

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 271  
Bloomington, Minnesota**

**February 14, 2011**

- I. ROLL CALL Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the Board of Education of Independent School District 271, was called to order by Chair Chuck Walter at 7:00 p.m. on February 14, 2011, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Chuck Walter, Chair; Melissa Halvorson Wiklund, Vice Chair; Tim Culver Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Mark Hibbs and Jim Sorum.
- Member Absent Maureen Bartolotta.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Rod Zivkovich, Eric Melbye, Bruce Pappas, Tom Holton and Rick Kaufman.
- Attorney Present David Holman.  
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC PUBLIC Chuck Walter moved, Melissa Halvorson Wiklund seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the attached joint resolution of the Bloomington Public Schools and the City of Bloomington in support of Bloomington's children. Motion carried unanimously.

Joint Resolution  
with City

**Bloomington Public Schools and City of Bloomington  
Joint Resolution in Support of Bloomington's Children**

*WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington's Imagine Bloomington 2025 articulates providing children with opportunities to succeed and lead; and  
WHEREAS, the Bloomington Public Schools' Strategic Plan's Vision is to share a commitment and accountability across all community members for our children's education; and  
WHEREAS, the City and BPS working together helped build our great community; and  
WHEREAS, the sustainability of our great community is closely linked to the quality of the public school system; and  
WHEREAS, quality schools are the shared responsibility of many partners: the state, the county, the city, the local community, faith-based organizations, cultural institutions, businesses, agencies, higher education, and elected officials at all levels of government; and  
WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington and Bloomington Public Schools have collaborated to enhance social and academic success for students and their families through a coordinated delivery of services and programs;*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Bloomington City Council and Bloomington Board of Education, shall meet to further explore how to help provide children with opportunities to succeed and lead, and how to share a commitment and accountability across all community members for our children's education.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Mayor of Bloomington and the Chair of the Bloomington Board of Education shall facilitate the planning and development of any future joint meetings.*

Mayor Gene Winstead accepted the resolution on behalf of the City Council. At the February 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, Board Chair Chuck Walter and Vice Chair Melissa Halvorson Wiklund accepted the joint resolution on behalf of the school district. The City Council and the school district are committed to working together to provide children with opportunities to succeed and lead.

Friends

The School Board recognizes the contributions made by organizations and business partners. Tonight we acknowledge the contributions of one of the many "Friends" of the Bloomington Public Schools.

### **Education Foundation of Bloomington**

The Education Foundation of Bloomington was one of the first FRIENDS of the Bloomington Public Schools to be recognized by the School Board. Since 1986, the Education Foundation of Bloomington has supported the Bloomington Public Schools through various programs-- innovation grants for teachers, student success stipends, post-secondary scholarships, Prodigy Awards for employees and the Children's Food for Thought program, to name a few. Two members of the Education Foundation Board of Directors, Ann Tillotson and Renee Raming, highlighted the Children's Food for Thought (CFT) program. Ms. Tillotson is the founder of the program, which was started six years ago for the purpose of raising funds to help pay for school lunches for families who do not qualify for free and reduced lunch. Last year CFT provided 6,000 student lunches. Individuals, clubs and corporations have donated funds to the program. The Education Foundation of Bloomington recognized the Mosaic Company as a corporate sponsor of CFT and expressed appreciation for its generous support. The mission of the Mosaic Company is to provide the world with the food it needs. Mosaic engages in all phases of the crop nutrition business in 40 countries. Renee Raming is an employee of Mosaic Company and assisted in connecting the company's mission with the work of the Education Foundation of Bloomington's Children's Food for Thought program.

### **Bushard Photography**

Jon Bushard has been a professional photographer for over 20 years and has operated his own studio in Bloomington since 1984. He has won numerous state, regional and national awards for his portraits. He has taken senior photographs for many of our students as well as covering a variety of school events. For many years, he has been a part of the Education Foundation of Bloomington's Chip in for Schools golf event, which raises funds for supporting our students and staff in a variety of ways. Recently, Bushard Photography was the Sun Newspaper's 2011 Readers' Choice winner for best photographer.

Black History  
Month Proclamation

Melissa Halvorson Wiklund moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the attached Proclamation declaring February 2011 as Black History Month in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

***Black History Month***

*WHEREAS, the history of people of African heritage goes back thousands of years and includes some of the greatest, most advanced and innovative societies in the history of human existence; and*

*WHEREAS, African Americans have played a significant role in the history of the State of Minnesota, from the early days of the pioneers to our present day leaders in education, agriculture, government, the arts, finance and international trade; and*

*WHEREAS, during Black History Month, all Americans are encouraged to reflect on the rich history and teachings of African Americans and bear witness to the progress, beauty, and achievements they have made throughout our region;*

*WHEREAS, in 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Black History throughout our American experience; and*

*WHEREAS, the history of African Americans and that of Americans from all of the world's cultures are reflected in the curriculum, learning materials, activities and celebrations throughout the year in the Bloomington Public Schools;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Bloomington Board of Education, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2011 to be Black History Month in the Bloomington School District. We encourage all staff, students and residents to join in celebrating the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultures and traditions of African Americans and to continue honoring the contributions of Black Americans throughout the year.*

The observance focuses attention on the contributions of African Americans throughout American history and across all sectors of society. The proclamation emphasized the Bloomington Public Schools' commitment to recognizing the contributions of all Americans throughout the year.

The proclamation was accepted by Richard Scott, cultural liaison from the Office of Educational Equity. A dance performance was given by the Kennedy Eagles STEP team—percussion and rhythm infused body movement.

MASSP Award

Steve Hill, Principal of Jefferson High School, has been selected by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals as the 2011 Principal of the Year for the Hennepin Division. The State of Minnesota is divided into eight divisions, with the Hennepin division being one of the two largest divisions; the other is the metro area's east side. These two largest divisions include the southern schools 30 miles south, all of the suburbs, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the northern schools 30 miles north. Mr. Hill was honored on January 26 at a dinner for the eight division winners.

Staff Introduction

Mr. John Weisser is in his 18<sup>th</sup> year with the Bloomington Public Schools. He started working at Jefferson High School – first as a Math teacher and then as the building Technology Coordinator. Most recently, he has served as the District's Secondary Technology Coordinator in the Teaching and Learning Department. Mr. Weisser now is the Director of Technology and Information Services for the Bloomington Public Schools.

**MSBA Awards** The Minnesota School Boards Association held its Annual Leadership Conference in January, at which time two School Board members were honored of their years of service—Arlene Bush for 30 years and Jim Sorum for 20 years.

**School Board Recognition Week** The week of February 21-25 is School Board Recognition Week. Superintendent Les Fujitake expressed appreciation to School Board members for their commitment, dedication and hard work to build a quality educational system for all learners. School Board members received a book to share with one of their ambassador program schools.

In appreciation, Board Chair Chuck Walter offered a special token of thanks to spouses and families of School Board members and Administrative Council members.

**Public** The School Board received public comment from six (6) individuals who expressed concern regarding the new elementary attendance area boundary changes and the new student transfer policy.

V. **PART A**  
1. *Board Business*  
Minutes

**Personnel Items**

**Non-Resident Student Agreements**

- a. Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Board on January 10, 2011.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Resignation, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status. Independent Personnel: Retirement, Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Termination, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.
- c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2010-2011: Students entering Bloomington total 20 and students leaving Bloomington total 20. For 2011-2012: students entering Bloomington total 49.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

**City/Senior to Senior ESL Classes**

**City/Family Center Family School Program**

**Lease/MOAC Mall Holdings LLC**

**Red Cross Agreement Authorized Provider**

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves an agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District 271 to provide support and education to local foreign-born senior citizens. The term of this agreement is January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012.
- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the continuation of an agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District 271 Family Center, Family School Program, in the amount of \$21,270 for the contract period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.
- c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the renewal between MOAC Mall Holdings LLC and Independent School District 271. The lease commences on the 1st day of December 2010 and ends on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 2011.
- d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the American Red Cross Authorized Provider Agreement between the Twin Cities Area Chapter and Independent School District 271 that will be effective on March 31, 2011.

Student Teaching  
University of North  
Dakota

e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with the University of North Dakota. The agreement will be in effect from August 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012.

City/Volunteer  
Connection E-12  
Programs

f. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District 271 Volunteer Connection E-12 Programs. The term of this agreement shall be from the date that the agreement is fully executed through December 31, 2011. (Background Checks.)

### 3. Grants

Oak Grove  
Presbyterian/  
Homework Connection

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts a grant of \$7,500 from Oak Grove Presbyterian Church for the 2010-2011 Homework Connection program.

### 4. Finance

Gifts/Donations

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts gifts and donations, as indicated in the background, in the amount of \$37,830.75.

Finance Reports

b. Statements of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the month of December 2010.

Receipts/Disbursements

c. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Mark Hibbs moved, Melissa Halvorson Wiklund 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

Labor Management  
Committee Report

Co-Chairs Bruce Pappas and Brad Parker presented an update to the School Board on the activities of the Labor Management Committee (LMC), which included the 2009-2010 annual report and goals for 2010-2011. Committee membership includes a representative from each of the District's bargaining groups, two administrators and two school board members. Board member representatives to the LMC are Mark Hibbs and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund. The mission and goal statement remains the same. The committee desires to communicate within its individual groups, as well as look out for the best interests of employees and thereby the District and by doing so impacting student learning and achievement.

The LMC was formed in 1991. In 1999, LMC took over the work of the District Insurance Committee. In July 2008, the District moved to high deductible health plan/health savings account and moved to self-insurance in July 2009. Insurance achievements since July 2008 include \$5.9 million in total savings against projected costs over three years, \$74,000 in annual FICA savings. In year one, the trend went down more than 5% instead of increasing by 6%. By year three, the trend was only 3%.

Total balance in health savings accounts as of January 31, 2011 was almost \$2 million.

Mr. Pappas and Mr. Parker highlighted several of the activities and accomplishments for the last year. The 2009-2010 annual report highlights the many activities of the LMC and recommendations made to and adopted by the School Board. Goals for 2010-2011 include: continue oversight of the self-insurance plan, evaluate the new high deductible health plan/health savings account plan through employee feedback, support and evaluate wellness initiatives, increase collaboration between management and labor, support health care innovations per MOUs in collective bargaining agreements and monitor the employee assistance program.

McKnight Grant  
Update

Superintendent Les Fujitake updated the School Board on the process and timeline for the District's submission of the McKnight Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade Early Literacy Planning Grant Application. Bloomington Public Schools is one of five school districts invited to apply for the grant. This is a three-year grant—the first year is for planning followed by two years of implementation. A full draft of the application will be shared with the School Board on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The full draft of the application will be reviewed by the District's McKnight Application Team on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The final grant application will be submitted by February 25<sup>th</sup>. The application process calls for Letters of Support from the School Board and strategic partners of the District as well as a Memo of Understanding from the teachers' union. Grant award notifications are expected in April.

Graduation Fees 2011

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the graduation fee of \$50.00 per student for Kennedy and Jefferson High Schools for the 2010-2011 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

District administration, in consultation with high school administration, recommends a graduation fee of \$50.00 for students who will graduate in June 2011. The proposed fee is a decrease from last year's fee of \$65.00. The decrease reflects the lower rental fee of the graduation venue, the Minneapolis Convention Center. Per Minnesota Statute 123B.37, graduation caps, gowns and diplomas are not included as part of graduation fees.

Bid Award/  
VVMS Electrical  
Substation Replace

Tim Culver moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Premier Electrical Corporation, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, bid of \$344,470 to replace the electrical substation at Valley View Middle School and authorizes Administration to enter into a contract with Premier Electrical Corporation to accomplish this work. Motion carried unanimously.

This project is identified in the District's State approved Alternative Facilities Plan. The electrical equipment being replaced also was identified in the five-year assessment needs plan and involves replacing feeder cables and switchgear. The equipment has exceeded its intended lifespan and this work will reduce the chances of an unplanned power outage due to equipment failure. Work will take place the second week of July 2011. Funding for this project is from the Alternative Facilities Fund. The bid specifications were reviewed by the District's legal counsel and insurance agent of record.

2010-2011 Budget  
Mid Year Adjustments

Jim Sorum moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board of Board of Independent School District 271 approves the 2010-2011 revenue budget adjustments for all funds of \$4,566,129.00 and the expenditure budget adjustment for all funds of \$7,473,260.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Rod Zivkovich, Executive Director of Finance and Support Services, reviewed the adjustments to update the current year budgets. This is an annual process. There are four major categories for budget adjustments: prior year carry over adjustment, updated information, grants/gifts/ revenue and other. The rationale and justification for the proposed budget adjustments were discussed in detail at the January 18, 2011 Board study session.

Naming Auditor

Melissa Halvorson Wiklund moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 appoints Kern, DeWenter, Viere, Ltd. to perform a general financial audit conforming to State and Federal guidelines. The appointment is for three years and the fee will be \$36,500 per year. Motion carried unanimously.

The proposed three-year audit fees represent the same annual fee as the 2009-2010 audit. Kern, DeWenter, Viere, Ltd. has been the District's auditor since 1995-1996.

Superintendent  
Second Quarter  
Evaluation

Chair Chuck Walter reported that on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, the School Board of Independent School District 271 met in closed session for the purpose of evaluating progress toward meeting specific performance goals as defined in Appendix 1 of the Superintendent's contract covering the school years 2009-2012. It was the opinion of the Board that the Superintendent "substantially achieved or made satisfactory progress" toward meeting these goals. These goals are: 1) Development of Compensation Guidelines, 2) Succession Planning, 3) Strategic Expansion of Early Childhood Programs, 4) Facilities Plans and Vision for Community Services and Student Services, 5) Improved Superintendent/School Board Communications and 6) Academic Progress. As a result, the Board has awarded the Superintendent a \$4,000 incentive payment, per the terms, that are specified in Appendix 1 of the contract.

- VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS Each School Board member is an ambassador to two or three school schools. School Board members reported on activities going on at their schools.
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Administration recommends additional Board sessions. Arlene Bush moved, Jim Sorum seconded, that the School Board establish February 22 as a Study Session beginning at 6 p.m. followed by a Closed Session for Superintendent Evaluation (follow up on 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Progress on Goals for 2010-2011). Motion carried unanimously.
- February 22 Study Session topics include: Olson Middle School Continuous Improvement Plan report, choice schools discussion, field trip policy update, communication plan update, discussion of the proposed joint meeting with the City and Board development.
- There is a Study Session scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. following the meeting of the School Board with its Youth Advisory Council. February 28 Study Session topics include: District 287/District 917 transition update, Poplar Bridge Elementary Continuous Improvement Plan report, Success Measures update and discussion of staffing ratios and budget process for 2011-2012.
- The School Board will be meeting with middle school student representatives of its Youth Advisory Council at 5:30 pm on February 28<sup>th</sup> in the Media Center at Oak Grove Middle School.
- Curriculum Specialist Lisa Grundstrom has been named to the Minnesota State Literacy Advisory Council by new Education Commissioner Dr. Brenda Cassellius. The Council will be drafting a statewide comprehensive birth to grade 12 literacy plan.
- IX. OTHER None.
- X. ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the School Board, Jim Sorum moved, Melissa Halvorson Wiklund seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. Upon conclusion of the regular meeting, the School Board entered a Closed Session for the purpose of negotiations strategies discussion.

Tim Culver, Clerk