

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

February 8, 2010

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 Jim Sorum at 7:00 p.m. on February 8, 2010, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.

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

Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, Tom Holton, Rick Kaufman, Stacy Colebrook-Robjent and Joan Bernard.

Attorney Present Kingsley Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Maureen Bartolotta moved, Chuck Walter seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC **Congratulations to the 2010 Bloomington Spelling Bee winners.** The 2010 Bloomington Spelling Bee took place on January 28 at Oak Grove Middle School. The following students took top honors: The Champion is Anders Billund-Phibbs, a 6th grader at Oak Grove Middle School. Second place is William Zeng, an 8th grader at Oak Grove Middle School. Third place is Tim Hart, an 8th grader at Valley View Middle School. Julie Donaldson, Middle School Gifted and Talented Coordinator, provides the leadership for the district wide Spelling Bee.

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the proclamation declaring February 2010 as Career and Technical Education Month in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

*Career & Technical
Education Month
Proclamation*

***Career and Technical Education Month
February 2010***

WHEREAS, February 2010 has been designated Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and contributes to America's leadership in the international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education gives students experience in practical, meaningful applications of academic knowledge, thus improving the improving the quality of their education and preparing them to become college and career ready; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to acquire new skills, which provide them expanded career choices and also provides students leadership opportunities in their fields and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing cooperative efforts of career and technical educators, business and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our local economy and that of the entire nation by preparing graduates for career fields forecast to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade;

NOW THEREFORE, we, members of the Bloomington Board of Education, proclaim in the Bloomington Public Schools that February 2010 be observed as "Career and Technical Education Month."

The proclamation was accepted by Debbie Belfry, Career Development Coordinator. Jefferson and Kennedy students earn weighted grades for introductory engineering courses. These are rigorous college level courses. Current Project Lead the Way course offerings include Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering & Architecture, Digital Electronics, Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering. Students meeting eligibility requirements to take the college exam at Normandale Community College or the University of Minnesota can earn college credit. At Jefferson, 63 students have earned college credit. Last year ten Kennedy students were eligible to take college exams.

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the proclamation declaring February 2010 as Black History Month in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

*Black History Month
Proclamation*

Black History Month

WHEREAS, the history of people of African heritage goes back thousands of years and includes some of the greatest, most advanced and innovative societies in the history of human existence; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have played a significant role in the history of the State of Minnesota, from the early days of the pioneers to our present day leaders in education, agriculture, government, the arts, finance and international trade; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, all Americans are encouraged to reflect on the rich history and teachings of African Americans and bear witness to the progress, beauty, and achievements they have made throughout our region;

WHEREAS, in 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Black History throughout our American experience; and

WHEREAS, the history of African Americans and that of Americans from all of the world's cultures are reflected in the curriculum, learning materials, activities and celebrations throughout the year in the Bloomington Public Schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Bloomington Board of Education, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2010 to be Black History Month in the Bloomington School District. We encourage all staff, students and residents to join in celebrating the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultures and traditions of African Americans and to continue honoring the contributions of Black Americans throughout the year.

The observance focuses attention on the contributions of African Americans throughout American history and across all sectors of society. The proclamation emphasized the Bloomington Public Schools' commitment to recognizing the contributions of all Americans throughout the year.

The proclamation was accepted by Richard Scott, Sterling Adams and Akmed Khalifa, cultural liaisons from the Office of Educational Equity. Two students reported on Shades of Brown focuses and activities. Former Kennedy High School student Marcus Page, currently a student at Normandale Community College, highlighted the upcoming "Remembrance March" being hosted by the college on February 22. The march commemorates Black History month. Participants for the march will begin walking at 10 a.m. from the Bloomington Ice Garden to Normandale Community College. Presentations by community leaders follow the march. This event is open to the public.

MSBA Board Member of Distinction Award

Arlene Bush received MSBA's Board Member of Distinction Award during the January 14 recognition luncheon during the Leadership Conference. The Board Member Award of Distinction is awarded to board members who have attended 1,000 hour or more of MSBA training programs. Arlene Bush is the first-ever recipient of this award.

School Board Recognition Week

The week of February 22-26 is School Board Recognition Week. Superintendent Les Fujitake expressed appreciation to School Board members for their commitment, dedication and hard work to build a quality educational system for all learners. School Board members received a book to share with their ambassador schools.

Art Display

The new art display is provided by students from Valley View Middle School. Art specialists are Jan Hoyord and Stephanie Kristjanson.

V. PART A

1. Board Business Minutes

Personnel Items

- a. Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Board on January 11, 2010; Minutes of the Study Session on January 25, 2010; and Minutes of the Special Emergency Meeting on January 28, 2010.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Resignations, Leave of Absence, Employments.
Independent Personnel: Resignation, Retirement, Employment, Change of Status.
Classified Personnel: Terminations, Retirement, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.

- Non-Resident Student Agreements c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2009-2010: Students entering Bloomington total 41 and 8 students leaving. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2010-2011: Students entering Bloomington total 31 and 1 student leaving.
- Community Education Advisory Council d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the appointment of Jessica Kunkel to the Community Education Advisory Council for a three-year term, ending fiscal year 2011-2012.

2. Contracts/Agreements

- MOAC Mall Holdings LLC for SHAPE a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the renewal lease between MOAC Mall Holdings LLC and Independent School District No. 271 (for SHAPE). The lease commences on the first day of December 2009 and ends on the 30th day of November 2010.
- Supplemental Educational Services Provider b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Supplemental Educational Services Contract used for Title I educational tutoring services at Valley View Elementary School.

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 \$44,839.88.
- Finance Reports b. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the month ended December 2009.
- Receipts/Disbursements c. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush 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
Discipline Report
2008-2009

Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, presented to the School Board the 2008-2009 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. Examples of districtwide efforts supporting discipline include Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Safe and Drug Free Schools Advisory Council, PAUSE, School Attendance Review Board, community partnerships (such as Cornerstone, Washburn Clinic, City of Bloomington), Strategic Mentoring program, crisis prevention training and bullying curriculum.

Student suspensions for 2008-2009 totaled 363. In 1997-1998, the total was 1,480. Special Agreements/Expulsions for 2008-2009 numbered 10, compared to 38 in 2005-2006. Reasons for the 10 referrals for expulsion included: weapon (knife/BB gun), theft, assault, terroristic threat, chemical and chronic misconduct.

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 four school years. Discipline initiatives for 2009-2010, include expanding PBIS sites from seven to nine, implement revised discipline tracking system to support the Response to Intervention approach and develop an action plan to address the disproportionate rate of students of color and with disabilities. Marcia Engel, Student Services Supervisor, reviewed the principles of positive behavioral supports, which emphasizes teaching as the central behavior change tool, replaces coercion and punishment with evidence-based instructional and behavioral strategies and emphasizes the use of data collection and analysis for informed decisionmaking.

Valley View Middle School Principal Andy Kubas, Assistant Principal Ben Magras and Dean of Students Rob Murry, reported on the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) initiative that focuses on positives for staff and students, teaching expected behavior, systematic intervention and prevention through active supervision and clarification of how issues are handled, data analysis and strong teacher and staff leadership. The Valley View Virtues recognition plan—Values, Integrity, Respect/responsibility, Teamwork, Understanding, Excellence—was highlighted. Program results include an 81% decrease in out-of-school suspensions from 2004-2005 to 2009-2010 and a 66% decrease in behavior referrals from 2004-2005 to 2009-2010.

Graduation
Requirements

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Chuck Walter seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a conversion in graduation requirements, from 29 required and 32 total to 65 required and 72 total, resulting from the shift from the four period to the six period day at the high school level to take effect during the 2011-2012 school year. On roll call vote, directors Tim Culver, Chuck Walter, Maureen Bartolotta, Jim Sorum, Arlene Bush and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund voted aye. Mark Hibbs voted nay. Motion carried 6-1.

The “Budgeting for Success” process conducted in Spring 2009 included a recommendation to change the high school schedule to a less expensive model. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, Jefferson and Kennedy high schools will each move from their current four period day schedule to a six period day with a “modified block” option. The schedule change is part of a district-wide long-range financial planning recommendation to address current and future budget shortfall projections.

Dr. Nancy Allen-Mastro, Tim Anderson, Kevin Groebner, Linda Lee, Sara Schnadt, Rod Wade and Carol Kampa presented the new high school schedule model, which will include:

- 3 days/week of six periods
- 2 days/week of three block periods
(this is the modified block option)
- An "Early Bird" option for students to take a 7th class

This schedule was selected because it retains some elements of the current schedule, increases time in core subject areas, solves the issue of music consuming 25 percent of a student's schedule, and provides time for student enhancements, such as homeroom, tutorials, and engagement in student activities.

The projected savings of moving to a new schedule can be a significant cost savings and the revised schedule does not compromise the quality of education students receive in the District. Department and curriculum leaders are working on converting the current program of study to align with the six-period schedule, including a slight revision in credits and graduation requirements, and bridging current freshman and sophomore students' four-year plans. Information has been communicated to students and parents during this year's registration process—the registration guide and information meetings—noting that next year is the last year students will be able to accelerate classes, such as Math and World Languages. Presenters responded to student scheduling scenarios, i.e. Advanced Placement Biology and early bird classes. There will be a period of transition as the new schedule will begin with the 2011-2012 school year. Staff development on credit conversion will begin in May.

Director Hibbs indicated that the timetable for the schedule change will impact a certain group of students and their families, the process feels fragmented and a list identifying where specific dollar savings can be realized has not been presented, is the basis for his not supporting the motion.

Staffing 2010-2011

Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes the staffing recommendation for the 2010-2011 school year based upon an equivalent of 697.895 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 mid-year adjustments, the board will be apprised of any additional staffing utilized. Motion carried unanimously.

The staffing recommendation, as attached, is based upon current student enrollment and enrollment projections for the 2010-2011 school year. 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 Compensatory Revenue, Title I and other miscellaneous revenue sources that vary from year to year.

Policy 203

Jim Sorum moved, Chuck Walter seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the first reading of revised Policy 203, School Board Sessions. Motion carried unanimously.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that School Board sessions (meetings and study sessions) are conducted in an orderly fashion that allows School Board members to participate in discussion and act upon District matters necessary to accomplish the mission of the Bloomington Public Schools. The revised policy also reflects the new schedule for meetings and study sessions established by the School Board at its organizational meeting on January 11, 2010.

Policy 701.3

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

The first reading of this revised policy occurred at the January 11, 2010 Board Meeting. The purpose of this revision 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.

Bid Award/
OGMS Electrical
Switchgear
Replacement

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the Total Construction & Equipment Inc., Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, bid of \$375,600.00 to replace the electrical switchgear at Oak Grove Middle School and authorizes Administration to enter into a contract with Total Construction & Equipment, Inc. to accomplish this work. Motion carried unanimously.

This project is identified in the District's Alternative Facilities Plan approved by the State. The electrical equipment being replaced also was identified in the five-year needs assessment plan and involves replacing feeder cables, transformers and the main switch. The equipment has exceeded its intended lifespan and this work will reduce the chances of an unplanned power outage due to 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
Mid Year Budget
Adjustments

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the 2009-2010 revenue budget adjustments for all funds of \$1,592,532.00 and the expenditure budget adjustments for all funds of \$759,969.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Annually, Administration proposes adjustments to update our current year budgets. Stacy Colebrook-Robjent, Director of Finance and Support Services, presented information on the mid year adjustments. There are four major categories for budget adjustments: prior year carry over adjustment, updated information, grants/gifts/ revenue and other. The rationale and justification for the proposed budget adjustments were discussed in detail at the January 25, 2010 study session of the Board.

Fund Balance
Designation—
Structural Balance
Contingency

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the recommendation of designating \$2,000,000.00 for a Structural Balance Contingency from Unreserved General Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

The purpose of this resolution is to designate General Fund reserves to offset potential funding shortfalls from the State. This resolution, combined with other cost containment measures planned by the District, will result in a temporary increase in the General Fund balance. This intentional build up in the reserves will serve to offset projected near-term structural imbalance (expenses exceeding revenues), while the District ascertains the impact that the State deficit will have on public school funding. This resolution aligns with the recommendation made by the Community Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) at its meeting of October 21, 2009, and was reviewed by the Board at the December 21, 2009 Board Study Session.

Joint Purchasing
with Richfield
Public Schools

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes the Administration to enter into a Joint Purchasing Agreement with the Richfield Public School District. Motion carried unanimously.

In an effort to further collaboration and to enhance the buying power of each school district, the Finance Department wishes to participate in cooperative purchases, bids and contracts with the Richfield Public School District. Minnesota Statute 471.59 authorizes governmental units to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements. In order to realize the benefits of these agreements the units must enter into a joint agreement. There is no cost to either school district. District counsel and insurance agent of record have reviewed this agreement.

Naming Auditor
2009-2010

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 appoints Kern, DeWenter, Viere, Ltd. to perform a general financial audit for 2009-2010 conforming to State and Federal guidelines. The audit fee for school district records will be \$36,500. Motion carried unanimously.

The proposed 2009-2010 audit fees represent a 3.2% decrease from the 2008-2009 audit fees. Kern, DeWenter, Viere, Ltd. has been our auditor since 1995-1996.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arlene Bush reported that the Metropolitan Learning Alliance is going through a strategic planning process and Intermediate District 287 is concerned about rising costs and the effect of the Bloomington withdrawal. Maureen Bartolotta attended a Bloomington United for Youth meeting. The Coffee House initiative is making progress. The City has offered space at Creekside. It is anticipated that there will be an Open house in April. MSBA District 4 will meet in Eden Prairie on February 17. The PTSA Council will be working with the Youth Advisory Council on a districtwide food drive in early May.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. The School Board will meet with its Youth Advisory Council on Tuesday, February 16th at 5:30 p.m. at ESC in Rooms 610/610A.

Arlene Bush moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board establish a closed session for the purpose of negotiations discussion on Tuesday, February 16, at 7 p.m. following the meeting with the Youth Advisory Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board establish Monday, February 22, 5-6 p.m. at ESC in Room 610 for a 504 grievance appeal hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

There is a Board Study Session scheduled for Monday, February 22, at 6 p.m. at ESC in Room 610. 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