

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

October 27, 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 7:00 p.m. on October 27, 2008, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Tim Culver and Maureen Peterson.
- Member Absent Jim Sorum, Vice Chair; and Mark Hibbs.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, Tom Holton and Rick Kaufman.
- Attorney Present Kingsley Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC
- The School Board recognized and presented a Certificate of Achievement to the following staff members.
- Eric Severson is a fifth grade teacher at Indian Mounds Elementary School. Thanks to his knowledge, vigilance in the classroom and ability to react quickly, Mr. Severson successfully used the Heimlich Maneuver and saved the life of a student who was choking on a piece of hard candy. Indian Mounds Principal Joan Maland commended Mr. Severson for his actions and expressed the gratitude of the child's parents.
- Sheryl Raithel, a Phy Ed Teacher and Coach at Kennedy High School, has been selected by the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association as the Lacrosse Coach of the Year. Kennedy High School Assistant Principal Rod Wade highlighted her ability to motivate the team members and provide expertise in skill development. Ms. Raithel was instrumental in taking lacrosse from club status to a high school league sport.
- Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation in honor of Cary Weatherby, founder and Executive Director of Companies to Classrooms. Motion carried unanimously.

**In Honor of Cary Weatherby
October 27, 2008**

WHEREAS, through the goodwill dedication, hard work, and ingenuity of Cary Weatherby, the non-profit organization Companies to Classrooms was born; and

WHEREAS, Cary Weatherby's Companies to Classrooms has helped our Bloomington educators acquire classroom supplies that would typically be purchased out of school budgets or their own pockets; and

WHEREAS, Cary Weatherby has initiated a program that has enhanced the learning experience for kids in the classroom, especially those whose families cannot afford basic school supplies themselves; and

WHEREAS, Cary Weatherby has improved our environment by creating an organization that recycles products typically purged in landfills; and

WHEREAS, Cary Weatherby's work will inspire others to create organizations and programs that produce positive results in their communities and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Cary Weatherby was one of 80 women across the nation who won Oprah's O-White House Leadership Project contest, and was featured in "The Oprah Magazine," for her ability to help change our world with the Companies to Classrooms organization;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Bartolotta, Chair of the Bloomington Board of Education, during the meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 on this night of Monday, October 27, 2008, would like to hereby recognize Cary Weatherby for her work with Companies to Classrooms and express deep gratitude for her vision and leadership.

More than 3,000 women with great ideas applied for the first ever O-White House Leadership Project contest. Cary Weatherby was chosen as one of 80 project winners. She attended a three-day leadership conference in New York, which enabled her to receive coaching by some of the top women trailblazers in the country. Cary Weatherby is featured in Oprah's magazine. The article is entitled "Women Rule! A Crash Course in Changing the World."

Debbie Belfry, Career Development Coordinator, and a member of the Companies to Classrooms Board of Directors, highlighted the journey from taking this idea to making it a reality.

V. PART A

1. Board Business
Minutes

Personnel Items

Non-Resident
Agreements

District 287 Board
Appointment

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on October 13, 2008.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Resignation, Change of Status.
Classified Personnel: Resignations, Rescission of Resignation, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.
- c. Non Resident Student Attendance Agreements:
2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 7
2008-2009 Students Leaving Bloomington = 11
- d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 appoints Arlene Bush as its representative to the Intermediate District 287 Board. This appointment is for a two-year term effective January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010.

2. Finance

Gifts & Donations

Receipts/Disbursements

- 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 \$37,248.88.
- b. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson 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
Special Education
Community Advisory
Council Report
2007-2008

The Special Education Community Advisory Council (SECAC) provides parental and community input into the decision-making process of the Student Services Department. The council membership includes parents, community members and school district staff. Meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of the month. Presenting the report were Scott Stevens, SECAC Chairperson, and Suzanne Renfroe, Past Chairperson. Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, is the Administrative Liaison.

SECAC Activities for 2007-2008—Made recommendations for special education program improvements based on findings of the parent survey; recognized excellence of 43 staff members working with students with disabilities through SECAC awards process and banquet; in collaboration with Unite Bloomington for Schools, actively supported the referendum; reviewed outcomes for three existing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) pilot sites and supported the creation of four additional pilots, enhanced the SECAC website; reviewed and provided input on District Response to Intervention (RIT) initiatives; revised and distributed a checklist to support students transitioning between grade levels; reviewed outcomes for Bloomington students in State Special Education Performance Plan indicators; reviewed and provided input for the District special education count budget and staffing; endorsed the creation of the Bloomington Occupational Training and Evaluation (BOTE) Program; reviewed and provided input on summer recreational opportunities for students with disabilities provided by the City.

As a result of the parent survey, recommendations for special education program improvements included: providing information and advocacy for parents of students with autism spectrum disorder, increasing an autism spectrum disorder curriculum for use with general education staff and students, supporting the development and distribution of a video entitled “Autism through The Parent’s Eyes” (the video was distributed to all schools and School Board members), providing a parent training on the secondary transition process and increasing awareness of the Special Education Community Advisory Council.

New Goals for 2008-2009—Complete the work on a Parent Resource Guide and distribute to the parents of students receiving special education services, investigate the feasibility of a mentorship program for parents of newly identified students, suggest strategies to increase the percent of families who perceive their participation in birth through age two early intervention services helped their family, collaborate with PER and the Community Education Advisory Council to promote a more unified educational system, monitor and advise the District on implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI) procedures, and review data related to the elevated dismissal rate of special education students and provide strategies to address this issue.

Ongoing Goals for 2008-2009 —Continue to recognize excellence of staff and continue to enhance the SECAC website.

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 2007-2008 was the fourth year of the five-year grant; one year remains. A total of 829 students were served in 2007-2008. The mission of Galaxy Youth Programming is to provide safe, fun and exciting activities. A participant profile summary indicates that of the students served, 44% are female and 56% are male; 54% are students of color; 18% are English Language Learners, 16% are students with special needs and 51% of the students receive free and reduced meals.

Youth outcomes focus on goals of academic achievement—positive attitude toward school, improved school attendance, better achievement scores and grades, better work habits, reduced drop out rates, higher aspirations for the future—as well as social and emotional learning components, which include self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision making, self-management and relationship skills.

Youth Power, funded through an LCTS grant, is an activity and discussion based learning program that addresses goals in which students focus on making healthy choices considering both social and emotional aspects. Results for students have been positive. An evaluation of the Youth Power program revealed the following findings for aspects of the program: Self-Awareness—82% feel good about themselves and their future and 76% feel more in control of their lives. Social Awareness—94% think more about the importance of helping others, 88% developed more respect for others and 82% are more sensitive to the needs of others. Responsible Decision Making—70% are more able to resist bad influences and 76% have overcome challenges in positive ways. Self-Management—88% are more likely to stand up for what they believe in and 82% are more likely to take responsibility for their actions. Relationship Skills—94% increased acceptance of others who are different from them, 88% are more likely to be able to resolve disagreements without getting hurt and 82% are more likely to express their feelings in appropriate ways.

21st Century Programs include Brain Power, Attendance Liaison, “I Got Skills,” I Care Club and Summer of Service. The participant profile for the 21st Century Programs shows the following information: an unduplicated count of 368 youth served of which 65% receive free and reduced meals; 71% are students of color; 54% of the students served are male and 46% are female; 20% have limited English proficiency and 19% are youth with special needs.

Dr. Treichel's 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. Brain Power served 167 students. Of the youth who were academically at risk, 26% improved their Math grade and 39% improved their Reading grade.
2. *Maintain or improve school attendance* – School Attendance Liaison. A total of 108 youth were served 30 days or more through the Valley View Truancy Program. Of these youth, 101 (94%) had eight or fewer absences and did not appear 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 60 youth participated 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 113 students participated in year round community service programming through the "I Care Club/Summer of Service." Of the students involved, 93 demonstrated increased awareness about the needs of others.

Improvement trends are quite consistent for the Truancy Program. Over the four-year grant period, 88-94% of the students have not appeared in truancy court. As students move from the 6th to the 8th grades, rates of unexcused absences increase. In spite of differing rates of improvements over the four-year grant period in Brain Power, a larger percentage of students tend to make improvements in Reading as compared to Math.

Currently, the District is in the last year of a five-year cycle. A new grant application will be submitted.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Maureen Peterson attended a CFAC meeting and highlighted gifts and donations accepted by the Board tonight. Arlene Bush attended the CFAC meeting and reported on District 287 Board and committee meetings. Tim Culver highlighted the recent Parade of Schools event. Maureen Bartolotta attended the PTSA Council meeting, highlighted the visit by the Japanese delegation and attended the Initiative for Lasting Change meeting that focused on closing the achievement and disparity gaps.

- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District and public engagement activities.
- IX. OTHER None.
- X. ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk