

OFFICIAL SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
I.S.D. #466, BOARD OF EDUCATION
7:00 PM SPECIAL BOARD MEETING,
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2006
DASSEL-COKATO BOARD ROOM

“The mission of the Dassel-Cokato Schools is to provide programs of educational excellence to students of all ages.”

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 466 (Dassel-Cokato, Minnesota) was duly held in the Dassel-Cokato Board Room, Cokato, Minnesota, on, Monday, July 10, 2006.

Board Chair Dahlman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The following members were present: Dahlman, Danielson, Tormanen, Ertl, and Ness. Linder was absent initially and arrived at 7:10. Also present were members of the administration, the press, and community members.

Board Chair Dahlman led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Tormanen, seconded by Ertl accepting the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Powers led the leadership activity. He handed out “The Blueberry Story” by Jamie Vollmer along with other information from Mr. Vollmer regarding “Nostesia” and the growing demand on public schools over time. Members of the board and the audience broke into groups of 3-4, read the materials, and discussed what they had read. Mr. Powers summarized the documents with a few closing statements emphasizing the diverse responsibilities placed upon the school system.

Representative Dean Urdahl was moved on the agenda enabling him to make a presentation on the previous legislative session. His initial presentation was based upon test score data and financial data demonstrating that the DC public schools get a high level of test results without a high level of expense. He pointed out that the DC 8th graders scored 80th out of 320 school districts on 8th Grade tests with one of the lowest funding levels in the state. He addressed the board with a summary of the session topics that impact the school system. Mr. Urdahl then took questions on a variety of topics including Q-comp, funding, local control issues, fuel costs, open enrollment, and health care.

Motion by Ertl, seconded by Danielson to approve the Attachment 99 Health and Safety Performance Criteria. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Linder introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION REGARDING RELIGIOUS MATERIALS

WHEREAS, subsequent to the School Board adoption of Policy No. 609 relating to religion, concerns have been raised as to the consistency in the application of this Policy; specifically that the distribution of religious materials on campus be applied consistent with the intent of the Policy; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the School District to neither promote nor disparage any religious belief or non-belief; and

WHEREAS, the distribution of religious materials on School District premises is contrary to the School District's obligation to maintain the separation of church and state; and

WHEREAS, the School District may not engage in any activity that either advances or inhibits religion.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 466 as follows:

1. The School District's policy regarding religion is hereby reaffirmed.
2. Administration shall not permit the distribution of religious materials or otherwise proselytizing regarding religion on School District premises.
3. A copy of this Policy and Resolution shall be distributed to all administrative personnel.

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Danielson and, upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Dahlman, Danielson, Tormanen, Ertl, Ness and Linder and the following against the same: none, whereupon said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

The board discussed the upcoming July 20, 2006 retreat. Jeff Powers and Craig Kay presented a tentative agenda that the board was in agreement with. The retreat will be held at the Koinonia Retreat Center on 7-20-06 from 2:00 – 8:00 PM. The topics covered will include an overview of the district, discussion of district needs, and action plans to address the needs.

The board engaged in a discussion on the upcoming levy utilizing the results from the 6-27-06 focus groups from Bob Noyed. Referring to the list of needs brought to the board on June 12th the board and administration discussed which elements most clearly meet the conclusions presented in the focus group summary. The ensuing discussion included the number of questions, the duration of the levy, health care costs, and future facility needs. The board agreed to begin the next phase by identifying the referendum needs as: 1 FTE H.S. Foreign Language, 1 FTE H.S. FACS, 1 FTE H.S. Science, 1 FTE Cokato Elementary, 1 FTE Dassel Elementary, 1 FTE DCMS, a H.S. Dean of Students, \$60,000 to decrease the technology replacement cycle, and \$100,000 to respond to increased fuel costs. The estimated cost for these items is \$824,700. The estimated effort is \$350.00 per RMCPU.

Motion made by Ertl, seconded by Danielson approving the appointment of Kevin Bjork to the Curriculum Advisory Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dahlman reminded the board of the upcoming board meetings on 7-20-06 at 2:00 PM and 7-27-06 at 7:00 PM.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Karen Ness, Clerk

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