

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

February 25, 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 7:05 p.m. on February 25, 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, Debra Fincham, Bruce Pappas and Rick Kaufman.
- Attorney Present David Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC
- OGMS Musical Oak Grove Middle School will be presenting its annual musical. This year, "The Pirates of Penzance" will be presented March 6-8. Cast members performed a musical selection from the production and extended an invitation to the School Board and the entire community to attend one of the performances. Music teacher/musical director Bryan Blessing and pianist Susan Steincross accompanied students.
- School Board Recognition Week Superintendent Les Fujitake honored members of the Bloomington School Board with a proclamation for School Board Recognition Week.

**SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK
February 25-29, 2008**

WHEREAS, the mission of public schools is to meet the educational needs of learners of all ages and empower them to become competent, productive contributors to a democratic society and an ever-changing world; and

WHEREAS, local School Board members are committed to children and believe that all learners can be successful and that the best education is tailored to the individual needs of students; and

WHEREAS, local School Board members work with parents, education professionals and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students; and

WHEREAS, local School Board members are responsible for ensuring the structure that provides a solid foundation for our school system; and

WHEREAS, local School Board members assure that educational programs are accountable to the community; and

WHEREAS, local School Board members are strong advocates for public education and responsible for communicating the needs of the School District to the public and the public's expectations to the District;

THEREFORE, I, Les Fujitake, Superintendent of the Bloomington Public Schools, join the Minnesota School Boards Association in declaring the week of February 25-29, 2008, as School Board Recognition Week and express my appreciation to the members of the Bloomington School Board for their commitment, dedication and hard work on behalf of all of our learners. Furthermore, I urge all citizens to join me in this recognition and to work with the School Board to build an education system that meets the needs of our learners, children and adults, both today and tomorrow.

Mr. Fujitake extended appreciation to School Board members for their commitment, dedication and hard work to build a quality educational system for all learners.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on February 11, 2008.

Personnel Items

b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employment. Non-Unit Personnel: Employment. Classified Personnel: Terminations, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Change of Status.

Non-Resident

c. Non Resident Student Agreements:
2007-2008 Students Entering Bloomington = 3
2007-2008 Students Leaving Bloomington = 4
2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 30
2008-2009 Students Leaving Bloomington = 4

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

TIES Internet Services

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 71 renews the Internet Services Agreement between Technology and Information Educational Services (TIES) and Independent School District No. 271. The agreement runs for a term of one (1) year beginning July 1, 2008.

3. *Finance*

Gifts & Donations

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts gifts and donations, as indicted in the background, in the amount of \$16,456.89.

Finance Reports

b. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the month ended January 31, 2008.

Receipts/Disbursements

c. 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

District 287
Update

Superintendent Sandy Lewandowski, updated the School Board on Intermediate School District 287 focuses and activities. Strategic planning is a current focus. The Core Planning Team met in January. Maureen Bartolotta and Pat Geraghty represented the Bloomington School District in this process. A shift to a new plan gives priority to serving the needs of the member districts and then the consortium. Three action teams, one per strategy, are designing steps to achieve the strategies. The Measurement Team will design a system of tools and indicators to determine progress toward strategic objectives. The measurement system will be presented in April. Approval of the strategic plan is scheduled for fall 2008.

In 2003, District 287 purchased an existing school site--the former Lincoln Hills site in Richfield. The purpose was to consolidate programs in fewer sites and own rather than lease space. The South Education Center is "different by design." Public and shared spaces are located within the central core of the building so they are accessible to all programs and visitors. The facility will house a number of District 287 Programs including: Students with Unique Needs (SUN), Transitions Program—Intersect, InVEST, Phase & VECTOR), Vocational Evaluation and Training (VET) and two Area Learning Center Programs—Vista (pregnant and parenting students) and WAVE—Work, Achievement, Values and Education. Richfield Public Schools Special Education program also is located at this site. The South Education Center was designed with high performance design features and benefits to the environment. The South Education Center will be 68% more energy efficient than a comparabe-sized building constructed to code, resulting in annual energy savings of \$160,000 with a four-year payback period. The South Education Center is scheduled to open in the summer of 2008. Enrollment is expected to be 350 students in grades K-12, but the facility can accommodate 400 students. The building project is under budget and ahead of schedule.

2008-2009
Staffing

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes the Administration to staff for the 2008-2009 school year based upon an equivalent of 744.108 full-time teachers and Administration be allowed to adjust staff to enrollment from August 1 through October 1 using the Board approved staffing ratios. Following October 1 adjustments, the Board will be apprised of any additional staffing utilized. Motion carried unanimously.

Bruce Pappas, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Patty Hoge, Human Resources Coordinator, presented the 2008-2009 staffing recommendation, which is based upon current student enrollment and enrollment projections for the 2008-2009 school year as compiled by the Bloomington Public Schools' Office of Technology and Information Services. The ratios applied to develop the recommended staffing reflect the ratio approved by the Board in conjunction with the District's Budget Plan. Included within the staffing recommendation is a 3.0 FTE contingency to be accessed by the Superintendent of Schools to address unforeseen circumstances. Not included in the attached staffing request are positions funded by the First Grade Preparedness Grant, Compensatory Revenue, Title I and other miscellaneous revenue sources that vary from year to year. Staffing recommendations were discussed in detail with the School Board at its February 19th workshop.

Policy Review

513 and 513.1

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the first reading of the following policies. Policy 513 – Student Promotion Acceleration and Retention. (New) Policy 513.1 – Granting of Credits, Grades 9-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Richard Cash, Director of Gifted and Talented Programs, has provided the leadership for credit-related policies being presented for action.

Policies 513 and 513.1 were originally one policy (513). The division into two distinct policies is for clarity of purpose and ease of navigating the policies.

New policy 513 is designed to provide guidance to schools on the promotion, acceleration and retention of students, including:

- Clarity on acceleration both in subject and grade as per new State Rule [2007 Omnibus E-12 Education Act Chapter 146, Article 2, Section 8 (c)].
- Removed language on granting grade and credit in grades 9-12.

New policy 513.1 is designed to provide the high school guidance on granting credits both to current students and those transferring into the Bloomington Public Schools, including:

- Clarity of definitions.
- Clarity of granting credits from accredited and non-accredited schools.
- Credit for learning process.
- Online Learning Options (OLL).

Policy 513.1 addresses Post-Secondary Options.

601.1 Mark Hibbs moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the first reading of reading of Policy 601.1 Graduation Requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

Changes to Policy 601.1 include the following:

- Change of language from “requirement” to “rule.”
- Delete Profile of Learning language and insert Graduation Rule language.
- Current graduation requirements.

5122 Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the deletion of a policy determined to be obsolete: Policy 5122 – Advanced Academic Credit and Retroactive Credit. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 5122, Advanced Academic Credit and Retroactive Credit, was adopted in 1984 and now is obsolete. The policy pertained only to students who graduated up to 1990. The University of Minnesota Talented Youth Mathematics Project referenced in the policy was conducted during the school years of 1980-1981, 1981-1982, 1982-1983 and 1983-1984. Minnesota law addressing advanced academic credit has changed and now is addressed in Statute 120B.14. Administration recommends deletion of Policy 5122, along with its accompanying regulation.

Dr. Richard Cash has reviewed policies relating to graduation requirements and granting of credits for students in grades 9-12 as well as student promotion, acceleration and retention.

Prior to actions taken on the aforementioned policies, the policies and accompanying regulations were discussed in detail with the School Board at its February 19th workshop.

Election Districts
Proposed
Legislation

Legislation has been introduced that would establish school election districts for the Bloomington School Board. The current bills are S.F. 457 and H.F. 1394. Senator Dan Larson and Representative Ann Lenczewski shared with the School Board their perspective and rationale for proposing the legislation, which was introduced last year. Senator Larson postponed the hearing on S. F. 457 for an opportunity to discuss the legislation with the School Board. H. F. 1394, soon will be scheduled for hearing. The bills call for dividing the school district into four single-member election districts from which one board member each must be elected. Three additional members would be elected at-large. Representative Lenczewski indicated that she has been discussing this with citizens for the past four years and believes that proceeding with wards would provide an opportunity for better representation of the City’s diverse population.

At the last legislative session, she and Senator Larson introduced the bills. This election districting would be similar to that of the City Council. Election boundaries would be coterminous to those of the City. In times past, the City Council was represented by at-large membership and subsequently moved to four wards and three at-large member representations.

Chair Maureen Bartolotta, set the framework for discussion with a few opening statements. The School Board always has found a way to work together with its legislators with the best interests of students and families in mind. Efforts have led to a cooperation that benefits our constituencies, and we hope to continue that tradition.

The majority of this School Board does not support this legislation for a number of reasons. The School Board is an autonomous institution embedded in strongly held public beliefs in democratic, non-partisan local control authority. The community, School Board and staff should have the power to decide what is best for kids. It is crucial to hear from all of our diverse families, but this must be done outside of the political arena. If there are issues that are not being addressed, then we should find ways to work to resolve those issues as we have done in the past. We should set forth tonight a commitment to study how we can improve the perception or reality that some may not be represented at this table. Legislating a change in a long-standing School Board authority tenet of local control is not an answer to determining how best to hear from our diverse constituents. We should set aside this proposed legislation, and focus on finding the best solution to appropriate representation.

Senator Dan Larson believes the legislation is a great opportunity for the community in how it elects School Board members. The proposal will better meet the needs of families and citizens. The system allows for the neighborhood connection, which becomes even more important as growth and change occurs within the city. The neighborhood connection/identity is of great value. The proposed legislation was introduced last session and is similar to that of the City of Bloomington. Legislative re-districting occurs on a fairly regular basis.

Representative Lenczewski indicated that following the census every ten years, redistricting occurs affecting federal, state and city levels of government. Seeking modification to the system is not an immediate change. The bills provide that if local approval has not been completed by July 1, 2010, the governing body shall submit the question of approval to the voters of the school district at the 2010 general election. Congressional districts must be in place by 2012. If the proposed legislation is passed, the implementation would take effect with the 2013 election.

School Board members shared their individual perspectives. Discussion points included—Keeping focus on what is best for students/families. The School Board members represent all students/families. Decisions are made with all learners in mind. The School Board and the City do not function the same—job descriptions differ. What is wrong with our current system of governance and school district representation? Why is the legislation proposed only for the Bloomington school district and not for the entire state? This model may promote Jefferson versus Kennedy or East versus West. Is this what is best for students and families and does it align with the school district's Strategic Plan? What are the concerns of the people? There is a need for more community input--unsure that the problem is defined. Not sure that the proposed legislation would be solving the problem.

Legislative hearings on the two bills will be conducted next week. Chair Bartolotta and School Board members expressed appreciation to Senator Larson and Representative Lenczewski for attending the School Board meeting and providing an opportunity for dialog on this important matter.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chuck Walter highlighted his visiting day in the school district meeting with a number of department leaders. Arlene Bush attended an AMSD meeting and District 287 committee meetings for Facilities and Finance. District 287 is considering reducing its Board from 26 to 13 members by changing the number of school district representatives from two to one per school district. Maureen Bartolotta highlighted the Bloomington Loves Its Kids awards celebration held February 22 at Civic Plaza. Bloomington United for Youth presented the awards. Companies to Classrooms was among the group award recipients. On March 17th, Dr. David Walsh will present a workshop based on his new book "NO: Why Kids—of All Ages—Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It." The PTSA Council is purchasing books for school PTAs for the purpose of a PTA book study.

Maureen Peterson reported on the meeting of the School Board with its middle school Youth Advisory Council members. Representatives from VEAP and Bridging were in attendance to discuss growing needs and ways middle school students can be of help.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake indicated that the winter edition of School Pages will be distributed this week. Mr. Fujitake expressed appreciation to the Noon Rotary for its book donation program. Each guest speaker signs a book and it is donated to a Media Center in one of our schools.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Chuck Walter, Clerk

