

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 271  
Bloomington, Minnesota**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 28, 2010**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the Special Emergency Meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 271, was called to order by Chair Jim Sorum at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota. Members Present: Jim Sorum, Chair; Maureen Bartolotta, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Mark Hibbs and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund. Member Absent: Tim Culver. School Attorney Present: David Holman. Administration Present: Les Fujitake, Pat Geraghty, Stacy Colebrook-Robjent, Tom Holton and Rick Kaufman.

**Withdrawal from Intermediate School District 287**

Jim Sorum moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 withdraws its membership in Intermediate School District 287 effective July 1, 2011.

Director Walter stated that prior to attending the meeting, he was on the Sun Current website where reporter Chris Altwell was reading a press release regarding the emergency session of the Board to discuss its relationship with District 287. It was unclear as to the dollar figure quoted as the potential savings to the District. Director Walter indicated that in a previous presentation (the January 25 Board Study Session) a savings of \$1 million dollars had been shown and has been quoted by the Superintendent. Prior to casting a vote, Director Walter wanted to know the dollar amount of the potential cost savings. Superintendent Fujitake indicated that tonight's presentation would clarify the cost savings figure.

Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, updated the School Board on his findings, which began with a historical overview of services and programs over the past 40 years, indicating that District 287 provides quality programming. Over the last years, the District has had it as a priority to serve its students within Bloomington schools by Bloomington teachers where practical. Thus, while the number of students served by District 287 has decreased, fixed costs have increased or remained stable. That premise and ongoing cost containment efforts caused Administration to conduct a study of service providers for special education services. Three service providers were considered in the study—Intermediate District 287 in Plymouth, Intermediate District 917 in Rosemount and Carver Scott Education Coop in Chaska.

Preliminary information was presented to the School Board at its Study Session on January 25. Since the January 25 Board Study Session, further study included aspects of program quality, financial obligations, legal matters and other components, such as career and technical education, area learning centers, professional development and gifted and talented programs. Mr. Geraghty and Superintendent Fujitake met with the Superintendent, Director of Finance and Director of Student Services for Intermediate District 287 to review cost figures. Further examination of provider costs indicates a significant costs savings for programming through Intermediate School District 917. Programs to be accessed by the Bloomington Public Schools are held in the Apple Valley/Rosemount area and are closer than programming provided in the northern suburbs by District 287, which will result in decreased transportation costs. The estimated cost comparison for 2010-2011 services results in a savings of \$796,000. In addition to tuition costs savings, there will be the impact of lease levy savings.

District Counsel advised that there may be legal considerations such as statutes governing intermediate school districts, financial liability due to bonded indebtedness or certificates of participation, and possible human resources matters such as the return of former Bloomington tenured teachers who went to District 287 and/or similar provisions for some classified staff. Administration will be researching these matters.

Keeping within the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with Intermediate School District 287, approved July 28, 2008, a written notice of withdrawal needs to be submitted before February 1 of any year, such notice to be accompanied by a certified copy of an appropriate resolution of the School Board. The withdrawal shall be effective June 30 of the following fiscal year 2011-2012.

Director Walter restated his concern over the continued erroneous information that is being communicated and or published in the Sun Current. He recommended that the Superintendent and Board Chair review the issue that was brought to the Board's attention earlier and report their findings back to the Board (both agreed to do so).

Chair Jim Sorum called for the vote on the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon the Board's approval of the resolution, a withdrawal letter with a copy of the resolution will be delivered to the Clerk of the District 287 Board. District Administration will continue its research and discussions with District 917 and a communications plan will be implemented.

Currently, 32 students are being served by District 287 and these students will continue their programming. Any new students needing special education services provided through an intermediate district program will begin at District 917, if capacity allows.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the Special Emergency Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk