MINUTES OF SPECIAL JOINT
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
FORT TOTTEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
July 8, 2009

A special joint school board meeting of the Fort Totten School District No. 30 was held July 8, 2009 at 4 p.m. in the conference room at the New Administration Building in Fort Totten. Present were Erich Longie, Marty Greywater, Shirley Stensland and Raymond Cavanaugh. Frank de la Paz was absent. Others present were Stephanie Anderson, Wayne Trottier Jr., Mona Chaske, Art Carmone, Paul Yankton, Ivan Lovejoy and Perry Kopp.

Board president Dr. Longie called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS: Dr. Trottier recommended giving Rick Smith, Hayley Ness and George Longie a 3.5% increase for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Greywater made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stensland, to approve the superintendent's recommendation regarding the joint administrative contracts. With four in favor and one absent, the motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding Dr. Trottier's contract. Dr. Trottier dispersed a handout regarding his request for his contract.

Mr. de la Paz entered the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

He requested an additional two years be added to his current contract which would extend it to June 30, 2012. He also requested a term death payment be added to his contract which would state that the schools agree to pay a term death benefit severance payment which will value one-half (1/2) cash value of salary and benefits of a one year contract period. Discussion was held on giving Dr. Trottier an increase in salary since he never received one. Discussion held on what percentage. Dr. Trottier asked both boards if they decided to give him a salary increase that this money be used toward five student scholarships.

Mr. Greywater made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stensland, to approve all of Dr. Trottier's requests for the upcoming school year's contract with a 5.5% increase in his salary which will be set aside for five student scholarships. Further discussion. Dr. Trottier will set the criteria and selection committee. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Both boards thanked Dr. Trottier for doing a great job with both schools and for him setting aside his pay raise for students. It is very admirable.

Mr. Cavanaugh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greywater, to adjourn. All were in favor. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Stephanie Anderson
Clerk
Dr. Erich Longie
Board President

So, he adds 2 yrs to his contract, and gets additionally, 6mos pay as severance. How much does he make in a year? Does this not essentially double the cost to the District when someone new is hired to replace him during that first 6 mos?

Was the grand gesture of having his raise go to scholarships a way of ensuring that the notice would be on his generosity, rather than the generosity of the Taxpayers who just gave him another 2 yr contract at a rate extremely high for the District he is in and the number of pupils?

Allowing Beasley Stensland to vote on matters of this magnitude, when she has neither a High School Diploma nor a GED equivalency, is disastrous.

The rest of the Board Members voting to approve this leaves us all to wonder if the School Board is now merely another "Club" for those in power to use for their own benefit without regard to the consequences or practicalities of the Tribe and the community.