

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

November 26, 2007

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 26, 2007 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Maureen Peterson, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Tim Culver, Mark Hibbs and Jim Sorum.

Administration Present Les Fujitake, Debra Fincham, Pat Geraghty, 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 Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC Dr. Debra Fincham introduced Paul Meyer, who will be the new principal at Olson Elementary School beginning in December. Mr. Meyer was a classroom teacher at Ridgeview Elementary School from 1999-2006. He was an intern in the ALC Summer Program in 2004 and served as the Principal for the 2007 ALC Summer program. Currently, he is a District K-5 Instructional Mentor. His education, experience, leadership skills and commitment to the District will serve him well as he moves to the Olson Elementary School Principal position. Mr. Meyer replaces Tim Case, who will retire at the end of December.

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation recognizing December 10, 2007, as Human Rights Day. Motion carried unanimously.

Human Rights
Day Proclamation

Human Rights Day Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Public Schools join our Nation in recognizing December 10, 2007, as International Human Rights Day; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington recognizes the importance of acknowledging the diversity that exists in our community as we strive for autonomous participation in our community affairs; and

WHEREAS, the devastating impact of prejudice can be eliminated through the efforts of our schools and city in promoting human rights awareness; and

*WHEREAS, the designation of a special Human Rights Day serves to remind us that basic human rights must be made available to all people;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bloomington Board of Education, Independent School District No. 271, Bloomington, Minnesota, does hereby proclaim December 10, 2007, as Human Rights Day and asks all residents to continue their efforts in making Bloomington a model for fair and equal rights for ALL persons.*

Accepting the proclamation was Bakhtawar Chaudhary, A Bloomington Human Rights Youth Commissioner.

Citizenship/Voting

The Bloomington Public Schools, Bloomington Daymakers Rotary and the City of Bloomington work cooperatively to provide the Take Your Child to Vote project to promote citizenship with students. Debbie Belfry, Career Development Coordinator, provides the leadership for this project, which connects Character Education studies in the classroom with Election Day. This is the eighth year of the project. Elementary and middle school students learned about citizenship, rights and responsibilities and the power of freedom to vote.

On Election Day, November 6, parents brought their children to the polls to see actual precinct locations and witness the voting process. There was a special voting box at each polling place for students to deposit their own Message of Citizenship and they received a citizenship sticker. The Rotary Club paid for teacher resource packets, voting boxes and stickers. Karen Zelzenak from Bloomington Daymakers Rotary compiled the Citizenship Messages, with the entire project being facilitated by the school district and the City Clerk's office. In attendance at the School Board meeting were Oak Grove Middle School students Madeline Buscho and Arthur Harris who read Messages of Citizenship collected from the special voting boxes at the polling places.

Public

Candy Bell, Normandale Community College Instructor, expressed appreciation to the school district's teaching staff for the opportunity for students to complete field experience by working with the Volunteer Connection and in particular, Ruth Beckman and Sue Martell. Normandale College students who are taking the class entitled "Introduction to Education" find working directly with students invaluable. Normandale College students Sonja Cleary, Jordyn Smith and Christopher Gosse, shared their personal experiences working with our students.

V. PART A
1. Board Business
Minutes

Personnel Items

Non-Resident
Agreements

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on November 13, 2007.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status. Classified Personnel: Termination, Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.
- c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2007-2008:
Students Entering Bloomington = 10
Students Leaving Bloomington = 12

2. *Finance*

- Finance Reports a. Statements of Revenues and Statements of Expenditures for the month ended October 31, 2008.
- Receipts/Disbursements b. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Tim Culver moved, Chuck Walter 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

Special Education
Community Advisory
Council Report
2006-2007

The Special Education Community Advisory Council (SECAC) provides parental and community input into the decision-making process of the Student Services Department. The council membership includes parents, community members and district staff. Meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of the month. Presenting the report were Suzanne Renfro, SECAC Chairperson, and Larry LaMere, Past Chairperson. Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, is the Administrative Liaison.

SECAC Activities for 2006-2007—enhanced ease of navigation and content of the website (i.e. transition resources, leisure/recreational resources); successfully supported the selection of Indian Mounds, Oak Grove Middle and Olson Middle Schools as sites to pilot Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS); participated in successful efforts to obtain a grant to collaborate with PACER to develop parent understanding of PBIS; recognized excellence of staff in working with student with disabilities through the SECAC awards process and banquet; reviewed and provided feedback on District transition supports for college bound students with disabilities; supported modifications in middle school schedule to promote Least Restrictive Environment programming for students with unique needs (i.e. special education, ESL); reviewed Bloomington Transition Center program evaluation data; reviewed outcomes for Bloomington students on State Performance Plan indicators; reviewed the District child count, budget and staffing; supported legislation and testified at the State Legislature to increase State special education aid to school districts; reviewed and provided suggestions on community based efforts to augment District assistive technology resources; sent parent survey to sample satisfaction with special education services to parents of all 1500+ students in special education; supported the application for a grant awarded to the Minnesota Autism Society and the Bloomington Schools to provide advocacy and information to parents of students on the autism spectrum; endorsed development of a video to assist staff in better understanding the unique needs of students on the autism spectrum. *New Goals for 2007-2008*— Make recommendations for special education program improvements based on finding of parent survey; revise transition checklist to support students transitioning between grade levels. Develop a reference guide to assist parents of newly identify students in navigating through special education process and procedures.

Ongoing Goals for 2007-2008 — Continue to recognize excellence of staff; monitor, support and participate in PBIS pilots and continue to enhance the SECAC website.

District Safe & Drug
Free Task Force
Report

Melissa Drews, the District's Safe and Drug Free Coordinator, presented to the School Board the 2006-2007 Task Force Report. As background information, from 1997-2005 there was a noticeable decline in the number of suspensions for misconduct and relatively low incidence of student chemical use. In 2005-2006, there was an increase in the number of students referred for disciplinary action due to the possession, use, distribution or sale of drugs and alcohol. Proactively, the Safe and Drug Free Schools Task Force was formed to address this increase. The 16 member Task Force is a cross-section of stakeholders who deal with drug use in the schools. The purpose of the Task Force is to determine the following: Bloomington Public Schools' regional and statewide standing related to safe and drug free schools, whether data suggest an increase in issues related to school safety and chemical use, identify strengths and unmet needs and to develop recommendations based on findings from the aforementioned. The Task Force reviewed existing data, which included: suspension and expulsion data, non-resident students suspension data, 2004 Minnesota Student Survey Results, Bloomington Youth Health Update, Bloomington Police Juvenile Citations, Bloomington Police response to incidents at high schools, 2005-2006 Hennepin County School Crime Report and Minnesota State High School League violations. Findings from each of the aforementioned categories were reviewed in detail with the School Board. A few report highlights—there is no conclusion that one year of above average suspension indicates a trend, the difference between the State and the Bloomington rate is not statistically significant, findings do not suggest a great prevalence of chemical violations among non-resident students; data suggests that more violations occurred during summer months and the months on either side of spring break. The report also addressed perceptions—aggressive behavior and disrespect for school authority has increased at the middle schools. High schools had a strong response to the Parent Drug Information nights. Policy review included Policy 502, Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions and the Student's Person: Administration is encouraged to broaden the use of dogs in drug detection efforts. Policy 506 on Student Discipline: a modification to the policy and regulation would strengthen the section on bullying. Policy 526, Student Chemical Possession, Use Abuse and Dependency: no substantive change recommended. A number of recommendations were suggested by The Task Force, including the following concepts: maintain data for annual comparison to determine the effectiveness of prevention/intervention efforts; expand use of dogs to search within secondary buildings; add language to Policy 502 that addresses the use of dogs in the schools; provide annual notification to inform parents, students and teachers of planned dog detection efforts and include middle schools; encourage aggressive use of search procedures by administration where there is suspicion of drug possession; provide inservice training to staff on recognizing signs of drug use or being under the influence of drugs;

at athletic eligibility rules meetings, clarify what constitute "possession" of drugs under MSHSL rules; continue offering parent information nights on chemical use by adolescents to increase awareness; routinely include SHAPE and BEACON in planning and implementing safe and drug free school initiatives; determine methods to enhance the partnership with the Bloomington Police in mutual efforts to address drug use; provide more explicit information on prohibitions against and procedures for dealing with bullying in Policy 506; survey to identify existing instructions/interventions directed at bullying; identify methods to address students' perceptions of increased gang activity at school; consult with city to determine the feasibility of an ordinance to address possession of knives on school property and communicate to the community the efforts of the school district to proactively ensure safe and drug free schools.

Discipline Report
2006-2007

Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, presented to the School Board the 2006-2007 Discipline Report. Discipline policy goals are: define, teach and support appropriate behaviors; create a safe, secure learning environment; maximize academic engagement and success; and reduce the number of disciplinary referrals. Principals Ron Simmons of Kennedy High School, Andy Kubas of Valley View Middle School and Paul Helberg of Valley View Elementary School, highlighted building based initiatives regarding discipline. Examples of districtwide efforts include PAUSE, School Attendance Review Board, community partnerships such as Cornerstone and Storefront, Safe and Drug Free Schools program, Strategic Mentoring program, Crisis Prevention Program and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports pilots being conducted at Indian Mounds, Oak Grove Middle School and Olson Middle School. Student suspensions for 2006-2007 totaled 468. In 1997-1998, the total was 1480. The number of Special Agreements/Expulsions for 2006-2007 were 13, compared to 38 in 2005-2006. Reasons for the 13 referrals for expulsion included: weapon (knife), controlled substance, theft, assault and terroristic threat. A special agreement is a negotiated agreement between the school district, parent and student incorporating both positive interventions and negative consequences in response to misconduct. One of the negative consequences is dismissal from school for more than 10 days and up to 12 months from the date of the misconduct. An expulsion is a School Board action to prohibit an enrolled student from further attendance for up to 12 months from the expulsion date. In most cases, expulsion referrals are addressed through the special agreement process. There have been no expulsions for the last three school years.

Wellness Committee
Report

Doug Langefels, member of the District's Wellness Committee, gave an overview of the program. The Committee was formed as a subcommittee of the Labor Management Committee. Outcomes from employee health promotion programs include: increased productivity, reduced absenteeism, improved morale and enhanced image for the organization. Co-chairs of the Wellness Committee are Scott Sieling and Doug Langefels.

Goals are to reduce the number of health risk factors in the District's workforce population through health communication, risk awareness and prevention and develop a three-year plan. A needs and interests survey was conducted. With 22% of the staff responding, the top health interest areas appear to be ergonomics, exercise-fitness, healthy eating, stress and women's health. The top health events/interests were stress reduction, walking programs and health fairs. The Committee plans to work on a health risk assessment, develop a three-year plan by the end of this school year and continue email communication with staff twice a month.

Alternative
Facilities Bonding
and Levy
Program

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the District's 2008-2009 Alternative Facility Plan. Attached (on file) is an executive summary of the plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Rod Zivkovich, Executive Director of Finance and Support Services, and Mike Berg, Director of Buildings and Grounds, presented information on the Alternative Facilities Bonding and Levy Program. Since its inception, the District has met the criteria and qualified for an Alternative Facilities Bonding and Levy Program as set forth by state law. One of the requirements for this program is that the Commissioner of Education approves a ten-year facility plan. The law also requires the School Board to approve the portion of the ten-year funding plan that will be funded by the Payable 08 Levy. Projects are planned in the following categories and are intended at a number of sites: asphalt/cement, roofing, painting, wall finishes, window treatments, flooring, casework, ADA improvements, restroom and locker room hardware, walk-in cooler and freezer replacements, plumbing system repairs and replacements, Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC), door and hardware repair and replacements, electrical system repairs and replacements and alternative facilities project management, auditorium seating and elevator repair and replacement. Intended projects total \$3,850,000.

Budget Balancing
Actions 2008-2009

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the recommended 2008-2009 budget balance actions.

Mark Hibbs expressed concern about eliminating the Community Resource Pool. He believes this action is not consistent with the District's Strategic Plan, this action would affect the classroom and CRP is a consortium with other school districts and this action will affect them as well. He suggested that the cost could be recovered by increasing athletic fees by \$20/per sport instead of \$15 and increasing parking fees by \$75/year instead of \$50. Maureen Peterson and Tim Culver also expressed concerns for eliminating the CRP. School Board members reviewed discussions from the Board Workshop (November 19th).

Tim Culver moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, to amend the budget balancing adjustments by deleting line 16 of the list, the Community Resource Pool (\$38,000).

Chuck Walter moved, Jim Sorum seconded, to call for the vote on the amendment. Upon conclusion of discussion, vote on the amendment was called (deleting CRP). On roll call vote, Tim Culver, Maureen Peterson and Mark Hibbs voted aye. Jim Sorum, Chuck Walter, Arlene Bush and Maureen Bartolotta voted nay. Amendment motion failed 3-4. Chair Bartolotta called for the vote on the main motion. On roll call, Jim Sorum, Tim Culver, Chuck Walter, Arlene Bush and Maureen Bartolotta voted aye. Maureen Peterson and Mark Hibbs, voted nay. Motion carried 5-2.

The Budget Balancing Committee recommends adjustments to the budget (listed below). The rationale and justification for the proposed budget adjustments were discussed in detail at the November 19, 2007 Board workshop. Adjustments are:

Athletic Fees	\$ 49,500	Revenue Enhancement: Increase fees at middle, high schools by \$15/sport.
Athletic Event Fees	\$ 27,916	Revenue Enhancement: Increase athletic events admission charges by \$1 each for students and adults.
Parking Fees	\$ 41,250	Revenue Enhancement: Increase student parking fees by \$50/year.
Co-Curricular Fees	\$ 2,300	Revenue Enhancement: Increase co-curricular fees for high school students at the same percentage of athletics fees increase.
Expenditure Increases	\$316,000	Revenue Enhancement: Reduction in workers compensation insurance, property/casualty insurance, and special education tuition.
Community Relations Superintendent and School Board	\$ 24,000	Reductions are 5 percent of controllable expenditures and include cuts in areas of travel/conferences, contracted services, printing and School Board development, expenses and travel.
Human Resources and Finance	\$ 35,000	Reduction savings will come from working together with departments and buildings to share data electronically.
Controllable	\$200,000	Reductions are 2 percent of controllable expenses budgets. Includes supplies, contracted services, travel, printing, postage, overtime and per student allowance by site. Controllable reductions will be determined at the site or program level.
Academic Services	\$ 65,000	Other office budget adjustments.
Community Education, Food Services and Transportation	\$100,000	Charge-back for utilities, clerical, custodial and administrative support.
Community Resource Pool	\$ 38,000	Reduction of fees to the Community Resource Pool.
Athletic Transportation	\$ 10,000	Reduce busing of teams to venues close to the District, such as Burnsville, Apple Valley and Eastview.
Total	\$908,966	
Athletic Transportation Adjustment	(\$10,000)	Reduce busing of teams to venues close to the District, such as Burnsville, Apple Valley and Eastview.
Expenditure Increases	\$ 1,034	Revenue Enhancement: Reduction in workers compensation Insurance, property/casualty insurance and special education tuition.
Adjusted Total	\$900,000	

Extended Field
Trip-Kennedy
Jefferson to Hawaii

Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that, the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Extended Field Trip Application for a group of students from Jefferson High School and Kennedy High School Band and Orchestra to travel to Hawaii. Motion carried unanimously.

Andrew Bast and John Engebretson, along with 6-8 adult chaperones, will accompany 82 students from the Jefferson and Kennedy Band and Orchestra for a performance tour. The dates of the trip are April 2 through April 7. The students will miss two (2) days of school.

Maureen Peterson questioned the participation of Jefferson High School for this extended field trip. Administration will verify.

Policy Actions

Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that, the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the deletion of policies, and accompanying regulations, that are determined to be obsolete.

Policy 1600 Relations between Non Public Educational
Regulation 1600 Organizations and the School District

Policy 4112/4212 Appointments and Promotions
Regulation 4112

Policy 4112a/4212a Permanent and Part-time Employment--Nepotism

Policy 4122 Reserve Teachers
Regulation 4122

Policy 4125 Summer School Teachers
Regulation 4125

Policy 4144b Insurance – Workers Compensation
Regulation 4144b/4244b Workers' Compensation Reports and Related
Procedures

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Chuck Walter attended a Labor Management Committee meeting at which the proposed 2008-2009 school calendar was reviewed. An information session was held for labor management groups addressing high deductible medical insurance plans. Three Jefferson graduates and a retired Music teacher were inducted into the First Annual Arts and Activities Hall of Fame—Mark Saxenmeyer, Clark Rundell, Mark Wolfram and retired Band instructor, Dr. Earl Benson. Mark Hibbs reported on the Community Education Advisory Council meeting, which focused on goals for 2008-2009. Goals include completing a strategic plan, development of partnerships to sport early childhood education, filling membership positions on the advisory committee and providing ongoing education to the membership. Arlene Bush highlighted her visit to the Community Education Campus.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. The Truth in Taxation Hearing is Tuesday, December 4, at 7 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, Community Rooms 610 & 610A. December 10th will be the only School Board meeting for the month of December.

Arlene Bush moved, Jim Sorum seconded, to establish a Board Workshop on Tuesday, December 4, at 6 p.m. (prior to the Truth in Taxation Hearing). The topic is the 2006-2007 Audit Report. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. OTHER None.

X. ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk