

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 831
Forest Lake, Minnesota
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
March 5, 2009

From 6:30-7 pm a reception was held in honor of student Ben Tolzmann, National Merit finalist, and his family.

A regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 831, Forest Lake, Minnesota, was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at the School District Office Building. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called and the following members were present: Bill Bresin, Julie Corcoran, David Gay, Joe Grafft, Dan Kieger, Eric Langness, Rob Rapheal, and Superintendent Lynn Steenblock, ex officio.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.

4. VISITORS:

Listening Session: Members Bresin and Langness reported that no one attended the Listening Session this evening.

FLEA President Andy Stoyke spoke on the topic of contract negotiations between the school district and the teachers union.

5. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

Dr. Steven Massey explained the National Merit Scholarship program and introduced Ben Tolzmann who has been named a National Merit Finalist this year.

Activities Director Joel Olson introduced Coach Nancy Ellias who presented some of the students from the girls' Gymnastics team that participated in the state tournament last week.

Century Junior High School – Principal Ben Lewis and instructor Boyd Weiger introduced four students who talked about the “Open Minds” diversity program at Century Junior High.

Positive Happenings:

The hearing on a four-day school week on Tuesday, March 3 was attended by about 150 people.

President Bresin commented on the Community Education bulletin that highlighted several of their classes and programs.

6. REPORTS:

Language Immersion Task Force – Dr. Linda Madsen reported on the Language Immersion Task Force that is looking into the district's foreign language programs and offerings. Committee membership is almost complete and the first meetings are scheduled for March 17 and 23.

Buildings & Grounds – Rob Rapheal reported that the committee discussed the Scandia Elementary School wellhead protection plan, and fire inspections.

Communications – David Gay reported that at the last meeting the Communications Committee reviewed the music department’s web site, and the school calendar.

Finance – Julie Corcoran reported that the Finance Committee met with auditor Aaron Nielson and discussed the district budget.

Policy – Dan Kieger reported that at the last Policy Committee Meeting they discussed the policies 304, 425 and 538.

Staff Welfare – Bill Bresin reported that the Staff Welfare Committee discussed tenure, budget cuts, retirements, FLEA negotiations, and primary elections.

City of Forest Lake – Member Corcoran reported that she hopes to talk to City Councilman Bo Bogotty soon.

Superintendent Lynn Steenblock reported:

- 1) The Festival of Cultures will be April 3.
- 2) The USDA has informed us we cannot transfer food service funds to the general fund.
- 3) The Gap Analysis committee has reviewed Century Junior High and the Senior High.
- 4) The school district will be on spring break next week.
- 5) The School Board will begin hearing reports from senior high students at the April School Board Meeting.
- 6) Areas for budget reductions are being explored.
- 7) Recommended to no longer investigate the concept of a four-day week as a cost-saving measure for the upcoming 2009-10 school term.

Member Grafft moved, seconded by Member Kieger, to no longer investigate the concept of a four-day week as a cost savings measure for the 2009-10 school term. The motion included canceling the March 19, 2009 School Board Hearing on the four-day week proposal. This item will also be removed from the agenda of the March 24, 2009 School Board Hearing when the budget cut proposals will be presented. By roll call vote, Member Bresin, Corcoran, Grafft, Kieger, Gay and Rapheal voted aye. Member Langness voted no. The motion carried.

7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Member Kieger moved, seconded by Member Grafft, to approve consent agenda items 7.2-7.3. All members voted aye and the motion carried.

7.2 Approved the Bills as of March 5, 2009.

7.3 Classified Personnel:

A. Retirement:

1. Paula Branum – eff. 5/4/09 (33 yr.)
2. Tonetta Steffenson – eff. 5/27/09 (25 yr.)

B. Termination: Nicole Noren – eff. 2/9/09.

C. Employment:

1. Margaret Hughes – eff. 2/10/09.
2. Patricia Jelinek – eff. 1/27/09.
3. George Mutua – eff. 2/5/09.
4. Steven Nord – eff. 2/5/09.
5. Michelle Pavlick - eff. 2/4/09.
6. Teresa Rongitsch – eff. 2/4/09.
7. Kathleen Shusta – eff. 2/11/09.
8. Paulette Smith – eff. 2/5/09.

D. Transfer:

1. Robert Allen - eff. 2-4-09.
2. Alina Divine – eff. 2-20-09.

E. Unpaid Leave of Absence:

1. Tamara Coach - February 16 through April 16, 2009.
2. Alina Divine – January 26 through February 9, 2009.
3. Janet Hardwick – February 2 through March 6, 2009.
4. Sheila Hughes – February 17 through March 30, 2009.
5. Julie Knutson – February 16 through March 16, 2009.
6. Jeanie Nelson – March 5 through 20, 2009.
7. Annette Pankratz – February 23 through March 5, 2009.
8. Dorothy Pirrung – February 27 through March 27, 2009.
9. Tanya Weise – December 30, 2008m through February 16, 2009.
10. James Winters – February 6 through April 9, 2009.
11. Jodie Zajac – February 17 through April 20, 2009.

7.1 Minutes – Member Langness moved to approve the Minutes of February 5, 12, 24 and March 3, 2009. The motion was seconded by Member Kieger. All members voted aye and the motion carried.

7.4 Licensed Personnel: Member Kieger moved, seconded by Member Grafft, to approve the following licensed personnel. All members voted aye and the motion carried.

A. Unpaid Leave of Absence:

1. Katherine Papke – child care LOA first semester of 2009-10.
2. Alison Peterson – Child care LOA for 2009-10.
3. Chris Pietsch - Child care LOA for 2009-10.

B. Non-Curricular Position:

1. Joe Almquist – 7th grade Assistant Basketball Coach (SW).
2. Jebb Anderson – .5 First Robotics Advisor (FLHS).
3. Mike Coffee - .5 Girls' Assistant Track Coach (FLHS).
4. Michelle Groh - .5 Future Problem Solving Coach (FV).
5. Shelley Guptil – Future Problem Solving Coach (Lwd).
6. Becky Haven – .5 Assistant Speech Coach and .25 Head Speech Coach (FLHS).
7. Dan Jacobs – 8th grade Head Softball Coach (SW).
8. Sonya Loven – Girls' Assistant Track Coach (FLHS).
9. Joseph Mueller - .5 Assistant Speech Coach and .25 Head Speech Coach (FLHS).
10. Tim Newcomb - .5 Assistant Speech Coach and .25 Head Speech Coach (FLHS).
11. Linda Rupp – .5 First Robotics Advisor (FLHS).
12. David Sauer - .5 Future Problem Solving Coach (FV).
13. Larry Underkoffler – 7th grade Head Softball Coach (SW).
14. Andrew Waldron - .5 Assistant Speech Coach and .25 Head Speech Coach (FLHS).

C. Employment:

1. Erik Overson – Title I teacher on voucher basis 3/2/09 to 4/16/09.
2. Sarah Robinson – Long-term substitute contract effective 2/9/09 to 6/8/09.
3. Sarah Young – Math/Reading Specialist on voucher basis 2/13/09 to 6/5/09.

D. Resignation: Dana Herman – Resign effective immediately.

E. Retirement: Susan E. Lidstrom – Retire effective at the end of day June 8, 2009 (32 yr.)

8.0 Donations: Member Grafft introduced the resolution to accept with appreciation the following contributions and permit their use as designated by the donors. The motion was duly seconded by Member Langness, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the resolution was adopted. Donations: \$50 from ERA Muske Co. for the ALC Yearbook; \$500 from Patriot Bank MN for the ALC Yearbook; \$40 Target gift card from Silke and David Bjork for Ms. Quillen's Wyoming Elementary classroom; \$700 from the Forest Lake VFW for the gymnastics, the drumline and wresting teams; \$200 for Shelley Quillen's classroom and a \$6,000 memorial for Wyoming Elementary from Bill and Karen Berglund in honor of daughter Amanda Berglund; \$22,103.82 from the Lino Lakes PTO supporting various activities and programs at Lino Lakes Elementary; \$417 from Kemps Nickels for Schools for educational materials for Wyoming Elementary; and supporting the February staff in-services: \$500 from the Teamsters, \$28.80 from Mitch Frana, \$28.80 from Sherry Houle, \$128 from Golden Valley Mgmt., \$144 from Jay Applebaum, and \$48 from Joe Lentner.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

9.1 Superintendent Search – The School Board interviewed Superintendent Search Consultants Brian Boettcher from BKB Associates, and Rosemary Schneiderhan from the ADM Group. Following the presentations Member Grafft moved to hire the ADM Group as the Superintendent Search Consultant. The motion was seconded by Member Kieger, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the motion carried.

The meeting was recessed from 8:27-8:35 p.m. When the meeting reconvened, roll was called and all members were present.

- 9.2 Calendar – Member Langness moved to adopt the 2009-2010 school calendar and to encourage the legislature to give local control to school districts in the matter of school start days. The motion was seconded by Member Gay, by roll call vote all members present voted aye and the new calendar was adopted.
- 9.3 School Board Meetings Policy 106 – Member Kieger moved to adopt School Board Meetings Policy 106. The motion was seconded by Member Gay, all members voted aye and the policy was adopted.
- 9.4 Anti-Bullying Policy 541 – Member Gay moved to adopt the Anti-Bullying Policy 541. The motion was seconded by Member Kieger, all members voted aye and the policy was adopted.
- 9.5 School Board Reimbursement Policy 103A – Member Gay moved to adopt School Board Member Reimbursement Guidelines Policy 103A. The motion was seconded by Member Kieger, all members voted aye and the policy was adopted.
- 9.6 Roofing and Wall Bids - Member Grafft moved to award the re-roofing and wall repair bid to the lowest bidder, Palmer West Construction for \$257,800. The motion was seconded by Member Kieger, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the bid was awarded. (Bid tabulation in official minutes book).
- 9.7 Budget Adjustments – Member Grafft moved to approve the adjustment to the 2008-09 general fund revenue and expenditure budgets by an increase of \$574,966.00. The motion was seconded by Member Corcoran, all members voted aye and the motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Primary Election – School Board Members discussed the option of holding a primary election in September. Member Kieger moved, seconded by Member Grafft to not hold a primary election. By roll call vote, Members Bresin, Corcoran, Grafft, Kieger and Rapheal voted aye. Members Gay and Langness voted no. Motion carried.
- 10.2 Classified Staff Evaluation – First review of the Classified Staff Evaluation Instrument (form). This item will be placed on the next agenda for Board consideration and action.
- 10.3 Transportation Policy 304 – First reading of the Transportation of Pupils Policy 304. This item will be placed on the next agenda for Board consideration and action.

10.4 Harassment Policy #425 - First reading of Harassment and Violence Policy 425. This item will be placed on the next agenda for Board consideration and action.

10.5 Math Course Changes - First reading to eliminate Higher Algebra in grades 10-12 and add "Advanced Functions, Statistics and Geometry A and B" in grades 11-12. Member Grafft moved to dispense with the second reading and approve these Math course changes as presented effective 2009-10 school year. The motion was seconded by Member Gay, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the motion carried.

11. COMMUNICATIONS: The School Board reviewed upcoming calendar dates noting that the March 19th hearing is canceled. School Board Members reported getting numerous phone calls and emails regarding a four-day week.

As there was no further business, Member Grafft moved, seconded by Member Langness, to adjourn. All members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Bill Bresin

President

Rob Rapheal

Clerk