

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION – ISD #361
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006
5:00 p.m.

School Board Members present: Gerald Bolstad, Ann Baron, Robin Baumchen, Darrell Wagner, Amy Hardwig-Eberspacher, Mark Lassila, and Don Langan

School Board Members absent: none

Moved by A. Hardwig-Eberspacher, seconded by D. Wagner to approve the agenda as amended by adding Personnel Consent Agenda items 8.2.6 through 8.1.10 and Item 11.5. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

There was no one present to address the Board during Open Forum.

Moved by R. Baumchen, seconded by A. Baron to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 21, 2006. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Moved by M. Lassila, seconded by A. Hardwig-Eberspacher to approve the bills due and payable amounting to \$545,798.13 including check numbers 102871 through 103014. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Moved by A. Baron, seconded by R. Baumchen to accept the program consent agenda items as follows. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8.1 Programs

8.1.1 Accept donations for the month of August in the amount of \$2,374.25:

8/2/06	TruStar; Project Read	\$250.00
8/14/06	Student Council; Sch Calendar	\$250.00
8/14/06	D&S Pizza; Sch Calendar	\$500.00
8/24/06	Anonymous in honor of Gail Rasmussen; Project Read	\$ 80.00
8/26/06	Koochiching Cty; Project Read	\$519.25
8/26/06	Duayne & Nancy Johnson in honor of Trudy Lepper; Wee Library	\$25.00
8/30/06	Boise; Locking Cabinet	\$750.00

8.1.2 Approve a contract with KGHS/KSDM for the 2006-2007 school year for the School Matters radio program and commercials not to exceed an amount of \$1500.00

8.1.3 Approve a contract with Koochiching County Community Services for provision of services of Social Workers for the period of September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007.

8.1.4 Certify the proposed 2006 Levy payable in 2007 to earn the maximum state aids and levy revenue for education as authorized under Minnesota Statutes.

8.1.5 Approve a contract between ISD 361 and RRCC for shared facility usage.

- 8.1.6 Approve a grant from Northland Foundation for Partners in Parenting in the amount of \$9,200 for the period of September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007.
- 8.1.7 Authorize the Superintendent to enter into a license agreement with Riverside Publishing Company for the Edusoft Assessment Management System for a period of 9/15/06 through 9/14/09.
- 8.1.8 Approve an agreement with Bemidji State University for student teacher placements for the period of August 2006 through July 2008.

Moved by D. Wagner, seconded by A. Hardwig-Eberspacher to accept the personnel consent agenda items. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8.2 Personnel

- 8.2.1 Approve a leave of absence request from JoAnn Flansburg from the period of September 5, 2006 through January 2, 2007 pursuant to Article 8, Section 2 of the agreement between ISD 361 and EdMinn Local 4798.
- 8.2.2 Hire Rosa Christianson as a hourly ESL instructor for 3.25 hrs/day, four days per week, 144 student days.
- 8.2.3 Hire Rachel Amdahl as the 2006-2007 Student Council Advisor.
- 8.2.4 Hire Ardel Hendrickson as the 2006-2007 National Honor Society Advisor.
- 8.2.5 Accept the resignation of Mary Hogan as an Educational Support Professional effective immediately.
- 8.2.6 Accept the resignation of Melanie Busch as an Educational Support Professional effective immediately.
- 8.2.7 Hire Vicky Wickstrom as a Educational Support Professional for 4.0 hours M-Th in accord with the agreement between Local 4798 and ISD 361.
- 8.2.8 Hire Kylee LaVigne as an Educational Support Professional for 7.25 hours per day in accord with the agreement between Local 4798 and ISD 361.
- 8.2.9 Hire Linda Menard as an Educational Support Professional for 6.0 hours M-Th in accord with the agreement between Local 4798 and ISD 361.
- 8.2.10 Increase Marci Nemec from a .87 fte to a 1.0 fte in accordance with the action at the regular meeting of March 20, 2006 to expand the three-year program.

Moved by D. Wagner, seconded by R. Baumchen to approve the Systems Accountability Report for the 2005-2006 school year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Tim Everson, Falls High School Principal gave the following report:

- A donation of a microscope, telescope, science supplies and both English and science books were received from Roland Hamley. These were given to the science and English departments and much appreciated.
- Homecoming events were held last week.
- Vandalism occurred with the football blocking equipment. It is still under investigation.
- Vandalism also occurred at the Union Hall during the student-council sponsored 7-12 dance. Student Council will pay for the damages out of their dance profit.

Beth Anderson, West End Elementary Principal gave the following report:

- Teachers at West End are energized and positive for the current school year.
- A new public address system has been installed which allows for better communication at their end of the building through the WEE secretary's telephone and/or the principal's.
- Walkie talkies have been purchased and are very useful for communication during fire drills and bussing situations.
- A new after-school bussing procedure has been implemented whereas the kids remain in their classrooms and are called when their busses arrive.
- The library has purchased new furniture and also new books.
- A visit by the students will be made to the fire hall during Fire Prevention Week in October.
- Mrs. McDonald's class will once again be going to the care center to read and play games with the residents.
- Mrs. Pearson's room is learning an African counting game and once mastered will teach the other students.
- Mrs. West is excited about the sense of community between the secondary students and teachers and the elementary teachers and students. Some English classes are coming to read to the elementary students and also some science classes.
- Jody Hamilton in the special education resource room has a new reading series.
- Speech referrals are booming, especially in the early childhood area. This may need to be addressed at a future date.
- They are still receiving services of a family home interventionist and an Indian education tutor.
- Second graders are bringing "me bags" or "me boxes" to school which are a way to share things about themselves.
- Mrs. Holte's room covers "hopes and dreams" about what the students expect or want to learn in the second grade.
- All second grade students decorate a puzzle piece of themselves which are posted in the hallway.
- Second grade students also visit Voyageur's National Park to study animal habitat, go on a nature walk and a scavenger hunt.

Jerry Hilfer, Falls Elementary Principal gave the following report:

- A "Teddy Bear Band" will perform for the students on October 11th. This is tied in with Project Read.
- A play created by Jessie Laurion and Doug Skrief in commemoration of Koochiching County's 100th birthday will be performed for students on November 2nd or 3rd.
- On October 10th the fire trucks will come to the school for the kindergarten students to observe.
- The Evangelical Covenant Church spearheaded a drive for school supplies for underprivileged children. They received such a generous response the excess was given to the school for future students' needs.
- Joanne Flansburg will be student teaching in Mr. Peterson's room this fall. Sherri Mannausau will also be observing grades 1,3, 5 and 7 as part of her education program. Both are through Bemidji State University.

- There is a shortage of substitute teachers. The list is half the size of last year's and shared amongst all the buildings.
- Title I is feeling the cut in services going from four teachers to two.
- Their Crisis Response Team has met and reviewed procedures for fire drills, lockdowns and tornado drills.
- The Q-Comp project will now be called the Teaching, Learning and Communication Project or the "TLC Project". Staff was asked for suggestions on a new name with the successful name being submitted by Judi Roux.
- Four Learning Teams will be meeting weekly at Falls Elementary.
- The Iowa Basics will be given sometime between October 15 – November 15. MCA's will be administered in the spring. Grades four and eight have been selected to participate in the National Assessment Education Progress test which will be given on February 15th.
- Details need to be finalized for the assessments to be used by the TLC project.

Don Langan, Superintendent of Schools gave the following report:

- Enrollments at the elementary level appear to have stabilized. Secondary is down approximately 29.6 students. This is accredited to increased participation of juniors in the PSEOP program. The impetus for this needs to be determined. On-line learning is difficult to pinpoint at this time but the school is not seeing the increase as occurred last year.
- As mentioned by Mr. Hilfer the substitute teacher list is sparse. Pay rates which were last adjusted in 2003-04 have been reviewed. Area rates were ascertained and we are on the low side. All budgets have been calculated with the current rates so any recommendations for an increase would probably not come for this year.
- There is a concern about the district's workers' compensation rates. We are at 85% above the state's average claim level. The types of injuries need to be examined.
- The "TLC" project is a good project and a difference has already been observed as a result of this effort.
- A meeting held with RRCC was beneficial to determine ways to collaborate and dispel rumors about the future of the RRCC campus.
- The softball field is progressing and the fencing has just arrived. The infield is seeded and underway. The architectural firm handling the track project has assured the district the vendor has full intentions of completing the project yet this fall.
- The 2007-08 budget calendar is the identical format to last year's. This methodical manner of developing the budget has helped instill trust by the faculty with the budget process.
- MSBA is seeking resolution ideas for upcoming legislation. Several ideas the district will submit are as follows: 1) Parent options and what constitutes district of residence. Open enrollment and on-line learning need clarification. 2) the on-line learning statute needs to be clarified that if a district offers their own on-line classes those courses must be accessed prior to a student receiving the classes from another district. 3) increase the \$1 per capita youth levy to \$15 for youth activities. This is being supported by the League of Minnesota Cities, and 4) funding needs to be secured for adults with disabilities and health/safety

funds for building improvements such as elevators and handicapped accessibility. State laws regulate the needs but do not provide funding. The Minnesota State Cerebral Palsy Association was contacted and they would be happy to lobby and/or testify for this initiative.

Mark Lassila, Community Education Advisory Committee gave the following update:

- The prior meeting did not have a quorum but the reserve accounts were reviewed along with the summer programs. Backpack Junction was up twenty-one students. A need for more middle school programs was also expressed.

The meeting was closed at 5:55 p.m. for a negotiation planning session.

Moved by D. Wagner, seconded by A. Hardwig-Eberspacher to reopen and subsequently adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Attest: R. Baumchen-Clerk