

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

September 10, 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 September 10, 2007 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Maureen Peterson, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Mark Hibbs (7:40 p.m. arrival) and Jim Sorum.
- Member Absent Tim Culver.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Debra Fincham, Pat Geraghty, Bruce Pappas, Tom Holton, Rod Zivkovich and Rick Kaufman.
- Attorney Present Kingsley Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC Superintendent Les Fujitake introduced Rick Kaufman, the new Executive Director of Community Relations. Mr. Kaufman is the former Executive Director of Public Engagement and Communications for Jeffco Public Schools, Colorado's largest school system with 85,000 students. He was responsible for directing the district's communications, public information, and community engagement programs and served as chief spokesperson and communications counsel to the Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education and the district's management team. In April 1999, Rick Kaufman led the Crisis Response Team and became a familiar face and voice in national media coverage of the Columbine High School tragedy. Among the first to arrive at the high school after the attack began, he was responsible for coordinating strategic communications about the crisis and its aftermath. Most recently, Mr. Kaufman has been heading up his own communications/public relations consulting business, working on operating tax levy campaigns for the Robbinsdale and Edina school districts, writing the revised Complete Crisis Management Manual for the National School Public Relations Association and conducting crisis management training with various school districts, universities, and emergency management agencies.

Rick Kaufman is a nationally respected speaker and consultant on crisis management and communications, media relations, community engagement, and communication planning. He has directed school communications programs for 17 years, including the Sheboygan and Racine school districts in Wisconsin, and as a special consultant with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Bob Gunderson and Beth Gunderson are co-chairing the Unite Bloomington for Schools citizens committee that is working for the passage of the school district's referendum on November 6. Strong schools are one of the important factors drawing people to live in Bloomington. They encouraged the public to protect their current investment and an investment in the future by supporting both of the referendum ballot questions—one for a replacement operating levy and one for a new technology levy.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*
Minutes

Personnel Items

Non-Resident
Agreements

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on August 27, 2007.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Employments, Changes of Status. Non-Unit Personnel: Resignation. Classified Personnel: Termination, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.
- c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2007-2008:
Students Entering Bloomington = 33
Students Leaving Bloomington = 23

2. *Contracts and Agreements*

U of M
Early Reading First
Contract Extension

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the amendment to the term of the Services Agreement with the University of Minnesota modifying the expiration date in the term of the contract from August 31, 2007, to December 31, 2007.

3. *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.

VI. PART B

Early Reading
First Grant Update

In an update to the School Board, Kay Miller, Youth and Family Education Coordinator, reported that evaluation results indicate that the Early Reading First/Get Ready Program met and exceeded its goal. This program is a federal Department of Education grant. Project goals are to improve the language and early reading skills of at-risk and English Language Learner preschool children so they can be academically competitive upon entering Kindergarten, improve student skills sufficiently so they can maintain their academic success through second grade.

An evaluation of the project was conducted by the University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI). Judy Hornbacher, Primary Investigator, and Shannon Rader, Research Assistant, presented preliminary results of student achievement over the three-year period of the grant. Results show that student gains increased each year of the program. Students in the program for two years made greater gains in all areas compared to those in the program for one year only. Teacher practice improved each year of the program. Classroom environments improved from the beginning to the end of the program. Parents were supportive of the program. Conclusions from the evaluation of the project that were reported to the School Board were as follows: The goals of the Early Reading First/Get Ready project were met and exceeded. As a result of the program, students were competitive when they entered Kindergarten. Consistent and continuing professional development and coaching were major factors in the program's success. Bilingual support for teachers and parents was significant. Strong project management and oversight created an intelligent and orderly environment in which change could occur.

Dr. Hornbacher shared future thinking points—the District has been very proactive in seeing the benefits of Early Reading First and providing for ways to continue the project in modified form even without federal dollars. It has met the federal goals by building capacity of teachers and staff. Because there are several different pre-school models now in place, the District might consider internal ways to continue monitoring the progress of students in each model for future decision making.

(Mark Hibbs arrived 7:40 p.m.)

Athletic Program
Update

Ted Schultz, District Athletic Director, provided the School Board with an overview of District athletics for 2006-2007. Currently there are a total of 170 athletic teams—137 high school, 24 middle school and 9 adapted. Boys sports offerings total 14 and girls total 16 (not including competition or sport cheer). There are 172 coaching positions and a total of 1685 contests in a year. Fifty percent (50%) of our high school students participate in high school athletics. Of the 3,501 high school students enrolled in the Bloomington Public Schools, 1733 participate in athletics, of which 854 participants are male and 879 participants are female. The total athletic budget is 1.4% of the total District budget. Girls Lacrosse was added in 2005-2006 and Boys Lacrosse was added in 2006-2007. Participation in athletics enhances overall student achievement. Studies have shown that student-athletes tend to have higher grade point averages, better attendance records, lower drop-out rates, fewer discipline problems than non-participating studies, core ethical values and life-long skills, strong sense of community, increased confidence and self-esteem and higher graduation rates. Athletic Achievements for 2006-2007 included Kennedy Alpine 3rd in State, Kennedy Girls Lacrosse 3rd in State, Jefferson Boys Basketball State Qualifier, Jets Adapted Team qualified for three State tournaments and 26 individuals in the school district qualified for State tournaments.

Recent initiatives include Coaching to Change Lives: Character Education (in place for its third year) and focusing on core ethical values, Bloomington Athletic Hall of Fame (second year), Booster Club Guidelines, Summer Strength Program/Strength Programs and Bloomington AOD Safe House. Focusing on communication efforts, Parent/Athlete/Coach meetings take place in the fall, winter and spring and the District website contains a variety of information under the Athletics Department. Ted Schultz commended Brad Parker for his coordination of the Middle School Athletics program.

Policy 529
Staff Notification of
Violent Behavior
by Students

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District #271 approve the second reading of Policy 529, Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students. Motion carried unanimously.

This new policy is in response to Minnesota Statute §121A.64, which asserts that a classroom teacher has a legitimate interest in knowing which students placed in the teacher's classroom have a history of violent behavior and must be notified in advance of such students being placed in the teacher's classroom. The critical provisions of this law have been contained in Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Student Records. However, these provisions are not very visible or clear. Also, they are inconsistent with recommendations coming from a committee of administrators and the Bloomington Federation of Teachers representatives that met in 2003-2004 when the law was initially passed. During the course of the last school year a committee of teachers and administrators met to refine the work that was done in 2003-2004. The draft policy and regulation were taken to a K-12 Principals meeting. Kingsley Holman has reviewed and provided input into shaping the proposed new policy and regulation. Principals will be addressing this policy with staff during workshop week.

MLA Joint
Powers Agreement
Revision

Arlene Bush moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that, the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the revision to the Joint Powers Agreement for the Metropolitan Learning Alliance (MLA). Motion carried unanimously.

The Joint Powers Agreement for the Metropolitan Learning Alliance (MLA) sets forth the details of the agreement for the School at the Mall of America and the responsibilities of its Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees meets every other month. In an effort to conduct business in a timely fashion, the revision provides that in the absence of the School Board member and alternate, the district's Superintendent has voting rights. The School Boards of the other four school districts of this Joint Powers Agreement—Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Richfield and St. Paul—have approved the change. The revised section of the Joint Powers Agreement is as follows:

III. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- A. The MLA shall have a Board of Trustees consisting of twelve persons, ~~only five of whom shall have the right of vote. The five voting members shall consist of the five school board members who are the representatives of the respective school districts which are parties hereto. The other seven, who shall be advisory only, shall be the Superintendent of Schools of the respective school districts herein and two persons designated by the Mall of America business community.~~ **five school board members who are the representatives of the respective school districts which are parties hereto, the Superintendent of Schools of the respective school districts herein and two persons designated by the Mall of America business community. Only five persons shall have the right to vote, one per district. The five voting members shall consist of the five school board members, one from each respective district. If a school board member is unable to attend a meeting, an alternate school board member may attend. In the absence of a school board member or alternate, that district's superintendent or designee may vote. The other persons shall be advisory only.**

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jim Sorum reported on ETAC Committee activities. Arlene Bush highlighted back to school events and activities.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake indicated that there is a School Board Workshop scheduled for Monday, September 17th at 7 p.m. Agenda topics include the presentation of the preliminary levy.

Tuesday is the sixth anniversary of the 9/11 incident and the heroic response by members of United Flight 93, of which Bloomington's Tom Burnett, Jr. was a member. There will be a remembrance program at 1 p.m. at St. Edward's Church at 94th and Nesbitt. Students from Ridgeview Elementary and Jefferson High School will be part of the program. U. S. Representative Jim Ramstad will be the speaker. Mayor Gene Winstead will be the emcee. Renee Sbrocco, Oak Grove Middle School Dean of Students, will give remarks relating to citizenship and the curriculum that has been developed around this event.

Mr. Fujitake reported that the new school year is off to a great start. The Transportation Department and our new principals were pleased with how smoothly the system functioned on the opening days.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk