

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Monday, January 28, 2008

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 7:02 p.m. Members present were Naomi Fruechte, Matt Hendel, John Klug, Joyce Knutson, Jean Meyer, Michelle Werner, and Charlie Wray arriving at 7:15 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Michael Moriarty and Principals Brian Doty, Ronald Helmers, and Connie Hesse. Others present were Karen Schiltz, Barb Meyer, Dan McGonigle, Kay Dahle, Stanley and Laura Diersen, and Jody and Dawn Sonsalla. Absent was Nancy Runningen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Matt Hendel 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 December 17, 2007, regular school board meeting, the January 7, 2008, organizational school board meeting, and the January 14, 2008, special school board meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by Joyce Knutson to approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$1,368,330.01, including check numbers 46466 through 46704 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$945,000.00. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan McGonigle from the Caledonia Argus addressed the board regarding placing sponsors on the school sport's calendar. He informed the board that these calendars would be placed in local business and in the school buildings. It was the consensus of the board that district policy does not allow the advertising in school buildings; therefore, the board requested that Mr. McGonigle create two different versions of the sport's calendar, one without advertising to be displayed in the school buildings and one with advertising to be posted in businesses.

PERSONNEL 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 Thereof

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 teacher's 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 Jean Meyer and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Naomi Fruechte, Matt Hendel, John Klug, Joyce Knutson, Jean Meyer, Michelle Werner, and Charlie Wray. The following voted against the same: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

New Hires

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by John Klug to ratify the contract for Megan Jones as the part-time high school Spanish teacher beginning January 22, 2008, through June 2, 2008, at \$16,747.74 at BA+30/4. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Moved by Matt Hendel, seconded by Joyce Knutson to ratify the contract for Nicolette Gengler as a part-time elementary special educational assistant beginning January 22, 2008, at \$9.77 per hour at V/P. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ms. Kay Dahle, Middle/High School Counselor, shared with the board information that is given to juniors and seniors upon registering for classes. She showed them information that is available via the school website for parents and students to utilize.

Mr. Doty gave the board a testing update and informed them of websites that are available to parents, students, and staff to access for testing overviews.

Mr. Helmers reported that he had attended a two-day workshop on Powerschool in preparation for the upcoming scheduling process. The seniors are in the process of ordering their caps and gowns. Snow Days will be happening the week of Valentine's. FCCLA is participating in the Feed the Children Fundraiser. LifeSmarts competition is in progress with the first competition to be done via online. The top twenty-seven teams will advance to the State Finals.

Mrs. Hesse informed the board that the staff participated in the CPI Recertification last Monday. She shared with the board examples of the Fine Arts Textbook adoption and the Music Curriculum Textbook adoption that will be used in the classrooms. Last Sunday the fourth and fifth graders performed in the Rochester Eagles Cancer Telethon and \$100 was donated from the elementary jean fund. The fifth graders did a nice presentation for Dr. Martin Luther King Day. The elementary student council is participating in the Pennies for Patients as their special event for third quarter. The Spelling Bee will be held on February 4th.

Superintendent Moriarty informed the board that the new heating coil in the elementary gym was completed. He shared a graph with the board comparing the heat savings from last year to this year after the middle/high school energy project has been completed. The administration will start to look at the areas of reduction for 2008-2009 school year and will present this information to the board at the February school board meeting. He is in the process of revising the 2007-2008 budget and will review this with the board at the February school board meeting. Because the City of Caledonia neglected to register at the Houston County Courthouse the documents transferring a portion of Esch Drive from the school district to the City of Caledonia in 2003, the City of Caledonia has requested the transfer documents be re-signed by the board. The board agreed and signed the Deed at Mr. Bob Nelson's request so this process could be finalized.

Mrs. Hesse, in Mrs. Runningen's absence, informed the board that the Winter/Spring 2008 Catalog has been mailed out. The SAC Program will now be open during school snow days. There are currently twelve students enrolled for second semester Honors Online classes at SE Tech. Community Ed in partnership with Minnesota State College SE Technical is offering online classes through www.ed2go.com. Mrs. Busta shared with the board an ECFE and Learning Readiness update.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

The Athletic Committee met last week with the head coaches. They are currently evaluating if changes need to be made, reviewing the coaching handbook and the Minnesota State High School League Rules, and comparing what other school districts do. They will update the board again at the February school board meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Director Werner updated the board on information she received when attending the MSBA Winter Conference and stated that it was a good experience.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Joyce Knutson to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Jean Meyer, Clerk