

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

August 11, 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 August 11, 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, Pat Geraghty, Tom Holton, Rick Kaufman, 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 Arlene Bush moved, Chuck Walter seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC Executive Director Cary Weatherby updated the School Board on on Companies to Classrooms, which first opened March 2006. A few facts as of June 30, 2008: goods distributed total an estimated value of \$500,000; there have been 5,089 teacher visits; 4,100 volunteer hours; 275 financial in-kind donors and 20,126 pencils have been distributed to schools. Thanks to Target for setting up the original store (106th & France) and for moving Companies to Classrooms to its new location, which is 8301 Grand Avenue. This move took place in June 2007. Monthly sponsors support the rent/operating expenses. Partners include: Education Foundation of Bloomington, Richfield Bloomington Credit Union, The Toro Company, Excel Energy, Watson Wyatt Worldwide, Thomson West, David Fong's, Bloomington Lions Club, Thrivent Financial and N'Compass. Companies to Classrooms serves Bloomington and Richfield school districts. Teachers and staff can begin shopping on August 18.
- V. PART A
1. *Board Business*
Minutes
Personnel Items
- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on July 28, 2008.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Resignations, Part-time Teacher Program Participants, Employments, Changes of Status.
Classified Personnel: Resignation, Retirement, Employments, Changes of Status.

Non-Resident

- c. Non Resident Student Agreements:
 - 2007-2008 Students Leaving Bloomington = 7
 - 2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 12
 - 2008-2009 Students Leaving Bloomington = 2

2. *Grants/Applications*

Bloomington Crime
Prevention Association

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts grants totaling \$13,700 from the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) for school district violence prevention projects during the 2008-2009 school year.

3. *Contracts/Agreements*

Food Catering
Agreements

- a. 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 2008-2009 school year: Nativity of Mary, Bethany Academy, Life Academy and Minnehaha Academy and authorizes Administration to renew catering agreements with these non-public schools.

4. *Finance*

Receipts/Disbursements

- a. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Arlene Bush moved, Chuck Walter 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. Ms. Bunting highlighted the law enforcement and criminal justice classes offered through Normandale Community College. Last year was the first full year these courses were offered. The program was marketed through the Bloomington Police Explorer Program. Three Bloomington students took advantage of this program. In a competition held annually, one of the students was part of a team that placed first in "Street Decisions" and was the recipient of the Jerry Cotten Scholarship. Jerry Cotten was the Law Enforcement instruction at MLA for the past ten years before he passed away. MLA enrollment is down slightly from previous years. A factor is that students now have a variety of educational choices. Last year the MLA hired three new teachers. The MLA is staffed with 5.1 FTEs plus instructors from Normandale Community College, a full-time administrator and part-time administrative assistant. A focus for next year will be extra efforts to improve achievement levels and test scores. The MLA lease at the Mall of America is in place for four and one-half more years.

SARB Report
2007-2008

Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, introduced staff from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Mary Anderson and Patty Fahnländer, who updated the School Board on the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). Mary Anderson is the SARB Program Director. 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. 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. The SARB Board meets with truant students and their parent(s) to provide intervention measures and seek alternatives to court referral.

In 2007-2008, of the 103 referrals to SARB, the largest numbers of referrals were from Kennedy and Jefferson in grade 9 and grade 10. Of the 103 referrals, 91 students/parents attended a SARB meeting. The SARB meeting impacted the attendance of 52 students (50 high school) and data was collected on these students. This is the third year using the truancy risk factor tool, which identifies the multiple issues that can play into student attendance problems. Among the 91 students and their parent/guardian served, 249 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, peers who skip, special education, mental health issues, lack of involvement in after-school activities, drug and/or alcohol use, lack of social skills, prior assaultive behavior, adjudicated delinquent and physical health issues. *Family Factors*: single parent home, social/cultural or language barriers, lack of parent supervision/control, parent mental health issues and lack of commitment to education. *Economic Factors*: single parent home, poverty, high mobility rate, parent has multiple jobs, lack of childcare and student employed.

Lutheran Social Services coordinator requests and received feedback from school staff and SARB board members about the coordination and/or SARB process. Recommendations are as follows:

- Increase Jefferson High School utilization of SARB by facilitating meeting at the high school once/month.
- Meet with Director of Student Services to discuss truancy prevention/intervention strategies prior to high school and potential for SARB pilot project at elementary or middle school in 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Geraghty indicated that the number of chronic truants has declined in the past four 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. Beginning next year, the SARB Board will be on site at Jefferson High School, as well as Kennedy High School. A focus for next year will be at the elementary level and exploring Valley View Elementary as a site for a SARB Board.

Policy 521

Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 adopts Policy 521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination. Motion carried unanimously.

The purpose of this policy is to protect disabled students from discrimination on the basis of disability and to provide for the identification and the evaluation of students who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need special services, accommodations, or programs in order that such learners may receive a free appropriate public education. This policy has been reviewed and approved by Kingsley Holman and reviewed with the School Board at its July 21st workshop.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arlene Bush and Maureen Bartolotta attended the AMSD meeting at which the legislative platform was discussed and will be revised. On August 28, there is a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of District 287 South Education Center.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. There is a School Board Workshop on Monday, August 18th, scheduled for 7 p.m. Arlene Bush moved, Jim Sorum seconded, to change the time to 6:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The workshop will be in the Oak Grove Middle School Media Center. Agenda topics include: Legislative Committee Update, AYP Results, Success Measures, Policy Review, School Board Elections and School Board Engagement. Chuck Walter, Chair of the Board's Legislative Committee, indicated that community members of the Legislative Committee have been invited to attend the Board Workshop.

The Minnesota Department of Education has awarded the District a Technology Grant in the amount of \$82,000 for the purpose of creating an interactive DVD that addresses literacy and math for Kindergarteners.

Chair Bartolotta highlighted the District Events Calendar on the website and encouraged Board Member participation at upcoming events.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk