Principals Brian Doty and Connie Hesse were absent due to elementary and middle school conferences.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Michelle Werner to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2007, regular school board meeting and the minutes of the November 6, 2007, canvass election meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT & AUTHORIZATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by Joyce Knutson to approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$598,725.64 including check numbers 46042 through 46274 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$750,000.00. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim and Janelle Rohrer and their daughter addressed the board as a follow-up from the last board meeting. The Rohrers requested that the district look into policies in two areas: illness and injuries to players and younger players playing up at the varsity level. The Rohrers indicated that they have received support for these issues as previously raised at the October 15th board meeting. Mrs. Rohrer expressed her concern that their daughter had been unjustly denied access to a sport which they paid for and was not permitted to return to that sport. The Rohrers indicated they would like to have fair policies in place and a positive outcome for all students.

Jim and Sue Furlong and their daughter also addressed the board regarding younger players playing at the varsity level. The Furlongs also stated they would like to see policies reviewed and things changed in regard to players playing up.

Mr. VanDenBoom, athletic director, responded by stating these issues should be for all co-curricular activities and not just sports. He went on to say that 7th and 8th graders all play at junior high level. He indicated there is no school in the conference that limits 9th or 10th graders to junior varsity activities. Playing time is always going to be an issue and not everyone is going to have all good experiences with athletics. We do not want to tie the coaches' hands Mr. VanDenBoom stated and when he has coaching concerns he brings these concerns to administrators but will never publicly lash coaches.

Mr. Helmers stated that the situation that brought us here is unfortunate, but it is not a bad thing that it is being discussed. The coaches make decisions based on their practices and games. All experiences are not great for students. Sometimes we err and we need to have these errors brought to us. We have to deal with these issues, and we need to hold our coaches accountable but also support them. Procedures are important, and we need to work with our coaches and communicate with each other.

The board felt that a co-curricular committee should be created to review procedures and/or policies in place. They would need to discuss where they would like to go as a committee and meet with the athletic director, coaches, parents, and students and then share their findings with the board. The committee needs to understand the dynamics from all different points of view. The committee will need to see if any other schools have policies in place and if they are successful.

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Joyce Knutson to establish a committee for co-curricular activities and to focus on two points of discussion: players playing up; and dealing consistently with illness and injury. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Directors Matt Hendel, Joyce Knutson, and Jean Meyer will serve on the co-curricular activity committee.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Long Term Teacher Substitute Contract

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Matt Hendel to ratify the long term teacher substitute contract for Ms. Laura Eglinton to begin at the birth of Mrs. Newgaard's child and will continue until the return of Mrs. Newgaard or at the end of the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year at a daily rate of \$172.94 based on a BA/0. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Future Band & Choir Trips

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Jean Meyer to approve the request for the band and choir programs to plan a trip every two years rotating between a short trip and a longer trip with no costs incurred by the school district for these trips. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Raising the Limit Amount for Items that need to be Tracked on the Inventory List

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Matt Hendel to raise the limit amount from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 for items that need to be tracked on the school district inventory list for capital and fixed asset items. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Handicap Parking at the Middle/High School Building

It was the consensus of the board to have the Building and Grounds Committee review the options for implementing senior citizens and/or handicap parking along the southwest end of the middle/high school athletic field and report back to the board so that this can be put into the capital budget for the 2008-2009 school year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Helmers informed the board that they had an excellent presenter for staff on the inservice day. Jostens has paid for the new banner in the middle/high school gym with the school song on it. There will be a send off for the football team on Friday, November 23rd at 9:15 a.m. and a homecoming for them on Sunday, November 25th at 3:30 p.m. Diane Bulman was the speaker for the Veteran's Day Program and did an excellent job. The sophomores have taken the Pre-ACT test. The high school staff was working on curriculum updates and the future of curriculum in coming years this afternoon during their inservice.

Superintendent Moriarty informed the board that the audit will be presented at the December 17th board meeting. The electric bills for the middle/high school have been \$3,500 to \$3,900 less per month from last year, and Michael's Engineering is very pleased with heating system retrofit project. The project for the additional air conditioning in the middle/high school server room is complete.

Mrs. Runnigen stated they are working on the Winter/Spring Community Ed Catalogue. There are seven more students enrolled in the SAC Program since last month. The Tech Prep grant and the Perkins grant will be consolidated into one application for the 2008-2009 school year. There are seven students currently enrolled for Honors Online classes for second semester. Patti Correll-Syring began working with the ECFE Program. There are currently 59 children in the School Readiness Program.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Board Chair, Naomi Fruechte, informed the board that board/teacher negotiations has reached an impasse and both sides have agreed to mediation. Director Jean Meyer reported on the latest technology committee meeting. The technology committee approved the purchase of Nurtri Kids Lunch Program to be implemented in December 1, 2007.

CLOSED SESSION FOR TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by John Klug to close the meeting at 9:28 p.m. for teacher negotiations. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Moved by Joyce Knutson, seconded by Jean Meyer to convene the regular school board meeting at 10:45 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Matt Hendel to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Jean Meyer, Clerk