

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

**September 28, 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 September 28, 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; Tim Culver, Mark Hibbs and Chuck Walter.
- Member Absent Arlene Bush, Treasurer.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, Bruce Pappas, 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 Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation with the City of Bloomington proclaiming October 11, 2009, as *thinkPINKkids Day* in Bloomington. Motion carried unanimously.

***thinkPINKkids Day Proclamation***

*Whereas, nearly one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer some time in their lives; and*

*Whereas, the people of Bloomington recognize the pervasive and devastating impact of breast cancer—in some cases personally; and*

*Whereas, there is hope in the community of Bloomington that a cure will be found for the disease through continued breast cancer research; and*

*Whereas, young people who commit their time and energy to serving their community while encouraging others to become involved deserve recognition; and*

*Whereas, through collaboration the people of Bloomington will help raise awareness and funding for a cause that impacts our community and the world; and*

*Whereas, funds raised through Bloomington's thinkPINKkids efforts will go towards research efforts like those at the University of Minnesota, one of only 39 institutions in the United States to be recognized by the National Cancer Institute as a comprehensive cancer center for its ongoing, significant advances in cancer research; and*

*Now, therefore, we, Gene Winstead, Mayor of the City of Bloomington, and Maureen Bartolotta, Chair of the Bloomington Board of Education, do hereby proclaim, October 11, 2009, as thinkPINKkids Day in Bloomington, and call upon the people of Bloomington to observe this day by participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5K Walk at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, at 9:00 a.m. to help raise awareness and funding for finding a cure for breast cancer.*

Accepting the proclamation were Nancy Woodrich, Max Woodrich, Laura Beeth and Susan Bianchi. Max Woodrich founded thinkPINKkids two years ago when he was a student at Olson Middle School. Currently, Max attends Jefferson. Susan Bianchi, advisor for the Jefferson thinkPINKkids Club, highlighted a variety of club activities, including fundraising, creating awareness and now will add a health and wellness focus. Laura Beeth, a Jefferson parent who has an appointed position with the Governor's office, presented a thinkPINKkids Day proclamation issued by Governor Tim Pawlenty.

On October 11, the people of Bloomington will observe thinkPINKkids Day by participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5K Walk at the Mall of America in Bloomington to help raise awareness and funding for finding a cure for breast cancer.

Friends

The School Board recognizes the contributions made by organizations and business partners.

*Companies to Classrooms* is a not-for-profit organization that provides a way for local businesses to support education in their community by donating excess supplies and inventories for use in the Bloomington Public Schools. The original store open March of 2006 at 106<sup>th</sup> & France. In June 2007 Companies to Classrooms moved to its current location at 8301 Grand Avenue. Teachers and school staff "shop" for supplies. Many adult and student volunteers (5,517 hours) run the operation and sponsors (350 financial or in-kind) help support rent and operating expenses.

Cary Weatherby, Founder and Executive Director of Companies to Classrooms, provided highlights of Companies to Classrooms activities and the direct impact on our staff and students. Volunteer Barb Kallstrom also was in attendance. Over 700 teachers shopped for back-to-school and teacher visits total 8,073. The estimated value of goods distributed is \$750,000. Recent media coverage included KSTP, KARE 11 and WCCO and feature stories in the Sun Current, MinnPost and Grand Forks Herald. Goals for this year focus on adding financial sponsors, expanding to other metro area schools, and recycle a total of \$1,000,000 by the end of December 2009.

The School Board expressed appreciation to Cary Weatherby for her vision and leadership in creating Companies to Classrooms, which generously supports education, students, staff, families and the community of Bloomington.

*Rotary Club of Bloomington Daymakers* – Rotary members are civic-minded, current and emerging business and professional leaders who join together for fellowship, professional enrichment, and the opportunity to serve; making a difference in people's lives. Members provide volunteer time, money and expertise to improve the community and support the youth of Bloomington.

Jim Kretsch, President of The Rotary Club of Bloomington Daymakers, along with member Debbie Belfry, Chair of Club Services for Daymakers and Career Development Coordinator for the Bloomington Public Schools, reported on specific activities and the direct impact on the students, staff and community.

Daymakers Rotary helps meet the educational needs of Bloomington students in a variety of ways. Examples of the organization's commitment include support for Take Your Child to Vote, the STRIVE mentoring program at Jefferson, Thomas Burnett Day of Service at Oak Grove Middle School, Education Foundation of Bloomington, Companies to Classrooms, Senior Achievement Recognition, Bloomington Job Fair coordinated with the City of Bloomington and Jefferson and Kennedy high schools, Bloomington United for Youth and the Character Counts/Character Education program.

The School Board expressed appreciation for the generous support for education, our students, staff, families and the community of Bloomington.

*Fairview Health Services*—An idea to help improve the health of our most at-risk students so they come to school better prepared to learn becomes a reality next month when the new Fairview Pond Center Clinic opens at the Pond Family Center. The clinic's opening emphasizes the partnership between Bloomington Public Schools and Fairview Health Services. The Fairview Pond Center Clinic will offer complete medical services for families, including counseling, immunization/shots, infant, child and teen physicals and wellness exams, multi-cultural care, and treatment for acute illnesses and injuries.

Presenting highlights of the new Fairview Pond Center Clinic were Brad Beard, President of Fairview Southwest Care System, Laura Beeth, a Bloomington parent and System Director of Talent Management for Fairview Health Services, and Gail Marback, Clinic Administrator at Fairview Oxboro Clinic.

The School Board expressed appreciation to Fairview Health Services for the long-standing partnership that will improve the health and well being of the children and families served in the Bloomington community. A special thank you to Fairview Health Systems and Superintendent Les Fujitake and Tom Holton, Executive Director of Community Services, for working very hard to make the clinic a reality and ready to welcome patients next month.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on September 14, 2009.

Personnel Items

b. Licensed Personnel: Leave of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.

Classified Personnel: Leave of Absence, Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.

Non-Resident

Student Agreements

c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2009-2010:

Students entering Bloomington total 25 and 21 students leaving.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Insurance

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271, for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, authorizes Administrative to place the following insurance coverages:

1. Commercial Property and Casualty Insurance policies with Riverport Insurance Company. The annual premium is \$299,811.

2. Storage Tank Impairment Liability policy with Endurance American Specialty Insurance Co. The annual premium is \$ 8,913.

3. Identity Fraud Expense Coverage with Travelers Insurance Company. The annual premium is \$ 4,996.

4. International Travel Coverage with ACE American Insurance Co. The annual premium is \$ 3,250.

Jim Sorum moved, Mark Hibbs 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

Summer School  
Targeted Services/  
BEACON Secondary  
ALC Update

Summer School 2009 leaders Suzanne Kpowulu, Ben Magras and Raymond Yu reported on K-8 programming. The report highlighted growth measures, which focused on fluency in Reading for grades 1-5 and beginning/developing/at grade level for grades 6-8. In Math, measures varied by grade and site. Development of consistent standards is an area needing more work. Outcomes showed that 87% of the students gained some (an increase of 1-9 words per minute) or substantial growth (an increase of 10+ more words per minute) in Reading. Highlights for K-8 programming included retention of teachers, continued efforts to tie all Targeted Services programs to K-12 standards, established the three sites model and very successful family nights at each of the three locations. Goals for future programming are to increase student participation by identifying students earlier and communicating with families, to further develop Rtl (Response to Intervention) efforts within a continuum of services, and to identify all middle school students who have failed multiple classes at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and recommend them for the program.

Carol Kampa reported on BEACON Secondary Summer Programs, which include credit recovery/credit make-up and 9th grade summer academy—ESL basic level Reading class and grad Math, Reading and Writing review classes. Outcomes show that 96% of the students earned one or more credits, 37 Summer Academy participants completed a three-week program and 109 students participated in Grad Math, Reading and Writing classes. Highlights include an increase in student success in credit make-up/credit recovery and 100% of summer teachers are Bloomington educators. A goal for summer 2010 is to add an online program.

Minneapolis  
Convention Center  
Graduation 2010

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Minneapolis Convention Center Permit for Occupancy for Jefferson High School graduation exercises, Wednesday, June 9, 2010, and Kennedy High School graduation exercises, Thursday, June 10, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

The School Board previously approved the aforementioned dates for graduation exercises. The Assistant Superintendent and administrators at Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools recommend the Minneapolis Convention Center as the location for graduation exercises for June of 2010. The District's legal counsel and insurance agent of record have reviewed the Minneapolis Convention Center Permit for Occupancy.

AYP School  
Improvement  
Plan Update

Dr. Nancy-Allen Mastro, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, presented information on improvement plans for AYP schools and the District and a vision for the future for Academic Services. Many students meet or exceed academic expectations in the Bloomington Public Schools; however some do not. Seven schools and the District did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP). In that two of the schools are Title I schools, Valley View Elementary and Washburn Elementary, there are sanctions for those schools and the District. Improvement plans must be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education. Our improvement plans focuses on learning as the fundamental purpose of our schools and, therefore, the willingness to examine all practices in light of the impact on learning; working together to achieve the collective purpose and cultivate a collaborative culture through development of high-performing teams; assess effectiveness on the basis of results rather than intentions; seek relevant data and information and use the information to promote continuous improvement. Key critical questions that will be continually examined and embedded into daily operations of classrooms, teams and schools are: What do we expect students to learn? How will we know when they have learned it? How will we respond when they do learn? How will we respond when they already know it?

Four planning domains provide the overall framework for a “theory of action” for the District in addressing the closing of the achievement gap. School improvement is organized around three primary ideas—ensure that students learn, build a culture of collaboration and focus on results.

Research shows that successful districts focus first and foremost on student achievement and learning, have a theory of action for how to effect improvements and establish clear goals, enact comprehensive coherent reform policies, are committed to providing professional learning at all levels, using data to guide improvement strategies and monitoring progress and intervening, if necessary. The academic services model/vision is a tiered pyramid with the following components: common core curriculum (Reading, Math, Writing); district-wide initiatives—response to intervention (Rtl), technology integration and equity; optional initiatives to enhance the core curriculum (building, team or individual) such as elementary world language offering, Early College High School, expansion of Dimensions Academy, STEM programming, east side magnet school(s), sheltered instruction protocol; and working on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), assessments and staff development. Plans are reviewed continuously to meet the needs of all of our learners.

Proposed 2009  
Pay 2010 Property  
Tax Levy

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the property tax levy for the proposed 2009 payable 2010 levy of \$42,361,846.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event of any changes to levy amounts by the Minnesota Department of Education, it is the intent of the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 to levy the appropriate amount as allowed by law. The state requires that districts use the term “Maximum” on the certification sheet to allow these corrections to the levy. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED 2009 PAYABLE 2010 LEVIES

Referendum	\$19,041,180
Referendum Other	990,250
Other	10,878,026
Community Services	1,624,597
Debt Services	<u>9,827,793</u>
Proposed Certified Levy	<u>\$42,361,846</u>

Stacy Colebrook-Robjent, Director of Finance and Support Services, presented levy information to the School Board. Annually, the Board is required to certify a preliminary levy. This year, the District is required to submit this certified preliminary levy information to the County by September 30, 2009. This certified preliminary levy information will be used by the County to generate property tax notices that show parcel specific tax impact for each taxpayer in our district for the coming year. These notices will be mailed in November 2009. A Truth in Taxation Hearing is no longer required. The budget will be discussed at a public meeting—the December 14 School Board meeting. The final levy will be certified by the School Board on December 14, 2009. This final certified levy information will be used by the county to calculate actual property taxes payable in 2010. The 2009-2010 levy represents 4.46% increase over the 2008-2009 levy. The levy was discussed in detail with the school Board at its workshop on September 21, 2009.

Policy 407

Maureen Peterson moved, Jim Sorum seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the first reading of Policy 407 Environmental Health and Safety Standards. Motion carried unanimously.

The purpose of this policy is to update the policy and comply with the statutory requirement of having an environmental health and safety policy. Policy 407 was reviewed by the School Board at its September 14, 2009 workshop. District legal counsel has reviewed the policy.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chuck Walter reported that the PTSA Council has invited our legislators to visit a Social Studies class at Oak Grove Middle School on October 21 to talk about how a bill becomes a law; followed by lunch with the PTSA Council. The Safe and Drug Free Schools Committee and the School Calendar Committee will be meeting.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake reported that Jefferson High School has been named as a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U. S. Department of Education. The award honors public and private schools that have made significant progress in student achievement under the No Child Left Behind Act. Jefferson will be formally recognized for its academic achievements at a special ceremony in Washington D. C. in November. Principal Steve Hill and teacher Art Seplak will be in attendance at the ceremony. The School Board recognition is scheduled for the November 9 Board meeting.

Jefferson High School homecoming coronation was today. The homecoming game is October 2. Kennedy High School homecoming coronation and game is October 9.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Maureen Peterson, Clerk