

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

September 8, 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 7:02 p.m. on September 8, 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 (7:07 p.m. arrival) and Maureen Peterson.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, Tom Holton, Rick Kaufman, Bruce Pappas and Rod Zivkovich.
- Attorney Present David Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Arlene Bush moved approval of the agenda. Chuck Walter moved, Jim Sorum seconded, to withdraw item number 4 in Part B, Athletic Fields discussion by Administration. Motion carried unanimously.
- More information has become available regarding athletic fields, which will be part of the levy discussion at the next Board workshop before moving forward with approval of the proposed levy at the next Board meeting.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC The Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association (MESPA) School of Excellence program spotlights the strengths and commitment to excellence demonstrated in Minnesota public education. Indian Mounds, Olson, Valley View and Washburn Elementary Schools are four of only nine Minnesota schools receiving Minnesota School of Excellence validation this year. Since the program's inception in 1986, 135 schools have received this honor. MESPA developed this research-based program aligned with national standards in leadership, vision, student learning, the culture of adult learning, data and decision-making, and community engagement. The honor recognizes elementary and middle level schools, their principals, students, staff and communities, who demonstrate the commitment to improve student learning and the quality of education by successfully undertaking a systematic self-study, developing a school improvement plan, and implementing the plan based on demonstrated results. The program is recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education, as well as the National Association of Elementary School Principals.
- MESPA
Schools of
Excellence

Dr. Nancy Allen-Mastro, Assistant Superintendent, introduced principals Joan Maland, Paul Meyer and Paul Helberg. Jon Millerhagen was unable to attend the meeting.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on August 25, 2008.

Personnel Items

b. Licensed Personnel: Resignations, Employments. Classified Personnel: Retirement, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.

Non-Resident Agreements

c. Non Resident Student Agreements 2008-2009:
Students Entering Bloomington = 25
Students Leaving Bloomington = 10

2. *Finance*

Receipts/Disbursements

a. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Arlene Bush 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

Dimensions Academy

Dimensions Academy is in its fifth year of operation. Dr. Richard Cash, director, provided a program overview to the School Board. Dimensions Academy serves students in grades 4-8. In 2007-2008, the elementary program moved from Hillcrest to Ridgeview. Current enrollment is 130 comprised of 83 resident and 47 non-resident students. Dimensions Academy links to the District's Strategic Plan components—maximize student achievement and eliminate the achievement gap, develop education programs in response to research best practices and market conditions, provide meaningful staff development for all staff, including competency with diverse populations and strengthen partnerships that expand learning opportunities and enhance our image, increase our funding base and maximize our use of existing resources. Student and parent satisfaction surveys are conducted twice a year. The overall satisfaction rating is consistently over 90% for parents and 80% for students. Math and Science are identified areas of improvement. Areas of success are teachers, challenge and peers. The retention rate into high school is 100% for residents and 75% for non-residents. Vision for the future includes continue to improve instruction for gifted learners, consider expansion, discuss an "Eastside Academy" and conduct longitudinal research on past Dimensions Academy students.

Advanced Placement Report

Dr. Richard Cash, Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programs, gave a report to the School Board on the Advanced Placement (AP) program. College level courses are taught in our high schools in 32 subjects. The program allows students to gain college level learning and testing experience, provides advanced students with greater challenge and rigor and enables students to receive college credit or advanced standing in college.

There are 120 Kennedy students and 330 Jefferson students taking AP classes. Moving forward with AP programming will include continuing to review course standards and implementation, continuing to ensure that teachers have support in curriculum, instruction and professional development and analyzing course grading data and AP testing data.

Technology
Update

Sue Burke, Technology Specialist, and Andy Kubas, Valley View Middle School Principal, updated the School Board on the Technology Study Committee. A number of staff members attended a technology conference this summer. From the conference, two themes prevailed for education resources in technology--getting technology in the hands of kids with a purpose and teacher training to match the needs of the students. To be good stewards of the money generated by the technology referendum, the Technology Study Committee was formed. The committee is comprised of approximately 40 members representative of all school levels, special education and community education. The vision developed by the committee states that the District use appropriate technologies and strategies to prepare students to use the tools necessary to succeed in our global society and create a relevant and authentic learning environment for our students.

The committee determined that the District should focus on the following goals. Sue Burke reviewed the various *action steps* being taken in 2008-2009 to address each of the goals.

- Identify and assess the technology-use proficiency levels for staff and students following the guidelines of the national and state standards.

Creation of proficiency levels for staff. Determination of assessment/Evaluation. Review and update current study technology literacy standards.

- Identify and require the use of technology in the learning environment, providing the resources and staff development necessary for staff to become proficient users of technology.

Purchase document cameras for classrooms, PDAs for Health. Provide staff development to increase proficiency level of staff. Provide opportunities for teachers to use and evaluate new technologies within the learning environment (mini grants for teachers).

- Identify, provide and support educational technologies that will make all students active participants in their own learning and ensure that they acquire the skills needed to become technology-literate and lifelong learners.

Installation of wireless infrastructure in the middle schools. Expand the laptop pilot in the middle schools. Implement pilots—interactive whiteboards, voice amplification and iPods. Provide opportunities for online learning.

- Integrate appropriate technologies and skills into the Bloomington curriculum in a manner that reflects the culture of the District as it relates to leadership, curriculum and classroom environment.

Technology representatives participate on Science, Math and Health steering committees. Subscribe to curricular resources—BrainPOP, PowerMediaPlus, Culturegrams, Everyday Math. Build leadership within the District to guide the use of technology.

- Ensure equitable and extended access to technology for all schools and students within a safe, secure and ethical environment.

Expand computer loan program to identified families, including Internet access. Use iPods with ELL students.

- Support technologies that facilitate data analysis and assessments for instructional improvement.

- Support technologies and strategies that facilitate the acquisition and application of information and use of communication tools for instruction, management and communication functions.

Create curriculum repository with appropriate resources and tools for each grade and content area.

The Technology Study Committee will continue to work on tasks relating to planning, assessment and implementation.

HSA Distribution
Amendment for
Health Reimbursement

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 hereby amends the Tax-Exempt Health Reimbursement Arrangement Basic Plan and Trust (HRA), established by Board action on September 9, 2002. The proposed Qualified HSA Distribution amendment is attached (on file). Motion carried unanimously.

During negotiations for the 2001-03 collective bargaining agreement between the Bloomington Principals' Association (BPA) and the District, the parties agreed that effective July 1, 2002, the District would make contributions on behalf of principals employed by the District into an HRA. On September 9, 2002, the Board directed administration to establish 1) A Qualified Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) within Sections 105 and 106 of the IRS Code and in accordance with Revenue Ruling 2002-41 (June 26, 2002) and 2) a non-taxable trust as described in Section 501 [c] (9) of the IRS Code. Per IRS Code, this amendment to the HRA allows transfers from the HRA to individual principals' Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). Eligible principals have signed and submitted such transfer agreements. Administration and District counsel have reviewed this Amendment.

HSA Distribution
Amendment for
Flexible Spending

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 hereby amends the District's Flexible Spending Plan ("Plan"). The proposed Qualified HSA Distribution Attachment is attached (on file). Motion carried unanimously.

Per IRS Code, this amendment to the District's Flexible Spending Plan allows transfers from the Plan to employees' Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). Eligible employees may submit transfer agreements. Administration and District counsel have reviewed this Amendment.

Policy 302

Jim Sorum moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the first reading of Policy 302, Superintendent. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 302, Superintendent, will replace current Policy 2112, which outlines the job description for the Superintendent of Schools. Policy 302 reflects the updated format providing a statement of purpose and a general statement of policy. Regulation 302 incorporates the current policy identifying Major Responsibilities, Illustration of Major Responsibilities, Key Duties and Organizational Relationships. The policy was reviewed with the School Board at the August 25th Board Workshop.

Policy 413

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the first reading of Policy 413, Harassment and Violence. Motion carried unanimously.

The primary changes in this policy (and regulation) include several non-substantive language, grammar and formatting modifications, added reference to violence prevention and character education programs offered in schools throughout the District and the addition of the Harassment and Violence Report Form. The draft policy (and regulation) were reviewed at the August 25, 2008 Board Workshop. As a result of feedback from Director Walters, the following modifications were made to the Harassment and Violence Report Form: added a statement clarifying confidentiality parameters and added a statement to clarify who received the completed form. Kingsley Holman has reviewed this draft policy.

Policy 414

Jim Sorum moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the first reading of Policy 414, Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse. Motion carried unanimously.

The primary changes in this policy (and regulation) include the following: added definition of "Accidental" to the regulation, which is consistent with this addition in State statute and several non-substantive language, grammar and formatting modifications. The draft policy (and regulation) were reviewed at the August 25, 2008 Board Workshop. Kingsley Holman has reviewed this draft policy.

Policy 701.4

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the first reading of revised Policy 701.4, Budget Process. Motion carried unanimously.

This policy was developed in Community Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC). The policy was developed to establish procedures to govern the District's budget process and to adhere to the District's Fund Balance Policy 701.3. Policy 701.4 was reviewed at the August 25, 2008 School Board Workshop. This policy has been reviewed by the District Counsel.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arlene Bush reported on District 287 activities including the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new South Education Center and she attended the *Stump the Delegates* game show (similar to Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader) at the Mall of America, which featured Oak Grove Middle School students in competition with RNC attendees. Directors Arlene Bush, Chuck Walter and Maureen Peterson highlighted back to school activities at schools.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. There is a Board Workshop on September 15th at 7 p.m. at the Educational Services Center. Agenda items include Special Education Program Evaluation, Reading Corps Update, Preliminary Levy and Policy Review.

Another successful start to a new school year as staffed greeted the students of 2008-2009.

The Fall 2008 issue of *School Pages* was mailed to the community today. School Pages will be posted on the District website.

Next week's public engagement activities for Superintendent Fujitake will include meetings with members of the faith community, legislature and other organizations including the Tom Burnett celebration at St. Edward's Church on September 11.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk