

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

December 8, 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 December 8, 2008, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th 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, Bruce Pappas, 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 Arlene Bush moved, Chuck Walter seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC Maureen Peterson moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the proclamation recognizing December 10, 2008, 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, 2008, 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, 2008, 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 Jillayne Beall, a Bloomington Human Rights Youth Commissioner.

Flyers Soccer The School Board recognized the Flyers Soccer Adapted Athletics Team for placing third in the State Tournament. Team members are: Kenneth Adkins, Jessi Bean, Jonathan Bluem, Robert Doyle, Peter Elvidge, Nicolas Frandsen, Alex Furber, Cassandra Haley, Karen Ann Kreidler, Mark McDaniel, Nicholas Nieson, Rachel Rosenthal, Michaela Smith, Katina Williams and Christer Woodley. The Head Coach is Brett Johnson, the Assistant Coach is Lori Voldin, the Supervisor is Ryan Fromm and the Manager is Matt Dossa.

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. Olson Middle School Principal Tom Lee highlighted the project that connects Character Education studies in the classroom with Election Day. This is the ninth 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 4, 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. Rotary members 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 Olson Middle School students Stephon Sharp and Trayonna Ricks who read Messages of Citizenship collected from the special voting boxes at the polling places. Debbie Belfry, Career Development Coordinator, provides the leadership for this project.

V. PART A
 1. *Board Business*
 Minutes

Personnel Items

Non-Resident
Agreements

2. *Grants*
LCTS

United Way

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on November 24, 2008 and Minutes of the Truth in Taxation Hearing on December 2, 2008.
 - b. Licensed Personnel: Leaves of Absence, Employments.
Administrative Personnel: Leave of Absence.
Classified Personnel: Resignation, Employments, Changes of Status.
 - c. Non Resident Student Attendance Agreements:
 2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 39
 2008-2009 Students Leaving Bloomington = 8
- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts LCTS grants totaling \$130,745 from the Hennepin South Services Collaborative (HSSC) to fund seven school district projects during the 2009 calendar year.
 - b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts a \$7,500 grant that the Greater Twin Cities United Way awarded to Independent School District No. 271. The grant period is December 31, 2008 through December 30, 2009 and is open for renewal upon completion of a final report and reapplication.

3. *Contracts/Agreements*

- MOAC Mall Holdings a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the renewal lease between MOAC Mall Holdings LLC and ISD No. 271. The lease commences on the first day of December 2008 and ends on the 30th day of November 2009.
- City Fiber Agreement b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a collaborative agreement with the City of Bloomington to supply fiber optic connectivity.

4. *Finance*

- Continuing Authority a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes the continuation of Board appointments and authorizations to begin January 1, 2009, and continue until the Board's organizational meeting January 12, 2009. This shall include: Chairperson and other Board officers; Deputy Clerk Treasurer, designation of depositories for district funds; investment of surplus funds, representation of the Board at bid openings; use of facsimile signatures for financial transactions and personnel contracts; and appointment of Board representation to other governing Boards and Associations.
- Bills Payments b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes the administration to pay bills between December 8, 2008 and January 12, 2009. The Board will review and approve disbursements at the January 12, 2009 School Board meeting.
- Finance Reports c. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the months ended June 30, 2008 and October 31, 2008.
- Receipts/Disbursements d. 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
PTSA Council
Update

Chip Groth, Co-President of the PTSA Council, and Ridgeview Principal Steve Abrahamson, updated the School Board on goals and strategies. Sheri Brezinka provides leadership as the other Co-President.

The first goal of the PTSA Council is to provide training and proactive problem solving assistance to each school PTSA. Operational strategies implemented in 2007-2008 included revitalizing struggling or dormant PTSA's and a PTSA Academy, was held last May and now will be held in May of each year to develop mentoring partnerships. All schools participated in the Academy. A new strategy for 2008-2009 calls for a survey to determine needs and challenges and establishing minimum standards for a PTSA in the areas of budget/finances, attendance/enrollment goals and projects and initiatives.

The second goal is to promote communication between the Council and each PTSA. In 2007-2008 a newsletter became operational. A new strategy for 2008-2009 includes the PTSA website, which will include best practices, embedded links for support and ideas, a PTSA List Serve and budget resources to support the website.

The third goal is to provide a forum for PTSAs to communicate and share ideas with each other. Goals were established in 2007-2008 and meeting attendance became a priority. A new strategy for 2008-2009 includes the virtual meeting option for members who cannot attend the monthly meeting.

A new goal for 2008-2009 will be to help secure legislation to ensure a quality education system. The supporting strategy includes collaboration with the School Board's Legislative Committee to focus on a legislative platform. Another new goal for this year is to help develop stronger school/community relations. A district wide food drive campaign for VEAP will be the focus strategy. PTSA Council representatives met with the School Board's Youth Advisory Council to begin collaborating on implementing this strategy.

Judy Gruggen, PTSA Council Treasurer and Webmaster, gave an overview of the new PTSA website which has just been activated and is linked to the District's website. Information will be updated continually.

Final 2008
Payable 2009
Property Tax Levy

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a property tax levy for the final 2008 payable 2009 levy of \$40,885,898.94.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event of any changes to levy amounts by the Minnesota Department of Education, it is the intent of the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 to levy the appropriate amount as allowed by law.

FINAL 2008 PAYABLE 2009 LEVIES

Referendum	\$	18,162,881.44
Referendum Other		895,972.42
Community Services		1,643.862.55
Debt Services		9,114,203.79
Other		<u>11,068,978.74</u>
Final Certified Levy	\$	<u>40,885,898.94</u>

Rod Zivkovich, Executive Director of Finance and Support Services, provided a summary of the levy presentation given to the School Board at its December 15 Workshop. The total amount of the Proposed 2008 Payable 2009 Levy is \$40,885,898, which represents an increase of \$5,584,651 or a 15.8% increase. The District's per pupil voter authority in Pay 08 was \$991 and it is \$1,503 for Pay 09. In Pay 08, the referendum levy generated \$11,979,483. Due to the passage of the referendum election, the referendum levy will generate \$18,192,080 in Pay 09.

Upon conclusion of the levy presentation, School Board members discussed the components of the levy including the lease levy for artificial turf athletic fields at the two high schools, which was approved as part of the preliminary levy authorization.

Jim Sorum moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board amend the motion by deleting the lease levy for fields in the "other" category by \$334,443 changing the total to \$10,734,535, with intentions of revisiting and reinstating as soon as possible.

Chuck Walter indicated that the District established a fund balance policy and finances have been managed successfully. He supports the levy as presented as it is a safety issue and an opportunity for students. Tim Culver indicated that he presented the same motion during preliminary levy discussion. He is not in favor of changing the process at this point in time. Mark Hibbs emphasized that the economy and the financial forecast has changed significantly since the decision on turf was made. With the Governor's announcement of the State's shortfall of \$5.2 billion, the total impact of the financial challenges facing the District are unknown and plans for cost containment/budget reductions will be planned. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent to postpone the artificial turf fields.

On roll call vote, the amendment to the motion passed 6-1 with Maureen Perterson, Tim Culver, Jim Sorum, Mark Hibbs, Maueeen Bartolotta and Arlene Bush voting aye. Chuck Walter voted no.

Final 2008
Payable 2009
Property Tax Levy

Vote called for on the main motion, as amended, which approves a property tax levy for the final 2008 payable 2009 levy of \$40,551,455.44. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

With the deletion of the \$334,443 for the artificial turf fields, the final levy certification amounts are below:

FINAL 2008 PAYABLE 2009 LEVIES

Referendum	\$	18,162,881.44
Referendum Other		895,972.42
Community Services		1,643,862.55
Debt Services		9,114,203.79
Other		<u>10,734,535.24</u>
Final Certified Levy	\$	<u>40,551,455.44</u>

Tonight's action completes a process that began in July with the submission of levy data and calculations of formulas that produced the proposed levy certification document in September, mailing by the County Auditor of Truth-in-Taxation statements in mid-November and the Truth-in-Taxation public hearing in December.

Bid Award/
Jefferson Chiller
Equipment

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the Schadegg Mechanical, Inc., South St. Paul, Minnesota bid of \$392,500 to replace the chiller equipment at Jefferson High School and authorizes Administration to enter into a contract with Schadegg Mechanical, Inc. to accomplish this work. Motion carried unanimously.

This project is identified in our State approved Alternative Facilities Plan. The chiller equipment being replaced also was identified in our five-year assessment needs plan and involves installation of a new cooling tower, temperature controls, valves, duct work and chiller pumps. The equipment has exceeded its intended lifespan and this work will reduce the chances of an unplanned equipment failure. Funding for this project is from the Alternative Facilities Fund. The bid specifications were reviewed by our district attorney and insurance agent.

2009-2010
School Calendar

Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves Calendar A for the 2009-2010 school year, with a start date of September 8, 2009, per current Minnesota Statute 120A.40, and that Calendar B, with a start date of September 1, 2009, also be approved in the event the State Legislature waives or changes Statute 120A.40 during the upcoming legislative session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Calendar Committee developed the school calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. The proposed calendar was reviewed by Administrative Cabinet, Principals, Labor Management Committee, Planning, Evaluating, and Reporting, and Staff Development Advisory Committee. Minnesota Statute 120A.40 states that a school district must not begin school before Labor Day.

Calendar A meets this requirement, with a start date of Tuesday, September 8, 2009, the day after Labor Day. Calendar B has a start date of September 1. In the event that the State Legislature waives or changes Minnesota Statute 120A.40 during the upcoming legislative session to allow districts to begin before Labor Day, Calendar B will be implemented.

Commencement
Exercises 2010

Maureen Peterson moved and Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 establishes commencement exercises for the 2009-2010 school year on the following dates: Jefferson High School, Wednesday, June 9, 2010, and Kennedy High School, Thursday, June 10, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

The Assistant Superintendent and administrators at Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools have reviewed the 2009-2010 school calendar and recommend the aforementioned dates for commencement exercises, contingent on securing an appropriate site for the dates indicated.

Extended Field Trip
Hawaii

Maureen Peterson moved and Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Extended Field Trip Application for a group of students from Jefferson and Kennedy girls' softball teams to travel to Hawaii. Motion carried unanimously.

Coaches Fred Wroge and Penny Witenbug and chaperones will accompany 28 Jefferson and Kennedy girls' softball team members to Hawaii. The students will not miss any school days. Travel dates are April 2-10, 2009 (Spring Break). The purpose of the trip is to train for the softball season, scrimmage with local teams, and experience the culture and history of Hawaii. Activities focused on team building and goal setting also are planned.

Extended Field Trip
Italy

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Extended Field Trip Application for a group of students from Jefferson High School Wind Ensemble to travel to Italy.

Kingsley Holman, legal counsel for the District, expressed concern about one of the items listed in the terms and conditions of the agreement (#18) having to do with insurance.

Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Extended Field Trip Application for a group of students from Jefferson High School Wind Ensemble to travel to Italy contingent upon receipt of proper documentation approved by District legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Fretland and chaperones will accompany 54 Jefferson Wind Ensemble members to Italy. The students will not miss any school days. Travel dates are April 2-10, 2009 (Spring Break). The purpose of the trip is to provide cultural experiences through musical performance and participate in a school exchange concert.

403b Adoption
Agreement and
Basic Plan
Document

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 ("District") restates, amends, and approves the Bloomington Public Schools 403(b) Retirement Plan (the "Plan" in the attached form (on file)). RESOLVED FURTHER, that the appropriate offices 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.

The District hired Goldleaf Partners to bring the District into compliance with the new IRS regulations, which take effect on January 1, 2009. The adoption of this plan document brings the District into compliance.

The new regulations provide that 403(b) accounts must be maintained in accordance with a written plan document. Plan sponsors (i.e. schools) must designate approved investment providers and products. Exchanges must be restricted to approved investment providers and products under the plan. The regulations also provide rules on contribution limits, hardship distribution rules and the availability of salary deferrals. Administration and District counsel have reviewed this Resolution and recommends its adoption.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arlene Bush attended the MSBA Delegate Assembly. The Board's legislative resolution on charter schools passed. Director Bush highlighted visits to Ridgeview and Indian Mounds and the Kennedy holiday concert. Chuck Walter announced that the Legislative Roundtable is scheduled for December 15 at 5 pm. All legislators will be in attendance. Director Walter highlighted reading to a Kindergarten Title I class at Washburn, the Kennedy High School holiday shows and he read a letter from former staff members Del Holz and Norm Leistikow regarding the recent Jefferson Fine Arts Hall of Fame event. Mr. Walter will be speaking at the next Poplar Bridge PTA meeting. Maureen Peterson will be attending a Labor Management Committee meeting this week. Prior to tonight's meeting the School Board met with its Youth Advisory Council and PTSA Council representatives.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted district activities. The School Board meeting scheduled for December 22 is canceled.

Mark Hibbs moved, Maureen Peterson seconded to establish the Board's organizational workshop on Monday, January 5, 2009, at 7 p.m. Organizational/ operational matters of the School Board will be discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the School Board is January 12, 2009. This is the organizational meeting. Board officers for 2009 will be elected at this meeting.

Tom Holton is one of ten appointed by the Governor to serve on his Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

Jefferson High School is one of America's 2009 Best High Schools, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Jefferson is one of 13 senior high schools in Minnesota and 504 nationally to earn a silver medal rating. Another 35 high schools in the state earned a bronze rating. There were no gold – top 100 high schools in the nation – or honorable mention schools in Minnesota.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk