

**Minutes OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 271  
Bloomington, Minnesota**

**November 10, 2008**

- I. ROLL CALL Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 271, was called to order by Chair Maureen Bartolotta at 7:00 p.m. on November 10, 2008, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Jim Sorum, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Tim Culver, Mark Hibbs and Maureen Peterson.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Rod Zivkovich, Tom Holton and Rick Kaufman.
- Attorney Present Kingsley Holman.  
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC The School Board recognized and presented a Certificate of Achievement to the following students and staff members.

**National Merit 2009 Scholarship Program Semifinalists**

Jefferson High School student Melinda Zhang and Kennedy High School student Gwendolyn Evans have been named semifinalists in the 54th annual National Merit Scholarship Program for 2009. National Merit Semifinalists rank nationally in the top one-half of one percent. They now will be in the running for one of the merit scholarships that will be offered next spring.

**National Achievement Scholarship Program for Black Americans**

Myriah Rhines, a senior at Kennedy High School, is among the 3,100 outstanding National Achievement Scholarship program participants being referred to U.S. colleges and universities. She scored in the top four percent of more than 150,000 students who requested consideration in the 2009 National Achievement Program, begun in 1964 to honor academically promising Black American high school students.

More than 1.5 million juniors in nearly 21,000 high schools entered the 2009 National Merit Program by taking the preliminary SAT/National Merit scholarship qualifying test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

### **National Merit 2009 Scholarship Program Commended Students**

National Merit Commended Scholars place among the top five percent of their national Class of 2009 on the PSAT. Fifteen (15) of our high school students earned National Merit Commended Student status, which recognizes exceptional academic promise demonstrated by a student's performance on the qualifying test used for program entry.

*Jefferson*-- Gregory Anderson, Anthony Au, Zoe Carlton, Mariah Helgeson, Kelsey Koch, Katherine Lake, Christopher Norby, and Megan Wagner.

*Kennedy*--Patricia Carstedt, Kelsey Cook, Jonathan Kindem, Erik Krohg, Erik Tormoen, Michael Weisner, and Bryce Werkmeister. Principal Ron Simmons indicated that this is the largest number of national merit scholars Kennedy has had in a given year.

### **Jefferson Boys' Soccer**

The Jefferson Boys' Soccer Team, placed third in the State Tournament. Team members are: Michael Antonucci, Alexandar Ballard, Scott Clinton, Cole Erickson, Joel Friebe, Paul Gaffaney, Chad Gilmer, Ryan Goddard, Matthew Hibbs, Charles Kirihara, Bjorn Knutson, Alex Olsen, Peter Osborne, Benjamin Pederson, William Pickerign, Joseph Plutt, Maxwell Rindels, Trevor Rodriguez, Joshua Sweeney, Tyler Tumberg, Daniel Woodard, and Jamal Zayed. Head Coach is Danny Storlien. Assistant Coaches are Grant Collins and Matt Holmes.

### **Jefferson Girls' Soccer - Gold Academic Team Award**

The Jefferson High School girls' soccer team earned a gold academic award by the Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association. The team had a grade point average (GPA) of 3.84 on a 4.00 scale. Team members are: Ashley Anderson, Laura Berglund, Aimee Broman, Dana Hanson, Jessica Hedrick, Emily Janssen, Alexandra Koller, Amanda Larson, Brenna Murray, Nicole Neumann, Paige Rindels, Jennifer Smith, Lauren Somers, Kelly Strawman, Mackenzie Thayer, Abbey Turgeon, Hannah Werth, Maren Werth, Logan Williamson and Lauren Zenk. Head Coach is Sarah Connelly. Assistant Coaches are Grant Collins and Laura Muenchow.

### **Jefferson Boys' Soccer - Silver Academic Team Award**

The Jefferson High School boys' soccer team earned a silver academic award by the Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association. The team had a 3.65 GPA on a 4.00 scale to lead all schools receiving the academic award.

Principal Steve Hill stated that this is the second year these two teams have earned the academic awards. Last year, both teams earned gold academic awards. Teams with a GPA of 3.75 to 4.00 are awarded a gold plaque, and teams with a GPA of 3.50 to 3.74 earn a silver award.

American Education  
Week

Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the attached Proclamation proclaiming November 16-22, 2008, as American Education Week in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

**American Education Week Proclamation**

*WHEREAS, throughout American history, schools have helped democratize our nation, strengthen our communities and widen opportunities for all people; and*

*WHEREAS, by integrating different groups through commonly shared values, schools prepare this nation's diverse population to live harmoniously in a democratic society; and*

*WHEREAS, educational employees strive continually to serve our children and our communities with dedication, professionalism and compassion; and*

*WHEREAS, for generations, our schools have answered the call to develop and challenge the future leaders of our families, our communities and our nation; and*

*WHEREAS, there is no greater legacy than the sound education of our children and the continuing education of our adults;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, we, members of the Bloomington Board of Education, proclaim in the Bloomington Public Schools that November 16-22, 2008, be observed as the 87th anniversary of American Education Week.*

American Education Week is an annual observance which highlights the essential role of public schools in developing democracy, integrating diverse groups around shared civic values, developing skills and knowledge and fostering the nation's future leaders. Accepting the proclamation on behalf of all Bloomington School District staff was Wendy Marczak, President of the Bloomington Federation of Teachers.

National Community  
Education Day

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation declaring November 18, 2008, as "Connecting Community Education to You" National Community Education Day a celebration of Community Education programs and services. Motion carried unanimously.

**National Community Education Day Proclamation**

*WHEREAS, there is an increasing public insistence that all levels of government become more responsive to citizen needs and desires; and*

*WHEREAS, there is a limited amount of tax money and other resources, both human and physical, available to meet public demand for facilities, programs, and services; and*

*WHEREAS, full use of existing public facilities, programs, and services is a desirable community goal; and*

*WHEREAS, community education philosophy advocates full use of public facilities, programs, and services by every age group in the community; and*

*WHEREAS, community education philosophy assumes that when local communities identify their own needs and resources and public agencies work cooperatively, community betterment will result; and*

*WHEREAS, agency coordination and cooperation improve public service and maximize the use of tax money; and*

*WHEREAS, the involvement of local communities is essential to the development of community education programs; and*

*WHEREAS, November 18, 2008, has been proclaimed "National Community Education Day" by joint resolution of Congress and by authorization of The President of the United States, and*

*WHEREAS, the theme of National Community Education Day in 2008 is "Connecting Community Education to You."*

*NOW THEREFORE, I Maureen Bartolotta, Chair, Board of Education, do hereby proclaim November 18, 2008, as National Community Education Day and call upon Bloomington citizens to recognize and participate in this special observance.*

The “*Connecting Community Education to You*” National Community Education Day is a celebration to recognize and support the strong relationships between communities and the public schools that serve them, by highlighting the positive impact that Community Education programs play in communities. Community Education offers enrichment to early childhood learners to elderly learners with a wide range of classes offered. Community Education also enriches the community by offering after school programming to youth. Accepting the proclamation was Tom Holton, Executive Director of Community Education for Bloomington and Richfield school districts.

Chemical Health  
Week

Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 proclaims the week of November 17-21, 2008, Minnesota Chemical Health Week in Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

***Chemical Health Week Proclamation***

*WHEREAS, alcohol and other drug abuse in the United States severely affects individuals, families, schools and communities and;*

*WHEREAS, the color RED has been chosen to represent individual and community commitment efforts to reduce alcohol and other drug abuse in our community and;*

*WHEREAS, business, government, law enforcement, schools, religious institutions, service organizations, neighborhoods, youth, senior citizens and other individuals are encouraged to demonstrate their commitment to helping reduce and prevent alcohol and other drug abuse by wearing and/or displaying the color RED during Minnesota Chemical Health Week, and wearing and/or displaying a RED RIBBON;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Bloomington Public Schools does hereby declare November 17-21, 2008, Minnesota Chemical Health Week in Bloomington Public Schools and encourages its students, staff and families to participate in drug prevention education activities, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free community.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board of Bloomington encourages all students, staff, and parents to support alcohol and other drug abuse prevention efforts year round.*

Melissa Drews, Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinator, accepted the proclamation. Chemical Health Week is set aside to create an awareness of substance abuse and encourage a commitment to prevention. Many activities will be going on in the schools. Ms. Drews emphasized that although this is a special week of observing chemical health awareness, safe and drug free schools are a year round focus in the Bloomington Public Schools.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on October 27, 2008.

Personnel Items

b. Licensed Personnel: Leaves of Absence, Employments. Classified Personnel: Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.

Non-Resident Agreements

c. Non Resident Student Attendance Agreements:  
2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 9  
2008-2009 Students Leaving Bloomington = 14

Community Ed Advisory Council Education Appointment

d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the appointment of Suzanne Renfro to the Community Advisory Council for a three-year term, ending fiscal year 2010-2011.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

BIG

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington School District for the use of the Bloomington Community Ice Garden for the 2008-09 hockey season for the District high school teams.

Student Teaching U of M, Morris

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Student Agreement with the University of Minnesota, Morris. This agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2008, and end on June 30, 2010.

3. *Finance*

Receipts/Disbursements

a. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

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

VI. PART B

PAUSE Update

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 was located at Pond Center and has moved to Olson Middle School.

The program provides individual assessment and counseling, academic support, social skills development, communication with parents, school staff and community resources, restorative justice/community service and mediation.

The philosophy of PAUSE is non-punitive, students reflect on behavior that encourages respect and pro-social behavior in the classroom, restorative justice and accountability, continued academic support and giving back to the community. For the 2007-2008 school year, there were 694 referrals to the program, this includes repeat referrals. Contact days totaled 762—students generally are referred to PAUSE for 1-3 days. Reasons students are referred to PAUSE include attendance issues (excessive absences or tardiness, no show to detention), disorderly conduct (disruptive, disrespectful, defiant, policy violation, bus conduct, lunchroom conduct, hall conduct, profanity), major offenses such as drugs, physical assault, insubordination, dress code; and threat/intimidation, verbal assault.

Mr. Jacobson focused on the principles of restorative justice and accountability, which includes emphasis on students being accountable for the choices they make and their actions. Students participate in group discussion, individual reflection, taking ownership by writing letters, restitution, mediation and community service. Last year, students contributed 230 hours of community service at Bridging and hours of service to the Early Childhood Program at Pond. For 2007-2008, more 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were served by PAUSE with Valley View Middle School and Kennedy High School having the most students served.

Extended Field  
Trip to Spain

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Extended Field Trip Application for a group of Jefferson High School students from the Spanish Club and students who are studying Spanish to travel to Spain. Motion carried unanimously.

Foreign Language teachers Deb Dargay and Mike Takalo will accompany 15 Jefferson High School students to Spain. Travel dates are April 2-12, 2009 (Spring Break). The students will not miss any days of school. The purpose of the trip is for linguistic and cultural enhancement and global learning.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

Chuck Walter was present at his liaison schools on conference nights. He plans to do the same at spring conferences. He commended the Community Relations Department and P.E.R. Committee for the Annual Report, which he used as a resource for visiting with parents. Letters have been sent to legislators inviting them to the December 15<sup>th</sup> roundtable discussion of the Board's legislative platform for the upcoming session. Board members were directed to the legislative folder on the School Board Conference for this information. Arlene Bush attended Oak Grove Middle School activities—a PTA meeting and a student awards breakfast, and the Noon Rotary meeting today at which the Superintendent was the speaker. Maureen Peterson attended a Calendar Committee meeting; discussions from the meeting will be part of the November 17<sup>th</sup> Board Workshop. She will be attending the Labor Management Committee meeting this week.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District and public engagement activities. November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans' Day. As they have done for many years, the VFW Everett McClay Post #1296 and Earl C. Hill American Legion Post #550 will again honor the Bloomington Schools with flag raising ceremonies at our schools.

Upcoming Board Activities: There is a School Board Workshop on November 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 pm at ESC in Community Room 610. The Truth in Taxation Property Tax Hearing is scheduled for December 2 at 7:00 pm at ESC in Room 610.

Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to establish Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. for the meeting of the School Board with its Youth Advisory Council. The meeting will be at Oak Grove Middle School in the Media Center. Motion carried unanimously.

Following the Youth Advisory Council meeting, there is a regular School Board meeting at 7 p.m. at ESC in Room 610.

Arlene Bush moved, Chuck Walter seconded, that the School Board establish Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. for a meeting with Bloomington legislators in a roundtable discussion of the Board's legislative platform. The meeting will be at ESC in Community Room 610. Motion carried unanimously.

The legislative roundtable discussion will be followed by a School Board Workshop, which begins at 7 p.m. A previously adopted motion has established the workshop.

Tim Culver moved, Jim Sorum seconded, to CANCEL the regular Board meeting scheduled for December 22. Motion carried unanimously.

December School Board Schedule—The only School Board meeting for December will be on December 8<sup>th</sup> and the workshop will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Fujitake was the presenter at the Noon Rotary meeting today. His topic was the Achievement and Disparity Gaps. He will do a similar presentation to the Human Rights Commission on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk