

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

October 22, 2007

- 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 October 22, 2007 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Maureen Peterson, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Tim Culver and Mark Hibbs.
- Member Absent Jim Sorum.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Debra Fincham, Pat Geraghty, Tom Holton, Bruce Pappas, Rod Zivkovich and Rick Kaufman.
- Attorney Present David Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Arlene Bush moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC Pam Traylor commended the School Board for its commitment to early childhood programs for learners of all backgrounds—special needs, low income and English Language Learners. She, along with school volunteer Betty Obenchain, addressed the School Board and the public in support of the two referendum questions on the November 6 ballot—the operating levy and the technology levy.
- Public Recognition
- Gifted and Talented Youth Week Proclamation Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation designating November 4 through November 11 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 November 4-11, 2007, 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 National Gifted and Talented Conference is being held in Minneapolis this year. On November 8th, Dimensions Academy will be a featured site visit for some of the more than 4,000 educators who will attend the conference.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*
Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on October 8, 2007.

Personnel Items

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

Non-Resident
Agreements

c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2007-2008:
Students Entering Bloomington = 31
Students Leaving Bloomington = 24

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Student Teaching
Agreements

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves Student Teaching Agreements with the following institutions: University of Wisconsin, Stout (October 1, 2007-June 30, 2009) and University of St. Thomas (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2009).

3. *Finance*

Gifts and Donations

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts gifts and donations, as indicated in the background, in the amount of \$11,501.66.

Receipts/Disbursements

b. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Arlene Bush moved, Chuck Walter 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

Galaxy/
21st Century
Community
Learning Center
Grant Update

An overview of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant was presented by Suzanne Kpowulu, Out of School Time Program Manager and Dr. Christa Treichel, an evaluator from Cooperative Adventures. Galaxy Centers are located in the three middle schools. This environment allows young people to learn and grow through social interaction, education and community involvement. All centers offer cultural, sports/recreation, arts/crafts and homework clubs.

School Year 2006-2007 was the third year of the five-year grant; two years remain. A total of 799 students were served in 2006-2007. The mission of Galaxy Youth Programming is to provide safe, fun and exciting activities. A participant profile summary indicates that of the students served, 45% are female and 55% are male; 53% are students of color; 19% are English Language Learners and 16% are students with special needs.

Dr. Treichel focused her report on the 21st Century Community Learning Grant at Valley View Middle School. Her role is to implement an evaluation plan to report to the state and federal government. She reported findings on the four (4) federal outcomes that have been identified for this grant. The federal definition of a retained participant means that the student must be involved for a period of at least 30 days during the school year and summer.

1. *Increase academic achievement* – A licensed teacher oversees the Brain Power Program and focuses on enhancing academic performance. The goal was to focus on students with grades of C, or lower, in Math and Reading. Of the youth who were academically at risk, 27% improved their Math grade and 58% improved their Reading grade. Math and Reading teachers reported that the majority of students who needed to improve did so in six of ten key behavioral areas linked to academic success.
2. *Maintain or improve school attendance* – A total of 51 youth were served 30 days or more through the Valley View Truancy Program. Of these youth, 45 (88%) were diverted from appearing in truancy court, which occurs when a student has nine or more unexcused absences.
3. *Contribute to positive youth development through skill development in art, music, athletics and other enrichment opportunities* – A total of 52 youth were involved in the “I Got Skills” program and 100% of those meeting the federal attendance goal increased their skills.
4. *Increase the number of youth engaged in community service* – A total of 69 students participated in the “I Care Club” during the school year. All of the students (100%) demonstrated increased awareness about the needs of others.

The participant profile for the 21st Century Programs shows the following information: an unduplicated count of 290 youth served of which 65% receive free and reduced meals; 72% are students of color; 52% of the students served are male and 48% are female; 17% have limited English proficiency and 21% are youth with special needs.

Over the three-year grant period, comparisons can be made as follows: in the Truancy Program 88-93% of the students have not appeared in truancy court (usually triggered by 9 or more unexcused absences). The number of students retained 30 days or more in Brain Power remained steady from year two (approximately 50 youth). Most years, about half or more of the students who are at-risk academically show improvements in their Math and Reading grades during the programming period.

Fees/CE
Endeavor Tutoring

Maureen Peterson moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes Community Education to adopt a sliding fee schedule for registration in the Endeavor Tutoring Program effective November 1, 2007 (described below). Motion carried unanimously.

The Endeavor Tutoring Program will provide tutoring to students before and after school. The program will start as a pilot with C.S.I. students at Westwood Elementary and Oak Grove Middle Schools in November 2007. The program will expand to include other students at Westwood and Oak Grove Middle after the first of the year. The goal is to provide the program district wide based on the results of the pilot project.

# of Sessions	Free Lunch	Reduced Lunch	All Others
4 – 50 minute sessions	\$20.00	\$ 60.00	\$198.00
8 – 50 minute sessions	\$40.00	\$120.00	\$388.00
12 – 50 minute sessions	\$60.00	\$180.00	\$578.00

This tutoring program was discussed in detail with the School Board at its workshop on October 15th.

MSHSL
Foundation Fund

Mark Hibbs moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the request of funds from the Minnesota Sate High School League (MSHSL) Foundation to be used to pay athletic fees for student athletes whose families are unable to pay. Motion carried unanimously.

New this year, the State 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 MSHSL has instructed area schools to attach a copy of a School 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.

City Request/
Tax Abatement
Normandale Lake
Transportation
Improvements

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 chooses not to participate in the City of Bloomington's Tax Abatement Project for the Normandale Lakes Transportation Improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

The City of Bloomington intends to establish a tax abatement district to help finance transportation improvements in the area around the intersection of 84th Street and Normandale Boulevard. The City intends to issue tax abatement bonds and would use the revenue generated from the Bloomington Public Schools' participation for debt service payments. If the school district and the county grant abatements, the maximum abatement term would be 15 years. If either the school district or the county denies the request, the maximum abatement term will be 20 years.

The Administration has reviewed the City's request with the District's legal counsel and financial advisors, Ehlers & Associates. The review and research indicates that there are no financial, legal or operational reasons for the school district to grant this abatement. Therefore, it is the recommendation of Administration not to participate in granting a tax abatement for this project.

Superintendent's
Contract
Modifications

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a modification to the three-year contract (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009) with Les Fujitake as Superintendent of the Bloomington Public Schools effective July 1, 2006. The salary provision has been modified for 2007-2008 reflecting a 1.5% increase in base salary (Section VIII). The School Board authorizes the Chair and Clerk of the Board of Education to sign the modified contract effective July 1, 2007. On roll call vote Directors Chuck Walter, Maureen Peterson, Arlene Bush and Maureen Bartolotta voted aye. Tim Culver voted present. Mark Hibbs voted nay. Motion carried 4-1.

The Superintendent's contract represents the terms and conditions entered into by the School Board. The three-year contract is effective July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009. This is the second year of the three-year contract. The salary provision has been modified for 2007-2008 reflecting a 1.5% increase in base salary (Section VIII).

Director Hibbs stated that his vote against the resolution is no reflection on the Superintendent; it is due to deep concern for the financial condition of the school district. Resources are being stretched and no help is being given by the Legislature. He believes that the School Board's job is to balance the budget while optimizing outcomes and to that end, the School Board must start taking the difficult steps to achieve that goal.

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves modification to the three-year contract (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009) with Les Fujitake as Superintendent of the Bloomington Public Schools under the terms and conditions agreed to and set forth in the Superintendent's Contract, and that Section VII. OTHER BENEFITS, Section A shall read:

“The Superintendent will be eligible to participate in a tax sheltered annuity plan pursuant to Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.02 Subd. 15, and School District Policy, and as otherwise provided by law. The District shall provide a matching contribution not to exceed 2% of the Superintendent’s salary up to the maximum amount allowed by law. The Superintendent shall be eligible to receive the District’s matching contribution from July 1, 2007. The School Board authorizes the Chair and the Clerk of the Board of Education to sign the modified contract.”

Motion carried unanimously.

The Superintendent’s contract represents the terms and conditions entered into with the School Board. The three-year contract is effective July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009. This is the second year of the three-year contract. The language for the Tax Sheltered Annuities provision (Section VII. OTHER BENEFITS) reflects wording consistent with the previous Superintendent’s contract and was a part of Mr. Fujitake’s contract in his previous position with the School District.

Director Hibbs stated that this provision was agreed to during the original contract negotiations; therefore he is supporting this resolution.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chuck Walter, Arlene Bush and Les Fujitake attended the BAA Sports Hall of Fame Banquet. Chuck Walter, Maureen Bartolotta and Jim Sorum participated in the League of Women Voters School Board Candidates Forum. Chuck Walter reported on the recent CFAC meeting. CFAC continues to work on 2008-2009 budget adjustments. CFAC provides insight and feedback regarding school district finances. Mr. Walter highlighted the recent production of “Joseph” at Jefferson High School and encouraged the public to attend “Beauty and The Beast” being performed at Kennedy High School October 25-28, 2007. Arlene Bush attended a meeting of the District 287 Facilities Committee, which was held at the new South Education Campus in Richfield. She also attended meetings of AMSD, Olson Elementary PTA and the Chamber Governmental Forum with the City Council candidates. Maureen Bartolotta announced that there will be a Wellness Event 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, October 27th at Oak Grove Middle School. Bloomington Public Schools will be partnering with the Richfield/Bloomington Credit Union and FitFams to host the wellness event for all families of district students and staff. Classes on healthy cooking and nutrition, fitness and overall health will be featured. A diverse mix of local health care services, vendors and retailers will be on site displaying health options for the family. Other organizations are contributing to this free event.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. The next School Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 13th. This year Veterans’ Day falls on Sunday November 11th. The official observance takes place on Monday, November 12th. By law, the School Board is prohibited from conducting business on Veterans’ Day observance.

