A regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 831, Forest Lake, Minnesota, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2008, at the School District Office Building. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called and the following members were present: Bill Bresin, David Gay, Joe Grafft, Dan Kieger, Eric Langness, Rob Rapheal, and Superintendent Lynn Steenblock, ex officio. Member Julie Corcoran was absent.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and the following items were added to Old Business: 9A – Xccent Playground Proposal, 9B - Special Education Transition Program, and 9C – Special Education Day Treatment Program. Also added to New Business as item 10.3 was discussion on Tuesday’s cancelled Veterans event.

4. VISITORS:

Listening Session: Dan Kieger and Bill Bresin conducted the Listening Session and reported that about 26 people came to speak about the proposed budget reductions, the Media Assistant job cuts, the Columbus Elementary sewer system, and many spoke regarding the cancelled Veterans program on Tuesday.

Karleen Boettner urged civility and respect of all the people, especially Principal Steve Massey, involved in the events of Tuesday’s cancelled Veterans program for social studies students at Forest Lake Area High School.

Jim Banta commented on: 1) a bullying concern; 2) questioned why Members Gay and Langness weren’t notified that the Veterans event was cancelled; and 3) asked for a change of Member Gay’s motion in the January 3 School Board Minutes.

Eugene Huerstel stated that he thinks Principal Massey and administration made a mistake by not letting all sides speak out and protest at the senior high during the planned Veterans program on Tuesday.

Veteran El Ewert supported Dr. Massey’s “tough decision” to cancel the Veteran’s program on Tuesday in order to keep protesters away from the senior high during school hours. He stated that the Veterans of the VFW and American Legion are proud of their school district and their past relationships and programs with the school district.

State Representative and Veteran Bob Dettmer stated that he echoed El Ewert’s comments, explained that the Veterans’ bus tour is going all over the United States, attracting press and protesters. Representative Dettmer participated in Liberty Day at Columbus Elementary School today, and was involved in the meeting Wednesday morning on healing with the community. He suggested inviting Veterans for a community evening program in April.
Avery Bruntes supports a school calendar with no winter or spring break and stated his support of Dr. Massey’s tough decision to cancel the Veteran’s program on Tuesday.

Jim Lindstrom explained that the school district and Forest Lake Area High School students and staff have a long history of working with local American Legion and VFW clubs in planning and putting on community patriotic programs and events.

FLEA President Jeremy Swenson voiced his disagreement with comments Member Langness made at the last meeting that if a teacher voted “no” (on the Q-Comp program) they were essentially not for student achievement. Mr. Swenson explained that Q-Comp is more than student achievement and there are many variables in it beyond student achievement. Member Langness replied that Q-Comp is about improving student achievement with teacher pay for performance and the 49% (voting no) did not support student achievement.

5. **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:**

Southwest Junior High Principal Marc Peterson presented a DVD showing a day in the 7th grade Language & Cultures Spanish transition class taught by Spanish teacher Rachel Welk. Currently, 15 students are enrolled in the class. The program and curriculum were developed by the school district and Lakes International Language Academy.

Positive Happenings:

Dan Kieger reported that the boys’ basketball team was one game away from the state tournament. He also reported that the Maroon & Gold Ice Arena season is winding down.

Rob Rapheal reported that he worked at the Scandia Elementary School Carnival and how it is a very nice event for the whole community.

Bill Bresin reminded Board Members of the FLHS Music Concert at the Bethel College Great Hall on April 18 and urged everyone to attend this outstanding annual event.

6. **REPORTS:**

Buildings & Grounds – Eric Langness reported that the committee discussed replacing the Sharewood Forest playground, and reviewed current and future project lists.

Communications – David Gay reported that the committee reviewed the ALC and Central Montessori web sites, the Ranger logo replacement project, and discussed changes and updates to the Community Education catalog.

Finance – Bill Bresin reported that at the last Finance Committee meeting Auditor Aaron Nielson updated the committee on his review of the district’s revenue and expenditures, the budget adjustments, the Finance Report and benchmarking with other school districts.

Policy – Dan Kieger reported that the Policy Committee reviewed the three policies before the Board this evening: the Discipline, Background Checks, and Violence policies. The committee also reviewed policy #529 on staff notification of student behavior.
Staff Welfare – Bill Bresin reported that the committee discussed staffing needs and class sizes.

Superintendent’s report:

1) The Superintendent explained the district’s concerns regarding Tuesday’s planned Veterans program at the senior high and that the event was cancelled due to safety concerns on the senior high campus. The Superintendent suggested forming a task force to discuss the issues that came up regarding the cancellation of the event.

2) The construction trades house received no bids. The new round of bidding will take place on April 10.

7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Member Grafft moved, seconded by Member Langness, to approve consent agenda items 7.2-7.4. All members voted aye and the motion carried.

7.2 Approved the bills as of March 27, 2008.

7.3 Classified Personnel:

A. Resignation:
   1. Julie Boatman – eff. 3-20-08.
   3. Monica Keckhafer – eff. 2-25-08.
   4. Amy Nelson – eff. 3-27-08.
   5. Yvonne Riebe – eff. 3-14-08.

B. Employment:
   1. Melissa Anderson – eff. 3-14-08.
   2. Dwight Chesnut – eff. 3-10-08.
   3. Joni Kroska – eff. 3/10/08.

C. Transfer:
   1. Shelly Beck – eff. 3-17-08.
   2. Alina Divine – eff. 3-10-08.
   3. Dianne Jensen – eff. 3-20-08.
   4. Diane Lesnar – eff. 3-10-08.
   5. Rena Pepin – eff. 3-24-08.

D. Unpaid Leave of Absence:
7.4 Licensed Personnel:

A. Unpaid Leave of Absence:
   2. Dennis Hughes – Unpaid leave of absence for 2008-09.
   3. Geoff McLaughlin – Change dates of child care leave of absence to begin
      April 7 and end June 6, 2008.
   4. Margaret Rychley – Child Care leave of absence for the 2008-09 school year.
   5. Britt Schachtele – Child Care leave of absence on or about 9/23/08 to 10/21/08.

B. Non-Curricular Position (on non-contract status):
   1. Ryan Adams – 7th grade Baseball Coach (SW).
   2. Glen Berg – 7th grade Boys’ Head Baseball Coach (CJH).
   5. Emily Fellows – 8th grade Girls’ Assistant Softball Coach (CJH).
   8. Dan Jacobs – 8th grade Assistant Softball Coach (SW).
  10. Heidi Link – Junior High Spring Play co-Director (CJH).
  12. Jeff Marn – 8th grade boys’ Assistant Baseball Coach (CJH).
  13. Rosie Quale – Chess Club Advisor (SW).

C. Resign/Retirement:
   1. Aggie Hall – Retirement effective end of the 2007-08 school year (7 yr.)

D. Employment: Jeff Brever – Long-term Substitute Teacher about 3/17/08 to
   6/6/08.

7.1 Minutes – Member Gay requested reconsideration on the wording of his motion in the
January 3, 2008 School Board Meeting Minutes and moved to ask Clerk Rob Rapheal
to review the minutes and tape and report back his findings. The motion was
seconded by Member Grafft, all members voted aye and the motion carried.

Member Grafft moved to approve the minutes of March 6, 13, and 24, 2008. The
motion was seconded by Member Kieger, all members present voted aye and the
motion carried.
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, all members present voted aye, none voted no, and Member Corcoran was absent. The resolution was adopted. Donations: $500 from Herff Jones, Inc. for Wyoming Elementary grades 4-6 student planners; $1,480.02 for Wyoming Elementary supplies, $505.93 for Southwest Junior High supplies, and $1,661.06 for Scandia Elementary student activities/enrichment from Target Take Charge of Education; $7,145.93 from the Forest Lake Elementary PTO for 2 SMART Boards for the Forest Lake Elementary 4th grade; $50 from Kim & Chris Hays for student enrichment and activities at Scandia Elementary School; and $300 from Kelli Carlson-Jagersman for student enrichment and activities at Scandia Elementary School.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

9A Xccent Proposal – Member Grafft moved to accept the Xccent Company’s proposal to build a demonstration playground at the Sharewood Forest site at a cost to the district of $20,000 for equipment, and $15,000 for demolition and clean up. The motion was seconded by Member Rapheal, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the motion carried.

9B Transition Program – Member Grafft moved to authorize searching for and securing leased space for the Special Education Transition Program for five years effective 2008-09 school year. The motion was seconded by Member Kieger, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the motion carried.

The meeting recessed from 8:53 – 9:03 p.m. Upon reconvening, all members were present except Member Corcoran was absent.

9C Day Treatment Program – Member Grafft moved to authorize entering into a one-year lease with HSI for the Day Treatment Program and to proceed with securing new lease space and staffing changes for the Day Treatment Program effective 2009-10 and beyond as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Langness, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the motion carried.
9.1 2008-09 Calendar – Superintendent Steenblock explained that following the first reading of the proposed calendar at the last School Board Meeting, the Calendar Committee was reconvened to review input and comments. As a result of that meeting, the committee recommended a revised calendar with a week break in March. Member Langness moved, seconded by Member Gay, to approve the proposed 2008-09 calendar and replace the word “holiday” on the reverse side with the actual name of the holiday. By roll call vote, Member Langness and Gay voted aye, Members Bresin, Grafft, Kieger and Rapheal voted no. Motion failed.

Member Rapheal moved to approve the amended School Calendar for the 2008-09 school year. The motion was seconded by Member Kieger, and by roll call vote members Bresin, Grafft, Kieger and Rapheal voted aye, Members Gay and Langness voted no. Motion carried. (Copy of calendar in official minutes book.)

9.2 Diversity Plan – Member Rapheal moved to adopt the District Diversity Plan. The motion was seconded by Member Grafft, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the motion carried. Member Grafft commented that he would like to offer more ELL parents the opportunity to learn English along with their students. Community Education Director Julie Ohman reported that English language services are being offered through the Adult Basic Education Program.

9.3 Web Design II – Member Grafft moved to approve a new senior high course “Web Design II.” The motion was seconded by Member Langness, all members present voted aye and the motion carried.

9.4 Background Checks Policy – Member Kieger moved to adopt Background Checks Policy 438. The motion was seconded by Member Gay, all members present aye and the motion carried.

9.5 2007-08 Budget Adjustments – Member Gay moved to approve the 2007-08 Budget adjustments. The motion was seconded by Member Kieger, by roll call vote all members voted aye and the motion carried.

9.6 2008-09 Budget Reduction – The Superintendent explained the recommended $1.75 million budget reductions for 2008-09 that were developed through the budget reduction process and framework approved by the School Board February 7th. Member Kieger moved to approve the recommended reductions to the 2008-09 school budget excluding the $40,000 reduction for Instructional Paraprofessionals. The motion was seconded by Member Rapheal, by roll call vote Members Bresin, Grafft, Kieger and Rapheal voted aye. Members Gay and Langness voted no and the motion carried.

Member Rapheal moved to approve the recommended budget reduction of Instructional Paraprofessionals for $40,000. The motion was seconded by Member
Grafft, by roll call voted Members Bresin, Grafft and Rapheal voted aye, Members Gay and Langness voted no, and Member Kieger abstained. The motion carried by majority vote. (Reduction list in official minutes book.)

9.7 Termination of Probationary Teachers – Member Langness moved to adopt the Resolution for the Non-Renewal of Probationary Teachers. The motion was seconded by Member Gay, by roll call vote all members voted aye, none voted no, Member Corcoran was absent, and the resolution was adopted. (Resolution in official minutes book.)

9.8 Unrequested Leave of Absence – Member Langness moved to adopt the Resolution for the Proposed Placement of Tenured Teachers Rachel Peterson and Jill Krautkremer on Unrequested Leave of Absence effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year. The motion was seconded by Member Rapheal, by roll call vote all members voted aye, none voted no, Member Corcoran was absent, and the resolution was adopted. (Resolution in official minutes book.)

10. NEW BUSINESS:

10.1 Harassment & Violence Policy – First reading of the Harassment & Violence Policy #423. This item will be placed on the next agenda for Board action.

10.2 Discipline Policy #515 – First reading of Discipline Policy #515. This item will be placed on the next agenda for Board action.

10.3 March 25th Veterans’ Event – Discussion on the events that developed following the cancellation of the March 25th Veteran’s program for senior high social studies students, and where the district goes from here to show honor and support to Veterans. Member Langness stated he would like to make a motion to have the Superintendent put together a plan for a task force to address the issues. Member Rapheal stated that this item was put on the agenda for discussion and a motion would be out of order. President Bresin ruled Member Langness’ motion out of order. Member Langness challenged President Bresin’s ruling and requested a roll call vote of School Board Members. The motion to challenge the ruling was seconded by Member Gay, and by voice vote Members Gay and Langness voted in favor of the motion to overrule the Chair, and Members Bresin, Grafft, Kieger and Rapheal voted against. The challenge motion failed.

President Bresin requested that the Superintendent form a task force including himself and Joe Grafft to explore the facts and circumstances regarding the cancelled Veteran’s event and report back to the School Board.
11. **COMMUNICATIONS:** The School Board reviewed upcoming calendar dates and acknowledged communications.

   Board Members reported that they have received numerous emails regarding Tuesday’s cancelled Veterans’ event.

   School Board committee meetings will be held as scheduled April 10th.

As there was no further business, Member Grafft moved, seconded by Member Langness, to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. All members voted aye and the meeting adjourned.