

MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 271  
Bloomington, Minnesota

January 11, 2010

- I. ROLL CALL Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 271, was called to order by Chair Maureen Bartolotta at 7:00 p.m. on January 11, 2010, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present: Maureen Bartolotta, Jim Sorum, Arlene Bush, Tim Culver, Mark Hibbs, Chuck Walter and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund.
- Attorney Present: Kingsley Holman.  
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- Administration Present: Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, Bruce Pappas, Stacy Colebrook-Robjent, Tom Holton, Rick Kaufman and Joan Bernard.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. OATHS OF OFFICE Arlene Bush, Tim Culver, Mark Hibbs and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund took the Oath of Office as administered by School District Attorney Kingsley Holman. Officially, their terms began on Monday, January 4, 2010. Each director will serve a term of four years expiring the first Monday in January 2014. This will be the first term for Melissa Halvorson Wiklund. Arlene Bush, Tim Culver and Mark Hibbs are returning Board members.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Chuck Walter moved, Jim Sorum seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- V. RECOGNITION STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC FRIENDS
- The City of Bloomington**  
The Bloomington Public Schools and the City of Bloomington have enjoyed collaborative efforts for many years. These working relationships are of value to both organizations and, ultimately, the residents and families of Bloomington. Mayor Gene Winstead highlighted a number of activities and projects for which the City and the school district partner.
- Normandale Community College**  
Bloomington is fortunate to have Normandale Community College located within the city with its high-quality academic and career bound programming being so readily available to students. As increasing numbers of students are making Normandale their academic choice, the college continues to explore opportunities to grow and expand to serve its communities.

Dr. Joe Opatz, President of Normandale Community College, updated the School Board on the vision and planning for the college.

The School Board expressed appreciation to these “Friends” for their generous support of education, students, staff, families and the community of Bloomington.

Students

**Jefferson Boys’ Soccer - Silver Academic Team Award**

For the third consecutive year, the Jefferson High School boys’ soccer team earned the silver academic award by the Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association. The team had a grade point average of 3.71 on a 4.0 scale. This is the highest GPA earned for this award.

Team members are Tyler Anderson, Michael Antonucci, Jeffrey Bayard, Scott Clinton, Renan Cordeiro, William Elfstrum, Cole Erickson, Joel Friebe, Paul Gaffaney, Ryan Goddard, Charles Leslie, Alex Olsen, Peter Osborne, Joshua Phillips, William Pickerign, Max Rindels, Tyler Tumberg, Andrew Voigt and Jamal Zayed. The team is coached by Danny Storlien along with Assistant Coaches Grant Collins, Matt Holmes and Ryan Pedersen.

**Jefferson Girls’ Soccer - Gold Academic Team Award**

Also for the third consecutive year, the Jefferson High School girls’ soccer team earned the gold academic award by the Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association. The team had a grade point average (GPA) of 3.76 on a 4.00 scale.

Team members are Ashley Anderson, Laura Berglund, Aimee Broman, Rachel Burnham, Nora Eldeeb, Cydney Haaland, Jessica Hedrick, Ellen Kokes, Amanda Larson, Brenna Murray, Elizabeth Peterson, Paige Rindels, Jennifer Smith, Kelly Strawman, Nicole Tobon, Hannah Werth, Maren Werth, Logan Williamson, Madison Yueill and Lauren Zenk. The team is coached by Sarah Connelly along with Assistant Coaches Allison Lindman, Grant Collins and Laura Muenchow.

Proclamations

Jim Sorum moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation recognizing January 18, 2010, as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

***Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Proclamation  
January 18, 2010***

Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day  
Proclamation

*WHEREAS, the Bloomington Public Schools join our Nation in recognizing January 18, 2010, as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and  
WHEREAS, Bloomington recognizes that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s life and work reflected the importance of making America a place where equality and justice, freedom and peace could grow and flourish;*

*THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Bloomington Board of Education, Independent School District No. 271, Bloomington, Minnesota, does hereby proclaim January 18, 2010, as MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY and asks all citizens of Bloomington to remember and reflect on the principles of racial equality and non-violent social change espoused by Martin Luther King, Jr. and to rededicate themselves to the philosophy that we can all share the dream for a better life not only in Bloomington, but also in the world.*

Bakhtawar Chaudhary, Bloomington Human Rights First Vice Chair and Youth Commissioner, accepted the proclamation.

Paraprofessionals  
Recognition Week  
Proclamation

Chuck Walter moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation recognizing January 18-22, 2010, as Paraprofessionals Recognition Week in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

***Paraprofessionals Recognition Week Proclamation  
January 18-22, 2010***

*WHEREAS, Paraprofessionals are important members of the educational team for learners from infancy to adulthood; and*

*WHEREAS, the roles and responsibilities of Paraprofessionals working in the Bloomington Public Schools are carefully structured to support professional staff; and*

*WHEREAS, the Paraprofessionals employed by the Bloomington Public Schools work to encourage, inspire, motivate and stimulate students and adults to prepare for the challenge of the future;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, we, members of the Bloomington Board of Education, together with Governor Tim Pawlenty, proclaim that January 18-22, 2010, be observed as PARAPROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK in the Bloomington Public Schools.*

Accepting the proclamation on behalf of all paraprofessionals who serve Bloomington learners was Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, who expressed appreciation for the work of all of our paraprofessionals.

TIES Awards

The annual TIES Conference was held in early December. As part of conference activities, two of our staff members, Mary Jo Lang, Media Director at Oak Grove Middle School, and Mary Klempke, Media Director at Washburn Elementary School were recognized. Each received the TIES Exceptional Teacher Award for their use of technology in the classroom. Joan Bernard, Director of Technology and Information Services, highlighted the innovative teaching strategies and technology tools used by these staff members.

The new art display is provided by students from Normandale Hills, Poplar Bridge and Olson Elementary Schools. The art specialists are: Kristin Lund, Normandale Hills; Ryan Watt, Poplar Bridge Elementary and Robin Krueger, Olson Elementary.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

School Board Members attended a workshop on January 4, 2010, to discuss organizational matters for 2010. A slate of officers was developed during this work session.

Acting as convener as designated in Board Policy 202, Superintendent Les Fujitake called for nominations for the election of School Board Chair.

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, the nomination of *Jim Sorum* as Chair of the School Board. No other nominations were put forth for the position of Chair. Nominations were declared closed. A unanimous vote was cast for *Jim Sorum* as School Board Chair.

In accordance with Board Policy 202, Chair Jim Sorum continued with the election of officers.

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded the nomination of *Maureen Bartlotta* as Vice Chair. No further nominations were put forth for the position of Vice Chair. Nominations were declared closed. A unanimous vote was cast for *Maureen Bartolotta* as Vice Chair.

Maureen Barolotta moved, Arlene Bush seconded, the nomination of *Chuck Walter* as Clerk. No other nominations were put forth for the position of Clerk. Nominations were declared closed. A unanimous vote was cast for *Chuck Walter* as Clerk.

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Chuck Walter seconded the nomination of *Arlene Bush* as Treasurer. No other nominations were put forth for the position of Treasurer. Nominations were declared closed. A unanimous vote was cast for *Arlene Bush* as Treasurer.

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded the nomination of *Stacy Colebrook-Robjent* as Deputy Clerk. No other nominations were put forth for the position of Deputy Clerk. Nominations were declared closed. A unanimous vote was cast for *Stacy Colebrook-Robjent* as Deputy Clerk.

VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION FOR 2010

Tim Culver moved, Chuck Walter seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves organizational matter "A" for 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

**A. Board Meetings**

Place: Office of the Board of Education, 1350 West 106th Street.

Dates and Times: The School Board will hold its regular meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. On the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. there will be a School Board Study Session. The third Monday of each month will be held for a meeting, a study session or a combination of a meeting/study session, if needed.

Parliamentary Rules of Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, when not in contravention to state law.

Methods and Operation (Board Policy 203, Operation of the School Board).

*Note: Policy 203 will be revised to reflect the new meeting/ study session schedule.*

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves organizational matter "B" for 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Business Functions**

Banking

1. Wells Fargo Bank, Bloomington, is designated as the depository for the District payroll account.
2. Wells Fargo Bank, Bloomington, is designated for receipt of Federal income tax withholding deposits.
2. U.S. Bank Bloomington, 9633 Lyndale Avenue South,
3. Bloomington, is designated as a processor for District credit card operations.
4. Certegy Card Services (RevTrak), TA-22 Merchant Services, 11601 Roosevelt Boulevard, St. Petersburg, Florida, is designated as a processor for District credit card operations.
5. Retriever Payment Systems, (Best Payment Solutions), 20405 State Highway 249, Suite 700, Houston, TX 77070.
6. PayPals, 12312 Port Grace Blvd., LaVista, NE 68626.
7. Elavon (Pay Pams), 7300 Chapman Highway, Knoxville, TN 37920.
8. U.S. Bank Bloomington, 9633 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington, is designated as depository for the Student Activity Fund account.
9. Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus, c/o PFM Asset Management LLC, P.O. Box 11760, Harrisburg, PA 17108-11760, in conjunction with U.S. Bank Bloomington, 9633 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington, is designated as the depository for the District general operating, self-insurance, capital projects, tax anticipation certificates and any other necessary operating accounts.
10. MN Trust, c/o PMA Financial Network, Inc., 27545 Diehl Road, Suite 100, Warrenville, IL 60555.
11. MN Trust, c/o Associated Bank, 1200 Hansen Road, Green Bay, WI 54304-5448 is designated as the depository for the District general operating, self-insurance, capital projects, tax anticipation certificates and any other necessary operating accounts.

The Chair and Clerk are authorized to execute the appropriate designation of depository forms for the payroll and general operating accounts after new facsimile signature plates are received.

The Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus, c/o PFM Asset Management LLC, P.O. Box 11760, Harrisburg, PA 17108-11760; MN Trust, c/o Associated Bank, 1200 Hansen Road, Green Bay, WI 54304-5448; and Wells Fargo Brokerage Services, LLC, 608 Second Avenue South, Suite 500, Minneapolis; are designated as depositories for purposes of investment of funds.

The Board designates the Director of Finance and Finance Manager as custodians of the Student Activity Fund account and approves the use of facsimile signatures on checks drawn on this account.

The Director of Finance, Finance Manager, Accountant and Payroll Manager are designated to authorize bank transfers (M.S.A. 471.38).

The Deputy Clerk is authorized to act for the Board of Education in designating depositories for temporary investment of cash reserves.

The Director of Finance and the Finance Manager are designated to invest surplus balances by purchasing and selling investments (reports on outstanding investments, purchases and sales shall be submitted to the School Board).

The Director of Finance, or one of his/her designees, Finance Manager and Purchasing Agent are designated as representatives of the Board for bid openings. Only one person is required at each bid opening.

The *Bloomington Sun-Current* is designated as the legal newspaper for the school district.

The Director of Finance and the Finance Manager are authorized to request tax advances from the Hennepin County Finance Office.

The Finance Secretary, Jennifer Hazel; Out of School Time Program Manager, Kristina Grossinger; Building Reservations/Activity Center Manager, Doug Langefels; and Transportation Director, Tom Oestreich; are appointed to represent the District in conciliation court cases for the purposes of enforcing collection of debts due the school district and to testify on behalf of the District.

**District LEA Representative**

The Elementary Director of Teaching and Learning, Beth Anderson, is appointed as the District's Local Education Agency (LEA) Representative for State and Federal Programs.

**Authorization to Sign**

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, is authorized to execute documents, as appropriate, to the daily operations of the school district.

**Association Memberships** for 2009-2010 were approved by the School Board at its meeting of August 10, 2009.

**Board Policies**

The policies, as contained in the policy book of the District and previously adopted by Boards of this District, shall continue in effect until this presently constituted Board, or any successor Board, shall modify, amend, delete, or add thereto, or are superseded by agreement in the master contract with the various bargaining units.

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves organizational matter "C" for 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Signatures on Checks**

RESOLVED, that the School Board authorizes the use of facsimile signatures of the Chair, Clerk and Treasurer on all checks drawn on the payroll and operating accounts and that said names are as follows: Chair Jim Sorum, Clerk Chuck Walter and Treasurer Arlene Bush.

Chuck Walter moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves organizational matter "D" for 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Signatures on Contracts**

RESOLVED, that facsimile signatures of the Chair and Clerk are authorized for continuing annual contracts with licensed personnel and subsequent changes resulting from increment advancement or classification changes (all new contracts will be hand signed by Chair and Clerk).

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves organizational matter "E" for 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

**E. School Board Attorney**

RESOLVED, that the School Board retains Holman Law Office as legal counsel to the Board at a monthly rate of \$2,455.00 (no change from 2009) and that in addition to the monthly retainer, standard attorney's fees will be paid for representing the school district at court-type hearings.

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves organizational matters "F" for 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

**F. Board Representation**

RESOLVED, that the School Board confirms the appointment of *Arlene Bush* to the Intermediate District No. 287 Board. *Arlene Bush* will complete the two-year term January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010.

[Previous References: Board action on October 27, 2008.]

RESOLVED, that the School Board appoints *Chuck Walter* as its representative to the State High School League and *Arlene Bush* as alternate.

RESOLVED, that the School Board appoints *Melissa Halvorson Wiklund* as its representative to the Minnesota School Districts' Data Processing Joint Board (TIES).

RESOLVED, that the School Board appoints *Tim Culver* as its representative to the Association of Metropolitan School Districts and *Melissa Halvorson Wiklund* as alternate.

RESOLVED, that the School Board appoints *Maureen Bartolotta* as its legislative liaison with the Minnesota School Boards Association.

RESOLVED, that the School Board appoints *Maureen Bartolotta* as its representative to the Bloomington United for Youth Advisory.

RESOLVED, that the School Board appoints *Mark Hibbs* as its representative to the Community Education Advisory Council.

RESOLVED, that the School Board appoints *Arlene Bush* as its representative to the Metropolitan Learning Alliance and *Chuck Walter* as alternate.

All other appointments to Board subcommittees will be made by the Board Chair: Legislative, PTSA Council, Calendar, Labor-Management, Community Financial Advisory Committee and Boundary Committee.

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves organizational matters "G" for 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Compensation for Board Members**

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves compensation for School Board members at the rate of \$600.00 per month for 2010.

*Compensation for School Board members remains at the same rate as 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005. School Board member expense allocation will be addressed during the 2010-2011 budget process. The expense allocation will be budgeted at \$1,000 per Board Member [no change from 2009-2010].*

VIII. PART A

1. *Board Business*

- Minutes a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on December 14, 2009.
- Personnel Items b. Personnel Items—Licensed Personnel: Leaves of Absence, Employments, Change of Status.  
Independent Personnel: Employments, Changes of Status.  
Classified Personnel: Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.
- Non-Resident Students c. Non-Resident Student Agreements 2009-2010: Twelve (12) students entering Bloomington and seven (7) students leaving.  
Non-Resident Student Agreements 2010-2011: Twelve (12) students entering Bloomington.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

- Senior to Senior ESL a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves an agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District No. 271 to provide support and education to local foreign-born senior citizens. The term of this agreement is January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010.
- Family Center/  
Family School b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves an agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District No. 271 for the Family Center-Family School Program, in the amount of \$21,270 for the contract period of January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010.
- Fairview Pond Center c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes a Letter of Agreement with Fairview Health Services to provide professional services within Independent School District No. 271.

3. *Finance*

- Gifts & Donations a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts gifts and donations, as indicated in the background, in the amount of \$11,878.80.
- Finance Reports b. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the months ended June 30, 2009; July 31 through August 31 2009; September 30, 2009; October 31, 2009; and November 30, 2009.
- Receipts &  
Disbursements c. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Tim Culver seconded, approval of Part A items in accordance with all of the written material submitted to the School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. PART B  
Teacher  
Contract  
2009-2011

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves and ratifies the 2009-2011 Negotiated Contract between the School District and the Bloomington Federation of Teachers. On roll call vote Tim Culver, Maureen Bartolotta, Jim Sorum, Arlene Bush, Mark Hibbs and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund voted aye. Chuck Walter voted nay. Motion carried 6-1.

The Bloomington Federation of Teachers ratified the tentative agreement for the 2009-2011 Master Contract earlier today, January 11, 2010.

The agreement includes salary schedule improvements of 0.00% for 2009-2010 and 1.00% for 2010-2011. In addition, the tentative agreement includes the following:

- Add \$1,465 on each salary schedule cell the first year (already budgeted)
- Increase the District health insurance contribution both years
- Increase the District health savings accounts contribution for employee-plus-one and family the second year
- Change the percentage of teachers required to approve modifications of the workday
- Allow sick leave to be used to care for ill adult child, spouse, or parent
- Redefine the workday to allow for the proposed modified high school block schedule
- Establish one-year pilots for job exchanges and job shares
- Revise language to resolve past and current grievances
- Establish joint committee to review coursework allowed for lane changes
- Clarify benefit eligibility
- Substantial housekeeping changes

The Board received detailed copies of all proposed language, insurance and schedule changes in the tentative agreement. Administration recommends that the Board ratify the tentative agreement.

The contract calls for continuing to share savings resulting from health insurance reform. The District is offsetting the salary increases with over \$2 million in savings generated from moving all employees to a self-funded High Deductible Health Plan.

Chair Sorum indicated that while the agreement may not be acceptable by some on both sides, it is within the District's long-range financial plans. He further stated that sacrifices have been made by all employees to help with state budget impacts. Chair Sorum acknowledged the work of the Administration and our employee unions to contain health insurance costs for all District employees. Mr. Sorum thanked the District's negotiating team.

Bruce Pappas indicated that 24 issues were brought to the table. Each issue was addressed to mutual satisfaction. Director Hibbs expressed appreciation for the teamwork of the committee in bringing forth the settlement and highlighted the efforts and leadership of Joe Meuwissen during negotiations. He did caution that the current model is not sustainable and does not attract young teachers.

Approval of this agreement satisfies the state statute deadline of January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Director Walter indicated he respects the sacrifices made to reach settlement, however, he could not support the resolution because of diminishing revenue streams, enrollment decline, uncertainty with financial funding sources, unallotment being a significant possibility and that the basic foundations that school districts and teachers negotiate under a broken system. He supports finding alternatives and disruptive innovations. He suggests the formation of a joint committee to look at a better way of doing business.

Director Culver spoke to the negotiations process and supports the agreement for a variety of reasons. He referenced the need to adjust the arbitrary deadline set by the state, which would cause the District to incur a penalty.

Chair Sorum invited the members of the BFT negotiating team to be recognized. Representing the Bloomington Federation of teachers, Mr. Meuwissen spoke to the process indicating it was a difficult round of bargaining not just for this District but the state. Everyone recognizes the economic conditions. He highlighted the work of the Labor Management Committee for managing benefits for its members and being good stewards of taxpayers' money.

#### PAUSE Report

Social Worker Erik Jacobson, updated the School Board on the PAUSE program—Placing Accountability Upon Students' Education. The PAUSE program was initiated due to the School Board's concern for keeping students in school, turning disciplinary suspensions into lessons instead of rewarding unacceptable behavior with time off from school. PAUSE is an alternative to out-of-school suspension, which has been in place since mid-year of 1998-1999 and serves students in grades 6-12. The program is located at Olson Middle School.

The mission of PAUSE is to help students take responsibility for their actions, support academic success, teach students more effective ways to resolve conflict and identify underlying issues that may contribute to a student acting out and interfering with learning. To support students' academic success, PAUSE examines academic status with students and strategizes a path forward, helps define academic goals for students and helps them to see relevance to life goals, teaches organizational skills and works on building Reading and Math competency.

For the 2008-2009 school year, there were 576 referrals to the program, this includes repeat referrals. Contact days totaled 739—students generally are referred to PAUSE for 1-3 days. Issues interfering in student success may include parent job loss, parent separation or divorce, chemical dependency, abuse or neglect, unplanned pregnancy, hunger, mental health issues or learning problems.

The future vision for PAUSE includes fully integration PAUSE services into schools PBIS model (Tier 2 intervention), developing a more long-term and intensive intervention program aimed at middle school students with the goal of curbing the cycle of academic failure and seeking additional funding through grants.

KinderPlus Fees  
2010-2011

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves increasing KinderPlus fees for the 2010-2011 school year. A minimum of 20 students will be required to offer a section. Motion carried unanimously.

KinderPlus is an option for parents seeking all-day school for their child. KinderPlus blends half-day kindergarten with an enriched half-day childcare. KinderPlus offers the same curriculum as traditional half-day sessions, yet it provides more time for enrichment activities. The State of Minnesota funds only half-day kindergarten; therefore, parents pay a monthly fee for the KinderPlus program. This enhanced half-day care option offers the same licensed teacher in the same classroom both morning and afternoon. To offset rising program expenses, a \$15.00 monthly fee increase is proposed for the 2010-2011 school year. With this increase, Bloomington still is within the range of neighboring districts. Representatives from the Kindergarten Oversight Committee and Assistant Superintendent have reviewed the fee rates. The recommendation is to raise the current rate of \$355/month to \$370/month for the 2010-2011 school year. The total annual KinderPlus fee is \$3,330.00.

Extended Field  
Trip-VVMS  
Camp Widjiwagan

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Extended Field Trip for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science students from Valley View Middle School to participate in a trip to YMCA Camp Widjiwagan in Ely, Minnesota. Motion carried unanimously.

Adam Haisman at Valley View Middle School submitted the Extended Field Trip Application for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to travel to Ely, Minnesota, from February 16-19, 2010. Students will be receiving instruction at the destination site for four (4) days. Board approval is need for the trip, per Regulation 610. The purpose of the trip is to provide a wilderness experience, group building and environmental education.

Amendment  
403(b)  
Retirement  
Plan

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 (“District”) amends and approves the Bloomington Public Schools 403(b) Retirement Plan (the “Plan”) in the attached form, effective December 31, 2009; RESOLVED FURTHER, that the appropriate officers of the District be authorized and directed to execute the Plan on behalf of the District; RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the District be authorized and directed to execute and deliver any documents required by law. Motion carried unanimously.

On December 8, 2008, the District amended the Plan, based upon recommendations of Goldleaf Partners, the District’s consultant hired to bring the District into compliance with the IRS regulations, which took effect on January 1, 2009. New IRS regulation required that the following modifications be effective this calendar year:

Rollover to Roth IRA: For distributions made after December 31, 2007, participants may make a direct rollover of a distribution directly into their Roth IRA. Participants may make the rollover only if the distribution would otherwise qualify as an eligible rollover distribution. Participants will still be taxed on the rollover to the Roth IRA.

Hardship Distributions: Effective December 8, 2008 (effective date of the Plan), hardship distributions may be made for certain expenses of participants’ primary beneficiary in addition to their dependents. These expenses include those for medical, tuition, and funeral expenses. A person is a “primary beneficiary” if that person is named as a beneficiary under the Plan and has an unconditional right to all or a portion of the participant’s Account Balance upon the participant’s death.

Administration and District counsel have reviewed the resolution and recommends its adoption.

Policy 701.3

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the first reading of Policy 701.3, Fund Balance. Motion carried unanimously.

At the October 21, 2009 Community Financial Advisory Committee meeting a motion was made to recommend the establishment of a special reserve of \$2 million as a temporary measure to offset uncertainty in state funding for the next biennium. This recommendation was discussed at the December 21<sup>st</sup> Board Workshop where it was determined that a separate designation would be considered. It was also agreed that the Fund Balance Policy needed to be reviewed. The purpose of this resolution is to update the fund balance policy to ensure financial stability of the District, to provide a sound basis to justify continuation of the strong financial rating, and to provide a reserve enabling the District to deal with unforeseen budget expenditures.

Race To  
The Top

Superintendent Les Fujitake informed the School Board of plans for Race To The Top (RTTT). In July 2009, the U.S. Department of Education announced a national competition to advance school reform. States are eligible to compete for \$4.35 billion in competitive grants to support educational reform and innovations in the classroom. The \$4.35 billion will be granted to 10-15 states. Fifty percent (50%) of the funds must go to Local Education Agencies. Six selection criteria have been defined. If granted, Minnesota could receive up to \$175 million. School districts must submit a Memorandum of Agreement by January 13, 2010. Grants will be awarded in April. If Minnesota is a recipient, the Department of Education would award grants after July. District Administration has had discussions with the Bloomington Federation of Teachers. The Superintendent cautioned that there are some concerns with RTTT as it may require contractual implications and policy changes. The Superintendent will submit a letter of interest so that the opportunity to participate exists.

X. BOARD  
COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

Tim Culver reported on the AMSD meeting and shared the organization's legislative platform for this session. Melissa Halvorson Wiklund highlighted the recent Minnesota House Early Childhood Education Public Hearing held in the District. Bloomington staff shared information about early childhood programs and data. Chuck Walter and Arlene Bush attended a fundraiser and performance at Jefferson High School. Chuck Walter reported that the MSBA Annual Leadership Conference is being held this week. CFAC will be meeting next week. Jim Sorum thanked Rick Kaufman, Tom Holton and other team members who attend the City Council meeting to express appreciation for cooperative efforts between our organizations.

XI. SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake reported on School Board activities and the need for an additional workshop to continue discussion of organizational matters.

Maureen Bartolota moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to establish a Board Study Session on Tuesday, January 19, at 6 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

There is a School Board Study Session scheduled for January 25, at 6:00 p.m.

Registration for Kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year begins at some of our schools on Tuesday, January 26. Contact your school for more information.

Mr. Fujitake met today with the Bloomington Chapter of AARP at Creekside Center to provide an update on what is happening in the school district. A great performance was given by the Kennedy High School Concert Orchestra. Thank you to Instrumental Music Director Miriam Edgar and her students.

XII. OTHER Director Walter led the School Board in an expression of appreciation in recognition of Maureen Bartolotta for her leadership as Board Chair for the last three years.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk