

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
Dialogue Session - 6:30 p.m.
Organizational Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
January 24, 2011

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Kelly at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: Directors Anderson, H. Grams, Haag, Van Denburgh, Vogel, and Superintendent Saxton. Absent: Director S. Grams.

Others present were Director of Human Resources Jay Reker, Director of Special Services Jacque Stein, Director of Community Services Tom Larson, student representative Alex Everhart and community members.

Board Calendar Dates: Regular meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Center, February 14, February 28, March 14, and March 28. Dialogue with the School Board will be at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular meetings.

Site Report – Cedar Creek Community School (CCCS)

Assistant Principal Jill Kelly presented the site report. CCCS has had an infusion of technology into the classrooms including SMART Boards in all classrooms, projectors, document cameras, iPad lab, Smart Touch computers, and a Tandberg camera. CCCS has changed the structure of staff time. Rather than having weekly staff meetings for communications, email is utilized to communicate. Currently meetings are held for professional development to learn more about student data and how to implement changes in the classroom.

Consideration of Visitors

Beth Anderson, St. Francis Elementary (SFE) Community Relations Coordinator spoke on collaboration at SFE. The third grade staff has worked with Diane Krocak-Peterson, Colin Minshull, Meri Humphrey, Rowena Anderson, Cathy Paquay, and Briana Anderson to host a potluck-art evening. Each student had a piece of art with a description for the art show. The students also performed in a musical presentation. TIES Exceptional Teacher Award was recently awarded to Diane Krocak-Peterson.

The kindergarten field trip was a visit to Sarah Compton's class at the middle school. There are SMART Boards in the classrooms, two class sets of iPads, an iPod Touch with Special Services, and Wii for hand-eye coordination.

Jyl Dieckhaus, spanish teacher at St. Francis High School, introduced student Travis Beck, who along with several students, took a trip last summer to Guatemala. He presented several slides and described their experiences.

Agenda

Motion was made by Mr. Vogel and seconded by Mr. Haag.
Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the revised Consent Agenda by Mr. Grams and seconded by Mr. Anderson.

A. THAT the minutes of January 10, be approved as presented.

B. THAT Personnel Items be approved as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No.15 that the Personnel actions as listed below be approved:

EMPLOYMENT:

CLASSIFIED

ANDERSON, BRIANA, Academic Stretch, SFE, MA, 5.0 hrs./day, 23.0 days effective 1.10.11.

COPA, JOAN, Academic Stretch, SFE, MA, 2.5 hrs./day, 11.0 days effective 1.10.11.

FISHERO, JENNICA, Academic Stretch, SFE, BA, 5.0 hrs./day, 23.0 days effective 1.10.11.
SOBIECK, LORI, Academic Stretch, SFE, MA, 5.0 hrs./day, 23.0 days effective 1.10.11.
TODD, DEBBIE, Academic Stretch, SFE, MA, 2.5 hrs./day, 11.0 days effective 1.11.11.
WIECZOREK, JULIE, Academic Stretch, SFE, BA, 5.0 hrs./day, 23.0 days effective 1.10.11.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

CLASSIFIED

SCHMOLL, CASSIE, Teacher, EBCS, Parental LOA effective 3.15.11.
SCHURKE, LAUREL, Teacher, EBCS, Parental LOA effective 3.14.11.
MARTIN, LORRAINE, Teacher, LLC, Return from Family LOA effective 1.10.11.

NON-CLASSIFIED

SCHWAB, DAVID, Bus Driver, Transportation, General LOA effective 1.31.11.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION:

NON-CLASSIFIED

BASHER, PAT, Nutrition Services, SFMS, Retirement effective 1.10.11
LEE, ALTON, Bus Driver, Transportation, Termination effective 1.19.11.
WEISENBERGER, TRUDY, Nutrition Services, SFHS, resignation effective 1.21.11.

C. THAT the Disbursements be approved as presented.

SCHOOL BOARD DATE:			1/24/2011
BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that these disbursements as presented, excluding net payroll and payroll liabilities for federal and state taxes, VEBA and retirement payments, be allowed and charged to funds as follows:			
Fund No.	Description	Amount	
01	General	\$	664,394.33
02	Food Service	\$	71,538.95
04	Community Services	\$	20,015.06
06	Construction		
07	Debt Redemption	\$	4,425,790.63
09	Trust and Agency	\$	9,345.00
47	OPEB Debt Service		
TOTAL DISTRICT			\$ 5,191,083.97

The amounts above include checks processed between 1/11/11 to 1/21/11 and all accounts payable items processed between 1/11/11 and 01/24/11

- D. THAT Cash and Investments be approved as presented.
BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the cash and investment reports for December 2010 be approved as presented.
- E. THAT the Out of State Travel – Student Council be approved as presented.
BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High School Student Council for Out of State Travel to attend the Leadership Experience and Development Conference (LEAD) in Lombard, IL, February 17 – 20, 2011 be approved as requested.
- F. THAT the Out of State Travel – Spanish Class be approved as presented.
BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the High School Spanish Class, out-of-state trip to Guatemala in June 2012 be approved as requested.
- G. THAT the Advantage Collections Agreement be approved as presented.
BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the contract with Advantage Collection Professionals, Inc. for collection of bad check services and for collections related to unpaid bills be approved.
- H. THAT the ECFE Advisory Council Agreement with A Touch of Magic, Inc. be approved as presented.
BE IT RESOLVED BY the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the Entertainment Contract between A Touch of Magic and the District 15 Early Childhood Family Education Advisory Committee for five preschool shows totaling \$990.00 be approved.
- I. THAT Gift Acknowledgements be approved as presented.
BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 15 that the following gifts be hereby accepted as set forth in the attached donor form(s):
\$350.61, SFE APT, a circle rug for the music room at SFE
\$200.00, Nicole Jacob - \$100/Residential Mortgage Group - \$100, at the discretion of Early Childhood
\$974.00 (in kind), Kurt Manufacturing Company, Kurt donated two vices for the machining equipment/program
\$2,500.00, Boss Control Systems Inc., to help purchase new girls soccer uniforms for 2011-12
\$7,500.00 (in kind), Diamond Metal Products, donated a Hitachi Seiki 3NE-300 CNC Lathe. The lathe is to be used to enhance the machining program

Motion carried.

Student Report

Alex Everhart provided the student report. This week is Saints versus Cancer with a variety of activities and fundraising events. Basketball is fund raising for the benefit of Tracy Ramacher, Student Council is fund raising for Make a Wish Foundation. Six students received All Conference awards for their acting in the One Act Play festival. Students from band and choir will participate in the All Conference Honor Bands and Choirs.

Reports

Superintendent Communication and Report

Mr. Saxton reported:

- Attended a digital content meeting at MDE along with seven other districts; focus was narrowed to science for the remainder of the year and the seven districts will submit K-12 lessons. A demonstration of ePublishing was given
- Working with curriculum and assessment department on the progress of AYP goals

- Met with editor of Anoka County Union to discuss how information is obtained and what is published. District has not received positive media attention regarding pilot programs run this past year, will look at additional ways to get information to the Union
- The District has been invited by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, along with nine other districts, to attend and discuss reform of education at the national level
- Meetings are set up to meet with the parents that addressed the Board during Consideration of Visitors on January 10
- Kindergarten Stretch began today with students receiving 85 hours of additional instruction over the year
- Received one email and one phone call in regards to a cold weather day. Parents always retain the choice to keep children at home as an excused absence
- Ms. Miller tweeted school conference times
- Mr. Reker has been asked to testify at the capital regarding the education wage freeze included in a house and senate bill and how it could affect the District. There is also some discussion at the state level of a possible freeze on benefits
- The District will watch for additional Race to the Top funding as noted by Arne Duncan

Superintendent Goals

Mr. Saxton was asked to report to the School Board on a monthly basis. He will report at School Board meetings opposite those of the site reports. Mr. Saxton will request that the Meet & Confer Committee convene to discuss spring break versus preparation for testing. Ms. Van Denburgh requested the printed information prior to the report. The School Board provided consensus of the Superintendent Goals.

Dialogue Session

Mr. Anderson reported that a community member expressed concern specifically with spirit involving students at athletic events. It was recommended that the community member speak with administration at the high school. Mr. Saxton has received an anonymous letter of a similar topic that is being forwarded to Mr. Neubauer.

School Board Reports

Mr. Anderson attended the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) Conference Bargaining Basics session, and the session on statewide assessment and standards. Attended the Joint Standing Committee where discussion included upcoming budgets and processes and procedures.

Ms. Van Denburgh attended the Safety Committee meeting. She appreciates receiving written material in advance of the meeting. She had contact with a family who was interested in the District online academy, however has some concern regarding the upper level science curriculum.

Mr. Haag reviewed the Coaches for Cancer fund raising benefit.

Mr. Vogel attended the All District Band Concert.

Mr. Grams attended the MSBA conference and the Future of School Funding session. He attended the Joint Standing Committee meeting. He acknowledged Mr. Stavig and the WCCO tape of the Industrial Tech program.

Ms. Kelly attended the MSBA conference and the session School Board Chair, and Board voting and parliamentary procedures. Several scenarios were presented on ways for the state to reduce spending. There is a bleak outlook for the near future. Ms. Kelly also acknowledged the WCCO story of the District industrial tech program. The Ramacher family is coming for the benefit fundraiser for Tracy Ramacher and have expressed how touched they are with the St. Francis community and support shown. Parents and teachers complemented the students on the positive behavior of the fans at the game.

Administrative Report

Annual TAIP Report

This is year four of the program. Mr. Gilbertson had provided a copy of the report to School Board members in advance. The District wants to improve academic scores, improve behavior (attendance and office behavior referrals) and special education referrals. The three goals established were met. The trend of the data will be addressed in the evaluation and application for next year. There is 3.5 years of data. The

results have happened due to the supportive leadership from Mr. Saxton and Ms. Stein, and more important is the development of an attitude for referrals. The intent is to exhaust all regular education intervention programs prior to a referral. Each fall Mr. Gilbertson meets with the special services staff and continues to check in. The TAIP teachers provide the students a more targeted emphasis. The students being referred are now the more appropriate students. It has been expanded to include regular education. The collaboration between the intervention and special services staff has been excellent. Staff meet at least monthly to create an overall goal and to continue monitoring of the goals. Four years ago the \$478,000 grant was received. Each year the TAIP program becomes more focused. Amy Worden is coordinating the K-5 Program. Kurt Becker is overseeing the intervention program to ensure the focus continues in the proper areas. Students need to achieve as much as possible in cohesive programming. The purpose of the funding is to reduce special education referrals due to the cost of special education. It is also better for students to intervene as early as possible. The evaluation document is the total of data that is provided by almost 100 adults, SMCs, School Board members, office professionals, classroom teachers, and parents. Ms. Van Denburgh stated she appreciates the changes seen in the intervention program.

Contracts with the District

The School Board had requested information on District contracts. Ms. Hawkins sent an email with this information: over the last 12 months there have been ten (10) contracts, most less than \$10,000. If the vendor does not include a signed contract, it goes through the regular dispersal process. Ms. Hawkins recommends that contracts less than \$15,000 go through the disbursement process only and that the signature on the contract be the Superintendent or designee.

New Business

Revised Policy 313 – Graduation Requirements

For the Class of 2015 and beyond, requirements will be to have chemistry or physics in order to graduate. Adding the Earth & Space science class ensures we are delivering all Minnesota Science Standards to all students. As the state requirements are increased, the District also needs to review avenues for students to express creativity in the arts.

Ms. Van Denburgh expressed her concern that the District does not offer advanced placement science. College biology was offered until two years ago. The District has college on campus which provides approximately 25 credits that can be used at many state campuses. This was implemented approximately nine years ago as students were leaving for Post Secondary Education Options. The District works through Southwest State College to earn these credits. A teacher in the science department has been encouraged to acquire a Masters degree so that they could teach the college course. The District should look at the number of college credits being offered both with budget and staffing. The efforts to try and keep students in the high school have been positive on several levels.

Teacher Seniority List

First reading. Teachers have the opportunity to review the list for any possible changes.

Other Matters

Resolution to Establish School Board/District Contract Approval Guidelines

Motion was made by Mr. Grams and seconded by Mr. Haag.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board designates the Superintendent, or designee, authority to sign contracts under \$ _____ that are within the budget of the school or program and that are not a contract or agreement with another government entity or a lease of real property.

Discussion included: what other districts do, the time frame for the contracts, whether renewal contract or new, whether this is a policy change or writing of a policy, the goal being to take the smaller contracts/common agreements by the District from the decision making process of the School Board, limit the verbiage to a one year contract, and the amount of the contract being \$5,000 or \$10,000. Discussion will continue at the next School Board meeting. Motion failed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Joseph D. Haag, School Board Clerk