

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

**August 10, 2009**

- 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 August 10, 2009, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Jim Sorum, Vice Chair; Maureen Peterson, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; and Chuck Walter.
- Members Absent Tim Culver and Mark Hibbs.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, 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 THE PUBLIC The Rotary Club of Bloomington is an organization of leaders working together to make a difference in our community and the world. Rotary members are civic-minded, current and emerging business and professional leaders who join together for fellowship, professional enrichment, and the opportunity to serve. Members provide volunteer time, money and expertise to improve the community and support the youth of Bloomington. Adam Johnston, President of the Noon Rotary Club, highlighted a few of the projects having a direct impact on our students: Dictionary Project—new dictionaries to all third grade students at Valley View and Indian Mounds elementary schools in the past and this year will add Washburn and Oak Grove elementary schools; Youth Exchange Program—sponsoring a foreign exchange student from Brazil; the STRIVE Program—providing mentorship opportunities to motivate high school students to achieve and seek post-high school education; Rotary Readers—reading to Children at various schools and sites; Pack to School—filling 125 backpacks with school supplies for distribution to students in need at Valley View Middle School and Indian Mounds Elementary School. Twelve of the Noon Rotary members participated in the recent Chip in for Schools golf tournament.

Superintendent Les Fujitake announced that complementing the Rotary Dictionary Project, the Bloomington Lion's Club will be donating dictionaries to third grade students in the remaining elementary schools and recognized Jim Alego for the organization's efforts.

The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has been serving the Bloomington community since 1981. A volunteer Board of Directors of 6 to 20 individuals is elected to serve two-year terms. The purpose of the organization is to provide financial assistance to Bloomington community members who are engaged in crime prevention activities. It provides support to many Bloomington community based crime prevention programs and events including Bloomington School District violence/crime prevention and safety education programs and Bloomington Community Education safety programs for "high risk" populations. One of the fund raising programs is the annual Book'Em used book sale, which is the second largest book sale in the nation—over 300,000 books were donated. Carol Huttner and Don Peterson, members of the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association, reported on the success of this effort. BCPA has contributed funds to a number of Bloomington events—senior all night graduation parties, Lights on After School activities, Galaxy Centers and security cameras. Don Peterson highlighted the loyal volunteers who organize and run the sale. Maureen Peterson was the volunteer coordinator for the book sale from 2001-2008. Books not sold are donated to Books for Africa.

The School Board expressed appreciation to these organizations for supporting education, our students and the community of Bloomington.

V. PART A  
1. *Board Business*  
Minutes

Personnel Items

Non-Resident  
Student Agreements

District Memberships  
2009-2010

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on July 13, 2009.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Resignation, Leaves of Absence, Part-Time Teacher Program Participants, Employments, Changes of Status, Rescission of Non-Renewal of Probationary Teacher.  
Independent Personnel: Elimination of Position, Employment, Change of Status.  
Classified Personnel: Termination, Resignations, Changes of Status.
- c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2008-2009: Students entering Bloomington total 1 and 3 students leaving.  
Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2009-2010: Students entering Bloomington total 13 and 6 students leaving.
- d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the following association memberships for the 2009-2010 school year: Minnesota School Boards Association = \$11,672.00; Association of Metropolitan School Districts = \$13,990.00; and the Minnesota High School League (no fee).

The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 271, County of Hennepin, State of Minnesota, 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*

Student Teaching

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with Concordia University. This agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

Food Catering  
Agreements

- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the continuation of providing catering services to the following non-public schools for the 2009-2010 school year: Nativity of Mary, Life Academy and Minnehaha Academy and authorizes Administration to renew catering agreements with these non-public schools.

3. *Finance*

Commerce Bank

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves an agreement to have Commerce Bank provide AutoPay automatic credit card bill payment services for the District.

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

SARB Report  
2008-2009

Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, introduced Patty Fahlnder, from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, who updated the School Board on the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). SARB is an intervention program designed to help students and families avoid court referral for truancy. SARB goals are to devise a plan empowering the student to fulfill their obligation to attend school while emphasizing the real and potential assets of the child and considering personal strengths along with family and community support. The SARB Board meets with truant students and their parent(s) to provide intervention measures and seek alternatives to court referral.

Participants of the SARB process include the student, school and parent(s). Along with school representatives, the SARB Board is comprised of Bloomington volunteers from the Bloomington Police and Public Health departments, Cornerstone Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services, Storefront, Anthony Louis Center and Hennepin County Family and Children Services.

In 2008-2009, of the 117 referrals to SARB, the largest numbers of referrals were from Kennedy and Jefferson in grade 9 and grade 10. Of the 117 referrals, 106 students/parents attended a SARB meeting. This is the fourth year using the truancy risk factor tool, which identifies the multiple issues that can play into student attendance problems. Among the 106 students and their parent/guardian served, 330 risk factors were identified at referral, in phone conversation with a parent/guardian or at the SARB meeting. Examples include: *Student Factors*: failing grades more than one year, attendance issues prior school year/s, mental health issues, special education, peers who skip, pattern of low achievement, lack of involvement in after-school activities, drug and/or alcohol use, lack of social skills, prior court involvement, physical health issues and possible sexual, physical or emotional abuse. *Family Factors*: single parent home, social/cultural or language barriers, lack of parent supervision/control, co-parenting conflict, parent mental health issues, parent drug/alcohol use and lack of commitment to education. *Economic Factors*: lack of basic needs such as food, clothing, housing; high mobility rate, parent has multiple jobs, lack of childcare and lack of transportation.

Pre/Post data shows that SARB meetings had a greater impact this year with decreases in all areas as compared to the 2007-2008 school year. Decreases are due to the following:

- Stronger relationships among referring school staff, board members, LSS facilitators.
- School staff referred students before they were in chronic patterns of poor attendance.
- Parents expressed high expectations to their child about improved attendance.
- SARB located at the schools enables parents to meet more school staff including the school nurse, counselors and principals, resulting in increased communication between the parent and school.
- Parents left the meeting with options, resources and feeling supported.

#### 2007-2008 SARB Recommendations Implemented

- Facilitate SARB once a month at Jefferson High School.
- Facilitate SARB once a month at Valley View Elementary School.
- Met with Director of Student Services to discuss truancy prevention/intervention strategies resulting in one meeting in 2009 attended by Hennepin County, Storefront, LSS, and Bloomington schools staff and a second meeting with Bloomington schools principals.

### 2008-2009 SARB Summary Recommendations

- Stay updated with Child Protection regarding filing deadline for educational neglect and adjust SARB schedule as needed.
- Meet with Jefferson staff to review attendance policies to assure best utilization of SARB at their school.

Mr. Geraghty indicated that the number of chronic truants has declined in the past five years. A chronic truant for an elementary student is 7 or more absences and for a secondary student it is 7 or more classes or 7 or more days of schools as an unexcused absence. SARB is one of several interventions for truancy. Each school has a set of tools to reach students and families. Overall, SARB had a successful year in helping students. Attendance is important to student success in school.

### Athletic Conference Update

Steve Hill, current Chair of the Lake Conference Executive Board and principal of Jefferson High School, updated the School Board on upcoming changes. The changes coming to the Lake Conference will impact the membership and have implications for Kennedy and Jefferson High Schools. Bloomington has a long history and tradition going back to 1954. In these past 55 years, the Lake Conference included Lincoln until it closed, and Kennedy since 1964 and Jefferson since 1971. The current Lake Conference is made up of 12 schools and provides a structure to compete and participate in a variety of both athletic and fine art activities for our students. Chanhassen is the newest member of this conference, joining this year. Any changes to the Lake Conference membership will not occur this year. The conference participation will continue with all 12 schools for this current school year, 2009-2010. Change will occur for next school year, 2010-2011. During the past school year of 2008-2009, the Classic Lake Conference, consisting of 5 schools; Wayzata, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Edina, and Armstrong voted to disband by removing Armstrong for the 2010-2011 school year. Armstrong was accepted by another conference. The remaining four schools applied and were denied to several other conferences. The Minnesota State High School League followed their process with very clear timelines, of placing the remaining 4 schools. On June 15, a Placement Committee determined by the MSHSL took comments from all 4 schools and two conferences, including the Lake Conference. The Lake Conference offered rationale to place 2 schools, Edina and Minnetonka, in the Conference and place the other 2 schools in the Northwest Suburban Conference. After hearing the comments, the Placement Committee made a recommendation to the League Board to place all 4 schools in the Lake Conference. These 4 schools and our Lake Conference did not agree with this recommendation. In July, Chaska and Chanhassen applied and were accepted for membership in the Minnesota Conference beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. On July 13, The MSHSL conducted an appeal, where an independent hearing officer took testimony. He affirmed the recommendation by the Placement Committee to place all 4 Classic Lake schools in our conference. His job was to determine if the Placement Committee followed State Law and the MSHSL procedures, not to agree or disagree with their placement decision.

On August 25, the MSHSL Board of Directors will make the final decision on this issue. They can place all 4 in our conference, they can place 2 schools in our conference, and 2 in another northern conference, or they can decide on a third option of their choosing. On September 15, the Lake Conference Executive Committee will meet to review the MSHSL Board's placement decision. Conference memberships and formations of any new Conferences must be finalized by October 1, 2009, effective for the 2010-2011 school year. Bloomington and the other Lake Conference Schools have studied how the placement of these former Classic Lake School in the Lake Conference may affect the Lake Conference and JHS and KHS. All have concerns with the addition of these 4 schools because the Lake Conference will become the largest conference in the State. The scheduling logistics and the balance of competition of a Conference this size and this diverse will be very problematic. The Lake Conference and JHS and KHS have identified a number of options to address these problems. Some of our identified options include pulling out of the Lake Conference to form a new conference, some schools joining another conference or conferences, or some schools going independent. All options for Bloomington are being carefully analyzed and will be discussed with the School Board. The most important criteria is to provide an appropriate conference structure for all of our high school students so they are able to have positive learning experiences through successful participation in our athletic and fine arts programs. This could be decided by October 1, which would mean a change for Bloomington and the Lake Conference for the 2010-2011 school year. If this is unresolved by October 1, Bloomington will continue in the Lake Conference, most likely adding the 4 Classic Lake Schools, and being a conference of 14 schools for one year, and looking at this issue in the future.

Class Rank  
Update

Tim Anderson, Jim Angermeyr, Ron Simmons and Steve Hill, members of the High School Advisory Committee, updated the School Board on the topic of class rank on transcripts. This spring, the School Board received information from our high schools related to the removal of class rank from transcripts. Many local high schools have dropped class rank out of concern that the number hurts too many students in the college admissions process. In Bloomington, for example, the 50th ranked student at Jefferson has a 3.975 GPA. Because we rank students for colleges, they might penalize this student who has an incredibly high GPA, and who is not in the class top 10%. We will continue to report GPA to colleges—just not class rank. We are confident that students would not be hurt in any way if we dropped class rank. We would still be in a position to report class rank if need be (e.g. merit and/or honor scholarship applications, military academy applications, etc.). Locally, Edina, Minnetonka, Wayzata, and now Eden Prairie have all studied the issue and decided to no longer report class rank. In fact, according to the College Board, citing a report from the National Association for College Admission Counseling, over half of all high schools no longer report student rankings. At a workshop in March, the Bloomington School Board indicated approval of this modification, as long as all interested parties could accurately determine a student's approximate status within his/her class at any point in time. We were advised to study the Edina model.

It has been determined that Bloomington high schools will end the practice of reporting specific class rank on transcripts and instead provide a GPA distribution decile graph for the student's senior class as part of the high school profile. This change should take effect for the Class of 2010.

Site based management/PTSA committees at each high school were used to inform the community. Student status will be tracked internally. The Eden Prairie and Edina models were considered. It was determined that we will adopt an "Edina-like" decile model, because it will best provide a very close approximation of the GPA at given point in time. When needed, we will provide class rank (e.g. merit and/or honor scholarship applications, military academy applications, etc.). Each school will inform parents and students this fall. We will develop and maintain a website with the decile explanation and FAQs.

MCA II Testing  
and Title I AYP  
Consequences

Jim Angermeyr, Director of Research and Evaluation, and Beth Anderson, Director of Curriculum for Elementary Schools Board, updated the School Board on MCA II Testing—Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Title I consequences. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability is based on four components: *Participation*: 95% of all students enrolled must participate in the NCLB tests. *Proficiency*: All students must be on track to be proficient by 2014. *Attendance*: Elementary, middle schools and districts need a 90% attendance rate. *Graduation*: High schools and districts need an 80% graduate rate. Schools and districts must show improvement for all students and also for eight different subgroups. A student may be counted in more than one group. Four schools in the District receive Title I services: Indian Mounds, Oak Grove, Valley View and Washburn. Title I schools and districts are held to rigorous requirements for continuous progress.

This is the second consecutive year the District did not meet AYP. The District is "In Need of Improvement" status. This status will be communicated to all parents by a letter mailed from the District with information following the requirements set forth. This includes information on how the District will address the problem. The District will continue to focus on the District Improvement Plan and set aside the required percentage of the Title I budget to support staff development.

This is the second consecutive year that Washburn Elementary did not make AYP and now is in the "School Choice" status. Parents will receive a letter indicating this status and that they have an option to attend another public school and may receive transport. Staff will write a School Improvement Plan.

This is the third consecutive year Valley View Elementary School did not meet AYP. The status label is “Supplemental Services.” Parents will receive a letter indicating this status and the option to attend another public school for which they may receive transportation and students may receive free Supplemental Education Services if remaining at the site-- priority will be given to low-income students who are testing below grade level. Staff has a School Improvement Plan that is being followed and will be revised and continued.

Volunteer  
Connection  
Programs  
Update  
2008-2009

Debbie Belfry, Volunteer Connection Coordinator, updated the School Board on E-12 activities for 2008-2009. 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, 575 volunteers from businesses, faith community, colleges and individuals, provided 25,448 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 at three locations—Westwood, Oak Grove Middle School and Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. Some of the volunteers are prospective teachers from Normandale Community College who volunteer through America Reads and America Counts. In 2008-2009, volunteers supported 8,230 students. There are over 15 collaborating colleges and universities. Faith communities contributed 1,004 volunteer hours. Volunteer Connection recruits, screens, trains and supervises the volunteers. These programs support the Strategic Direction to maximize student achievement and eliminate the achievement gap.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

Chuck Walter highlighted the upcoming roundtable discussion with local legislators and the School Board’s Legislative Committee—August 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Members of the PTSA Council Legislative Committee will join in the discussion. The meeting agenda is posted on the District website under School Board information.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S  
REPORT

There is a School Board Workshop on August 17 at 7 p.m. following the legislative roundtable. The first day of school for grades 1-12 is September 8. Kindergarten classes begin on September 9.

Superintendent Les Fujitake updated the School Board on two administrative position hires. Joan Bernard, Director of Technology and Information Services, will begin on August 17. Ms. Bernard has served in various roles on the eLearning Team at Winona State University. Most recently, she has been the Learning Systems Coordinator. Stacy Colebrook-Robjent, Director of Finance and Support Services, will begin at the end of August. Currently, Ms. Colebrook-Robjent serves as the Business Manager of the Pine River-Backus School District. These staff members will be introduced at the September School Board meeting.

Four seats on the School Board are up for election this fall—Arlene Bush, Tim Culver, Mark Hibbs and Maureen Peterson. Terms are for four (4) years, beginning January 4, 2010. The election date is November 3, 2009. Filings for School Board seats will be accepted at the Educational Services Center Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning August 25. The deadline to file is 5:00 p.m. on September 8. The filing fee is \$2.00. The Elections Clerk is Jennifer Hazel in the Finance Office.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Maureen Peterson, Clerk