

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

**July 23, 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 July 23, 2007 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> 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, Bruce Pappas and Rod Zivkovich.
- Attorney Present Kingsley Holman.  
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC
- The School Board was introduced to Tim Anderson, the new Director of Teaching and Learning in the Academic Services Department. Mr. Anderson was a Social Studies teacher at Jefferson High School and has been an Administrative Assistant at Jefferson. He has provided leadership for summer programming. Mr. Anderson has been a respected leader in the school district. Over the last nine years, he has worked on many building and district-level committees. He holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction and is completing his doctorate studies at the University of Minnesota.
- Darrin Sawchuk, Special Education Supervisor, was introduced to the School Board. Mr. Sawchuk has twelve years in the field of special education. He holds a bachelor's degree in communication disorders and a master's degree in speech language pathology. He has been the Special Education Coordinator in the New Prague school district. His strong professional and human relations skills will be an asset in serving the students, parents and staff of the Bloomington Schools.
- V. PART A
1. *Board Business*
- Minutes
- Personnel Items
- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on July 9, 2007.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Resignation, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status, Rescission of Non-Renewal of Probationary Teacher. Non-Unit Personnel: Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Retirement, Employment, Changes of Status.

Non-Resident  
Agreements

- c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements:
  - Students entering Bloomington (list on file) 2006-2007 = 1
  - Students entering Bloomington (list on file) 2007-2008 = 6
  - Students leaving Bloomington (list on file) 2007-2008 = 4

District Memberships  
2007-2008

- d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the following association memberships for the 2007-2008 school year: Minnesota School Boards Association = \$10,998.00; Educational Cooperative Service Unit of the Metropolitan Twin Cities Area = \$10,000.00; Association of Metropolitan School Districts = \$14,928.00; and the Minnesota High School League (no fee). RESOLVED, that the School Board delegates the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic athletic and fine arts events to the Minnesota State High School League, renews the membership of John F. Kennedy Senior High School and Thomas Jefferson Senior High School in the Minnesota State High School League and authorizes participation in the approved interschool activities sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same are published in the latest edition of the League's Official Handbook, on file at the office of the School District or as it appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities and that the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities are assigned to the official representative identified by the School Board.

## 2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Communications  
Services-Deaf of  
Minnesota

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the renewed Instructor Services Agreement with Communication Services for the Deaf of Minnesota (CSD of Minnesota). This agreement will allow CSD of Minnesota to provide a part-time instructor for the purpose of instructing deaf students enrolled in deaf adult education classes at the Mall of America classroom site. CSD of Minnesota will invoice SHAPE on a quarterly basis for instructor costs up to a maximum of \$2,213.00. The term of this agreement shall commence July 1, 2007 and end June 30, 2008.

## 3. *Finance*

Gifts and 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 \$7,590.00.

Receipts/Disbursements

- b. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Arlene Bush moved, Maureen Peterson 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  
Metropolitan  
Learning Alliance  
Update

Sue Bunting, Director of the Metropolitan Learning Alliance (MLA), updated the School Board on programming. The MLA is the high school at the Mall of America, which is a Joint Powers Agreement between the Bloomington, Richfield, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts. The Bloomington School District serves as the fiscal agent for the MLA. Last year was a great year for the MLA; however it was one of many changes. The University of St. Thomas has been a strong partner with the MLA since its beginning in January, 1994. St. Thomas has been renting space from the MLA for the purpose of offering classes, thereby generating revenue to support the high school. St. Thomas has decided not to renew its lease. The plan is to find a new partner within the next year. In December, an instructor who has taught law enforcement for the past 10 years passed away. His passing concluded a 12-year partnership with the Dakota Technical College. Normandale Community College and the MLA have enjoyed a partnership for eight years. This was a key element to the smooth transition of law enforcement classes being conducted by an instructor from Normandale Community College.

Last year, the MLA served 123 students. Enrollment is maintained at approximately 100 students. MLA graduates are awarded a diploma from their home school district. Over the last eight years, the graduation rate for the MLA has been 78%. Approximately 70% of MLA students come from the Minneapolis Public Schools. Over the last three years, the percent of students going directly to college after graduation is 49%. An additional 20% of the students pursue post-secondary education after taking off one or two semesters. Many students want to earn money to attend school. Looking forward, new teachers have been hired, a new student accounting system is in place and the MLA is ready for the 2007-2008 school year.

Parade of  
Schools  
Update

Tom Lee and Liz Weatherhead, members of the District Marketing Committee, updated the School Board on the Parade of Schools magazine and event. The District Marketing Committee conducted research and learned that 30% of the existing families are new to the school district in the last five years and we have an information gap. To address the information gap and to provide Bloomington citizens with good information about the Bloomington Public Schools, the committee explored the possibility of a Parade of Schools magazine and event. However, the Marketing Committee did not want use taxpayer dollars for this effort; the committee decided to sell advertising. The budget for the magazine production is \$54,000. This is a significant reduction from the original cost estimate due to the generous bid from Bushard Photography to take the building photos for the magazine. As of July 23<sup>rd</sup>, a total of \$50,500 has been generated; of this amount, \$600 is donations. The revenue shortfall of \$3,500 (approximately \$400 more than the cost of postage for School Pages) for the project can be addressed through a couple of options—district contribution or print less to have on hand for the next two years. The Parade of Schools magazine will be delivered at the end of August to all Bloomington households.

Liz Weatherhead acknowledged major advertisers—Thrivent Financial, Hallberg Engineering, Bossardt Corporation and The Cuningham Group. Also acknowledged were donations from Krause Anderson Insurance and the Gilbertson Family. Tom Lee expressed appreciation to some members of the Marketing Committee--Liz Weatherhead, Chip Groth, Patti Marrin, Steve Abrahamson and Addie Mattson. The school open house event will take place on September 25. Bloomington residents will be invited into schools for tours and information sessions. Expected outcomes are closing the information gap within our families new to Bloomington in the last five years; provide valuable information to the community and market the school district to the community.

Volunteer  
Connection  
K-12 Programs  
Update  
2006-2007

Dr. Debra Fincham, Assistant Superintendent, updated the School Board on Volunteer Connection K-12 activities for 2006-2007. The goal of the program is to support the successful development of K-12 learners through innovative programs and a caring network of volunteers. Last year, 611 volunteers from businesses, faith community, colleges and individuals, provided 19,986 hours of help for Bloomington students through the Volunteer Connection. Volunteers contribute services as basic skills tutors, ESL tutors, classroom assistants and assistants for the International Kids (& Parents) Club, the International Welcome Club and the Homework Connection. Some of the volunteers are prospective teachers from Normandale Community College who volunteer through America Reads and America Counts. In 2006-2007, volunteers supported 5,725 students. Volunteer Connection recruits, screens, trains and supervises the volunteers.

Security Committee  
Update

Rod Zivkovich, Executive Director of Finance and Support Services, along with Mike Berg, Director of Facilities, provided an update to the School Board on the work of the Security Committee. The charge to the committee is to organize and coordinate secure learning and working environments for staff and students of the Bloomington Public Schools. Two meetings have been held this summer. Agenda topics included mission, current projects, security needs, discussion of security doors and phone messaging. In 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Food Service and Transportation departments will contribute \$20,000 each to the General Fund for technology support. The money is to be used for cameras to improve security in the schools and the bus loop areas and some security door issues.

Poplar Bridge Elementary was the first pilot school for the door buzzer system. The second pilot program is ESC (Door C). Next steps include the installation of two more buzzer systems—one at Washburn and one other elementary school. The plan will be introduced at the school's PTSA meeting, followed by letters to parents explaining the change. The Security Committee will provide training for staff regarding the door buzzer system. The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association grants were awarded for the installation of the controlled access systems at Poplar Bridge and ESC. Grants, or other funding sources, will be pursued to pay for future system installations.

The Security Committee also discussed mass communication phone systems (which has been tabled for now), Nextel cell phones for administrators and changes in the identification badge process. The next committee meeting is planned for November.

Racially Isolated  
School District  
Update

Bruce Pappas, Executive Director of Human Resources, provided the School Board with an update on the District's designation as a racially isolated school district by the Minnesota Department of Education. The previous designation was a racially isolated school—Valley View Elementary. Designated as a "Racially Isolated School", the District is to provide the option for students in schools on AYP to go to a school of their choice (not on AYP) and the District provides busing.

A "Racially Isolated District," is one that has more than a 20% difference in diverse student population than its neighboring school districts. Bloomington Schools is a "Racially Isolated District" to the Edina Schools. The District is to provide the option for students in schools (on AYP) in our district or a collaborating district to go to a school of their choice in our district or a collaborating district (not on AYP). The District would provide busing for our students. The Minnesota Department of Education program is called "The Choice is Yours." Bloomington Schools must attempt to collaborate with the Edina school district. Edina said no, as they are already in a collaborative WMEP (West Metro Education Program). Collaboratives in which the Bloomington Schools are involved include SHAPE (South Hennepin Adult Programs in Education) and the MLA (Metropolitan Learning Alliance). The District will explore if current collaboratives qualify; they may not since they are only secondary programs (need K-12). Possible new collaboratives include WMEP; Burnsville, Lakeville, Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan (recently formed); or another school district that does not need to be adjoining--the State has offered to be of assistance. In the middle of June, the District was given a two-week notice of this new designation just prior to the integration plan being due on June 30. At the end of June, our integration plan for next year was submitted to the State. The plan for next year included a \$20,000 budget (estimated) for "Integration Revenue Contributed to Collaborative."

Next Steps—The Office of Educational Equity is in close contact with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), the District is exploring collaborative options, the District is waiting for MDE approval of our integration plan for next year. To be in compliance, the District has one year (by end of June 2008) to develop a collaborative.

New Policy 701.3  
Fund Balance

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

The policy has been created 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 unbudgeted expenditures. District Counsel has reviewed the Fund Balance policy. The accompanying administrative regulation outlines procedures related to this policy.

- VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS  
Chuck Walter highlighted Summer BLAST at Valley View Middle School, Early Reading First student progress—they are ready for Kindergarten and the summer musical production—*The Wizard of Oz*. Arlene Bush reported on a District 287 Facilities Committee meeting at the South Education Campus (formerly Lincoln Hills) in Richfield.
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
Superintendent Les Fujitake indicated that the District is in negotiations with five of the seven employee unions. School Board members are helping by participating in the negotiations sessions. The District and the Bloomington Federation of Teachers are working collaboratively on an Alternative Teacher Performance Pay System (ATPPS/Q-Comp) application. The District is working on the development of a Master Facilities Plan. The last plan was completed eight years ago. The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is August 13th at 7 p.m.
- IX. OTHER  
None.
- X. ADJOURNMENT  
There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk