

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, March 20, 2006

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 Mary Frank at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Mary Frank, Naomi Fruechte, Barbara Hurley, Jean Meyer, Chuck Schulte, and Charlie Wray. Also present were Superintendent Michael Moriarty, Nancy Runningen, and Principals Brian Doty, Ronald Helmers, and Connie Hesse. Others present were Bruce Bulman, Michelle Werner, David Heiller, Brad Harguth, Amy Schmidt, and Janelle Field-Rohrer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Naomi Fruechte to approve the agenda as amended to include action for the FFA and FCCLA school trips. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Barbara Hurley, seconded by Jean Meyer to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2006, regular school board meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT & AUTHORIZATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Moved by Barbara Hurley, seconded by Chuck Schulte to approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$476,392.10 including check numbers 42455 through 42603 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$250,000.00. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bruce Bulman encouraged people to attend the Making Sense of Creation and Evolution discussion to be held on Sunday, March 26th and Monday, March 27th, at the Middle/High School Auditorium.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Resignations

Moved by Barbara Hurley, seconded by Chuck Schulte to accept the resignation of Mike Novak as a school board member effective immediately with thanks for his services. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

It was the consensus of the board to post the school board member position opening for two weeks in the Caledonia Argus and on the school website requesting anyone interested in filling this position to submit a letter of interest to the school district office.

Moved by Naomi Fruechte, seconded by Charlie Wray to accept the resignation of Gail McCormick as the 7th and 8th grade girls' soccer coach effective immediately with thanks for her services. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Staffing

Member Jean Meyer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION DISCONTINUING AND REDUCING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 299 adopted a resolution on January 23, 2006, directing the administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and positions; and,

WHEREAS, said recommendations have been received and considered by the School Board;

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

That the following programs and positions or portions thereof, be discontinued:

1. One fifth grade position
2. A portion of one secondary family and consumer science position
3. A 0.6 physical education and DAPE position

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Chuck Schulte. Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mary Frank, Naomi Fruechte, Barbara Hurley, Jean Meyer, Chuck Schulte, and Charlie Wray. The following voted against: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Resolution for Proposing Unrequested Leave of Absence

Member Barbara Hurley introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION PROPOSING TO PLACE

SALLY MENSINK ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

1. That it is proposed that Sally Mensink, a teacher of said school district, be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits, effective at the end of the 2005-2006 school year on June 30, 2006, pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 10, and Article XXIII of the current Master Agreement between the school district and the exclusive representative.
2. That said proposed placement on requested leave of absence is not the result of implementation of an education district agreement.
3. That written notice be sent to said teacher regarding the proposed placement on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits as provided by law and said notice shall include a date for hearing if requested and be in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PLACEMENT
ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF
ABSENCE AND NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE, IF REQUESTED**

March 20, 2006

Mrs. Sally Mensink
14889 Paradise Drive
Houston, MN 55943

Dear Mrs. Mensink:

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District

No. 299 held on Monday, March 20, 2006, consideration was given to your placement on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits as a teacher of Independent School District No. 299, and a resolution was adopted by a majority vote on the Board, proposing your placement on unrequested leave of absence effective at the end of the 2005-2006 school year on June 30, 2006, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 10, Article XXIII upon the grounds described in said statute and which are specifically as follows: discontinuance of position, financial limitations and lack of pupils.

Under the provisions of the law, you are entitled to a hearing before the school board provided that you make a request in writing within fourteen days after receipt of this notice. If no hearing is requested within such period, it shall be deemed acquiescence by you to the school board's proposed action.

Yours very truly,
SCHOOL BOARD OF INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 299

Barbara Hurley
Clerk of the School Board

4. That each and all of the foregoing grounds of said notice are within the grounds for unrequested leave placement as set forth in M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 10, Article XXIII, and are hereby adopted as fully as though separately set forth and resolved herein.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Naomi Fruechte. Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mary Frank, Naomi Fruechte, Barbara Hurley, Jean Meyer, Chuck Schulte, and Charlie Wray. The following voted against: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING TO PLACE
CORI RONNENBERG ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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

1. That it is proposed that Cori Ronnenberg, a teacher of said school district, be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits, effective at the end of the 2005-2006 school year on June 30, 2006, pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 10, and Article XXIII of the current Master Agreement between the school district and the exclusive representative.

2. That said proposed placement on requested leave of absence is not the result of implementation of an education district agreement.

3. That written notice be sent to said teacher regarding the proposed placement on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits as provided by law and said notice shall include a date for hearing if requested and be in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PLACEMENT
ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF
ABSENCE AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE, IF REQUESTED

March 20, 2006

Ms. Cori Ronnenberg
1155 East Plummer Street
Rushford, MN 55971

Dear Ms. Ronnenberg:

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 299 held on Monday, March 20, 2006, consideration was given to your placement on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits as a teacher of Independent School District No. 299, and a resolution was adopted by a majority vote on the Board, proposing your placement on unrequested leave of absence effective at the end of the 2005-2006 school year on June 30, 2006, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 10, Article XXIII upon the grounds described in said statute and which are specifically as follows: discontinuance of position, financial limitations and lack of pupils.

Under the provisions of the law, you are entitled to a hearing before the school board provided that you make a request in writing within fourteen days after receipt of this notice. If no hearing is requested within such period, it shall be deemed acquiescence by you to the school board's proposed action.

Yours very truly,
SCHOOL BOARD OF INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 299

Barbara Hurley
Clerk of the School Board

4. That each and all of the foregoing grounds of said notice are within the grounds for unrequested leave placement as set forth in M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 10, Article XXIII, and are hereby adopted as fully as though separately set forth and resolved herein.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Chuck Schulte. Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mary Frank, Naomi Fruechte, Barbara Hurley, Jean Meyer, Chuck Schulte, and Charlie Wray. The following voted against: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

ACTION ITEMS

School Bus Transportation Contract

Moved by Barbara Hurley, seconded by Naomi Fruechte to ratify the school bus transportation contract with Schmitz Bus Service Incorporated in the amount of \$474,500.00 (3% increase) per school year with a fuel cost escalator that will kick in at \$1.55 per gallon but will be limited to a total cost to the district of \$15,000.00 for the 2006-2007 school year and the 2007-2008 school year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Implementing Math and Language Arts Focus for Grades K – 2

Moved by Naomi Fruechte, seconded by Jean Meyer to implement math and language arts focus for grades K – 2. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

FCCLA Trip

Moved by Naomi Fruechte, seconded by Jean Meyer to approve the overnight FCCLA trip request from April 22, 2006, through April 25, 2006, based on the school policies that are in place for overnight trips. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

FFA Trip

Moved by Chuck Schulte, seconded by Naomi Fruechte to approve the overnight State FFA Convention trip request from April 23, 2006, through April 25, 2006, based on the school policies that are in place for overnight trips. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Doty updated the board regarding the Aims Web testing. He informed the board that middle school students will be attending the Dark Side of the Web presentation on March 21, 2006. On April 11, 2006, Michael Sieve, a national wildlife artist, will be speaking to students about wildlife on India.

Mr. Helmers updated the board with the number of high school students in and out of the school district. Spring sports have begun. There were approximately 700 tickets sold for the school musical.

Mrs. Hesse updated the board with regard to the ISD #299 Curriculum Committee and the activities happening with the I Love to Read Month.

Superintendent Moriarty discussed with the board the importance of getting the softball fence in place so that softball games could be held at the middle/high school. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with this project. He is meeting with the clergy people on Thursday, March 23rd, with regard to the State High School League holding sporting events on Wednesday evenings during tournaments. He informed the board that we \$3,893.00 in Foundation Grants were awarded this spring.

Mrs. Runnigen updated the board with regard to the community education classes being offered and/or canceled with the numbers of people participating in the classes.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Administrative Update on the Middle/High School Signage

The administrators created a list of their recommendations for the middle/high school signage. Director Wray recommended doing the outside sign possibly by graduation. Information on where the money will come from to pay for the project was requested for the next meeting.

Wind Energy

Director Fruechte updated the board with regard to the wind energy program. The board informed her to proceed with forming the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Charlie Wray, seconded by Jean Meyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Barbara Hurley, Clerk