

Vermilion Country School Board

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 27, 2010

Location: SuLu's restaurant meeting room, Tower, MN

Members present: Becky Gawboy, Muriel Scott, Troy Swanson, Marshall Helmberger, Jodi Summit, Ray Toutloff and Chris Schuster

Members absent: None

Others present: None

Meeting called to order at 8:45am.

First order of business – NEO has approved VCS application pending changes. More information on the changes will be forthcoming from Brian Rossi. MN Dept of Education's approval is also pending.

Second order of business – Because of new regulations put in place for approval of charter schools by MN Dept. of Education, the board will need to provide affidavits stating that the process for planning for a charter school began well before ISD 2142's plan to close T-S High School.

- Discussion: Charter school planning started more than 2 years ago. Board members involved in initial planning and charter school discussions will make written statements of planning meetings and discussions confirming that the reason for starting a charter school in Tower was to provide an alternative education option for parents and students who are dissatisfied with the education being provided at ISD 2142.
- Statement: Since the intention of the VCS board is to improve the education opportunities for the children of the Tower-Soudan and Vermilion region, we, the VCS Board shall begin the planning process for expanding VCS to include an elementary school once approval for the charter has been granted.

Third order of business – ISD 2142 Community meeting on September 20th at Tower School. Meeting will be about planning for renovations at the school.

- Discussion: Usage of T-S School building. Need for full service kitchen, preserve and renovate gymnasium and pool areas, community service needs: i.e. daycare.

- Discussion: Ray asks about 2142's statement that the T-S school building is too expensive to maintain. Jodi and Marshall have numbers on the maintenance costs. '09 costs were approximately \$85,000 for propane and \$21,000 for electricity. Troy notes that 2142 own assessment of building says that the building is sound. Building compliance regarding asbestos abatement and/or removal will need to get more information on status and requirements.
- Discussion: Letter was sent in mid-August to 2142 about negotiating for usage of the T-S school building once VCS has authorization. This should be brought up at the September 20th meeting that the community wants to have VCS located in the building. A representation of citizens of Tower, Soudan, Vermilion and surrounding townships in the school attendance area should speak at the meeting and be on message about what they want for the school.

Statement/affidavits about charter school plan will be needed by Monday, August 30th to be forwarded to NEO to include in the VCS application.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40am.