

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

October 13, 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 October 13, 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 and Maureen Peterson.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, Tom Holton, Rick Kaufman, Bruce Pappas and Rod Zivkovich.
- Attorney Present Kingsley Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Arlene moved approval of the agenda. Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to amend the agenda under Part B. 7. Board Legislative Committee from an update to an action item. Motion carried unanimously.
- Director Walter indicated that the School Board's Legislative Committee met prior to tonight's School Board meeting. The committee is submitting a resolution for School Board discussion and action tonight. The resolution will recommend the submission of a legislative resolution pertaining to charter schools to MSBA for consideration as part of its 2009 legislative platform.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes the attached proclamation declaring the week of October 13, 2008, as "Lights On After School" week, a national celebration of after school programs. Motion carried unanimously.
- Lights on After School Proclamation

Lights On After School Week Proclamation

*WHEREAS, the Bloomington Board of Education stands firmly committed to quality out-of-school time programs and opportunities because they:
Provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills.*

Support working families by ensuring that children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.

Build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults.

Engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, the Youth and Family Department has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in education and well being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality out-of-school time programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, Lights On After School, a national celebration of out-of-school time programs held in October 2008, promotes the critical importance of quality before and after school programs in the lives of children, their families and communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bloomington Board of Education declares the week of October 13, 2008, Lights On After School Week; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bloomington Board of Education enthusiastically endorses Lights on After School and is committed to innovative out-of-school time programs and activities that ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children before and after school.

The proclamation was accepted by Carol Huttner, Director of Youth and Family Services. The "Lights On After School" event is a national celebration of after school programs that promote the critical importance of quality after school programs in the lives of youth, their families and their communities. In recognition of this celebration, Kids' SAFARI at Valley View Elementary School will host a family night event on Tuesday, October 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Gifted and
Talented Youth
Week Proclamation

Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation declaring October 18 through October 25, 2008, as Gifted and Talented Youth Week. Motion carried unanimously.

Gifted and Talented Youth Week

WHEREAS, Children and youth are Bloomington's greatest resources for future leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, Education fosters the development of potential abilities in intelligence, creativity, academics, leadership and the arts; and

WHEREAS, The Bloomington Public Schools plays a key role in finding, developing and preparing these human resources--of all ethnic, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds--for a productive future; and

WHEREAS, The Bloomington community is home to many gifted and talented children whose full potential can be developed only through a partnership of education, families, the community, business and government; and

WHEREAS, Fostering the development of each individual's intellectual and creative powers to their full potential ensures heir ability to lead our community and nation successfully in the future,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Bartolotta, on behalf of the Bloomington Board of Education, together with the Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of October 18-25, 2008, to be Gifted and Talented Youth Week in the Bloomington Public School District.

Dr. Richard Cash, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, accepted the proclamation. Dr. Cash announced that the Bloomington School District is part of a consortium of three other school districts and the University of St. Thomas receiving a grant of \$500,00 over the next five years.

The grant is for work to identify and ensure success of twice exceptional children. Twice exceptional are those children labeled as gifted but who have a disability. Currently, no other school districts in the country are addressing this issue.

Secret Garden

The Kennedy High School Theater Company will be presenting "The Secret Garden" October 23-26. An invitation to attend the production was extended to the public through a DVD presentation highlighting a scene from one of the play rehearsals.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on September 22, 2008.

Personnel Items

b. Licensed Personnel: Employments, Leaves of Absence, Change of Status. Independent Personnel: Leave of Absence, Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.

Non-Resident Agreements

c. Non Resident Student Attendance Agreements:
2007-2008 Students Leaving Bloomington = 1
2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 27
2008-2009 Students Leaving Bloomington = 21

Community Education Advisory Council

d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the appointment of Kristin Hill to the Community Education Advisory Council for a three-year term, ending fiscal year 2010-2011.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Safe & Drug Free Schools Leadership Services

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a contract with the City of Bloomington to provide leadership services by the City for the Schools Safe & Drug Free Schools Program. This contract is for the period of September 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

Storefront Mental Health Services

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a contract for Storefront Group, Inc. to provide mental health services to students enrolled in special education with emotional behavior disorders. The term of this contract shall be from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

Storefront Facilities/Ancillary Support

c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a contract to provide District facilities, ancillary support and collaborative services to Storefront Group, Inc. This contract is for the period of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

Homework Connection

d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the agreement between Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and Independent School District 271, Volunteer Connection, E-12 Programs. The term of this agreement is October 13, 2008, through May 29, 2009.

Student Teaching UW River Falls

e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. This Agreement will be in effect from August 1, 2008, and end on June 30, 2010.

- 3. *Grants* a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271, accepts a \$35,700 grant that the Minnesota Department of Education awarded to Community Education/SHAPE.

- 4. *Finance*
Receipts/Disbursements a. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush 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
Education
Foundation Grants

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the \$15,500 grant from the Education Foundation of Bloomington to be used for selected educational projects. Motion carried unanimously.

The Education Foundation of Bloomington funds innovative educational projects in schools and programs of the Bloomington School District. This year, the Education Foundation funded 12 grants totaling \$15,500. Renee Raming reviewed the innovation grant process and highlighted a few of the grants being funded this year—Cross Cultural Exchange at Valley View Middle School, ESL Mentorship Program at Kennedy High School and Early Childhood Transition Books at Pond. The annual Chip in for Schools Golf Tournament helps to raise funds to support innovation grants.

Student Membership
in Chamber of
Commerce

Maureen Scallen Failor, the new Executive Director of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, was introduced by Steve Hill. Ms. Scallen Failor and Kurt Daugherty, of TDS Market Management and a Chamber member, along with principals Steve Hill and Ron Simmons, provided an overview of the new program for Bloomington students. Up to ten (10) juniors and seniors from each of the high schools will be given Chamber of Commerce memberships. As full-fledged, dues paying Chamber members, the students will have opportunities to interact with business and community leaders, attend committee and board of directors meetings and attend one chamber event per month. The benefit for the student is that they may find a mentor or exposure to a job they had not considered. The school gets a better student and a good representative. Each year a chamber event is hosted at the school. The spokesperson for the school will be the student who will talk about all aspects of the school—staffing, budget, curriculum, graduation rates, etc. At the end of the school year the students will have an opportunity to discuss their experiences with the program.

TDS, a Fortune 500 telecom corporation, is funding this program. TDS sees this mentoring program as an investment in the community. Minnesota is the only state with this program. This chamber program currently is provided in the school districts of Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Edina and St. Paul. Also in attendance for the presentation was Marcus Page, a student from Kennedy High School, who will be one of the program participants.

This program will be implemented this school year. Principals Hill and Simmons reviewed the selection process for students to participate in this future leaders program.

Jefferson
Transition Program
Update

Jefferson High School implemented a transition process to help ninth grade students be successful in high school. Principal Steve Hill, Assistant Principal Kevin Groebner and Curriculum Specialist Donna Clark, highlighted two of the 31 components of a comprehensive transition program—Pathfinders and the Resource Room/Learning Lab.

Pathfinders is a leadership program that began at Jefferson in 2000-2001. Juniors and seniors in the Pathfinders program mentor 9th grade students as they transition from the eighth grade to high school. Pathfinders meet before the start of the school year, attend leadership training and develop activities for freshmen to make them comfortable in school. Freshmen know there are upper classmen they can talk to and the older students have a sense of responsibility and caring for the ninth grade class.

Administration developed a plan to help students succeed. The plan includes a Pyramid of Interventions which focuses on six categories, both proactive and remedial, to increase students' academic success. A study was conducted targeting at risk students. The study found students were leaving in grades 11 or 12 due to low grade point average (D+) or significantly behind in credits. Some students went on to BEACON or SHAPE. The academic resource room/learning lab is based on a special educational clinical model. Approximately 30 students in grades 9 and 10 are identified based on grades, test scores and teacher/counselor recommendation. The fundamental components of the learning lab include academic support, teaching strategies for success, building personal relationships with the students and emphasis on parent involvement. Each student in the learning lab has a personalized learning plan and this class replaces an elective course for the student.

Commencement
2009

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 establishes commencement exercises for 2009 on the following dates:

Kennedy High School – Monday, June 8, 2009
Jefferson High School – Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Further, the School Board authorizes Principals Steve Hill and Ron Simmons to enter into an agreement with the Target Center in Minneapolis for the dates aforementioned. Motion carried unanimously.

The Assistant Superintendent, along with administrators at Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools, have reviewed the 2008-2009 school calendar and the available dates at the Target Center and recommend the aforementioned dates for commencement exercises. The last day for seniors will be June 5, 2008.

The District's legal counsel and insurance carrier have reviewed the Target Center contracts.

MSHSL
Foundation Funds

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the request for funds from the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Foundation to be used to pay athletic fees for qualifying student athletes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Legislature has allowed sales tax money from Section and State tournaments to be returned to the MSHSL to establish a foundation to support athletic programming in area schools. The league has instructed area schools to attach a copy of a board resolution requesting funds from the foundation for various uses, including supplemental funding for athletes who qualify for free and reduced lunches and thus have their athletic fees waived. This resolution is submitted annually.

Annual Report
2007-2008

Jim Sorum moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the Annual Report for the 2007-2008 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations, and Jaclyn Swords, Communications Specialist, presented the report to the School Board. Each fall, the District publishes an annual report that details the accomplishments of the District for the previous school year. Many of the items contained in the report are mandated by law. The 2007-2008 Annual Report will be distributed this year as an online publication.

This is the first year the report will not be distributed as a printed publication. A link to the report will be provided on the home page for the Bloomington Public Schools. The public received specific and required notification of the online availability of the report through several different means, including the Fall Edition of School Pages, which was mailed in September to each home in Bloomington, an advertisement in the Sun-Current, and an announcement featured on Bloomington Public Schools home page. On October 6, 2008, the PER Committee unanimously passed a resolution supporting Board adoption and publication of the 2007-2008 Annual Report. Two copies of the report will be sent to the Minnesota Department of Education for their records.

MSBA Legislative
Platform Resolution

Arlene Bush moved, Jim Sorum seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the submission of a resolution to the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) requesting that an amendment to Minnesota State Statutes 124D.10 Charter Schools be considered as part of the 2009 legislative platform being supported by the MSBA. Motion carried unanimously.

The resolution with supporting rationale calling for an amendment to the law relating to charter schools will be submitted to the Minnesota School Boards seeking support for inclusion in the MSBA's legislative platform for the 2009 legislative session. The 2009 MSBA legislative platform will be developed at the Delegate Assembly taking place December 7-8.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota School Boards Association requests that the Minnesota State Legislature amend Minnesota State Statutes 124D.10 Charter Schools to:

1. Require an application for a proposed charter school to be valid only for a specific address.
2. Require the sponsor of a proposed charter school to state in their application how the proposed charter school's enrollment would impact the intensity of segregation of an existing racially identifiable school in that community.
3. Require the Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner not to approve a proposed charter school application, if the charter school's enrollment will intensify the segregation of an existing racially identifiable school and/or will create a new racially identifiable school in that community.

The Legislative Committee—Chuck Walter, Mark Hibbs and Arlene Bush—met at 6:30 p.m. tonight to consider this matter. Maureen Bartolotta presented information from the MSBA Fall Area Meeting and School Board members discussed rationale and impact of the charter school resolution. Legislative resolutions submitted to MSBA will be researched and put forth for consideration at the Delegate Assembly in December.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arlene Bush reported on the District 287 Transition Committee as the membership changes from two representatives per member district to one and she attended an AMSD meeting. Jim Sorum highlighted the Chosen to Achieve recognition program dinner. This is a mentoring program at Valley View Middle school students of color. Maureen Bartolotta and Pat Geraghty represented the Bloomington School District at the two-day District 287 Strategic Planning sessions. Maureen Bartolotta congratulated Cary Weatherby of Companies to Classrooms. She appears in the November issue of "O" magazine. The article is entitled "Women Rule! A Crash Course in Changing the World." More than 3,000 women with great ideas applied for the first ever O-White House leadership Project contest. Cary was chosen as one of 80 project winners.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. School Board workshops are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. The preliminary agendas for the October 20 and November 17 workshops would suggest the need for a 6 p.m. start time due to the number of topics. Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to change the start time to 6 p.m. for the October 20 and November 17 Board workshops. Motion carried unanimously.

We are in the process of securing membership for the Board's Youth Advisory Council. Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to establish meetings for the 2008-2009 school year. The meetings will be held prior to Board Workshops on December 15, 2008; February 17, 2009; and April 20, 2009, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at ESC. Motion carried unanimously.

ThinkPINKkids, started by two students from Olson Middle School, now is a nationally recognized program. Last week Arlene Bush was inducted into the BAA Hall of Fame. Mr. Fujitake reviewed recent public engagement activities.

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