

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

**November 13, 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 November 13, 2007 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Maureen Peterson, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Tim Culver, Mark Hibbs and Jim Sorum.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Debra Fincham, Rod Zivkovich and Tom Holton.
- Attorney Present Kingsley Holman.  
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC The School Board acknowledged and presented a Certificate of Achievement to National Merit Semifinalists, National Merit Commended Seniors and Advanced Placement Students. More than 1.4 million juniors in nearly 21,000 high schools entered the 2008 National Merit Program by taking the preliminary SAT/National Merit scholarship qualifying test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

**National Merit 2008 Scholarship Program Semifinalists**

Jefferson High School students Elise Gale and Amanda Olson have been named semifinalists in the 53rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program for 2008. They now will be in the running for one of the merit scholarships that will be offered next spring.

**National Merit 2008 Scholarship Program Commended Students**

Another 14 of our high school students earned National Merit Commended Student status, which recognizes exceptional academic promise demonstrated by a student's performance on the qualifying test used for program entry. *Jefferson*--Silas Berkowitz, Molly Conrad, Shaun Fernandes, Judy Ly, Shannon McEvoy, Andrew Ohrt, Amber Pickett, Michelle Radle, Kendra Speedling, Tyler Twistol and Josh Vincent. *Kennedy*--Danielle Berndt, Kyle Hayes and Amanda Helling.

**National Achievement Scholarship Program for Black Americans**

Jazmyn Becker, a senior at Jefferson High School, is among the 3,000 outstanding National Achievement Scholarship program participants being referred to U.S. colleges and universities. She scored in the top five percent of more than 140,000 students who requested consideration in the 2008 National Achievement Program, begun in 1964 to honor academically promising Black American high school students.

**College Board Advanced Placement Awards**

Thirty-seven students at Jefferson and Kennedy high schools earned College Board designation as scholars with honor, scholars with distinction, and scholars in recognition of exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement program exams

**College Board's Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction (highest honor)**

Students qualified by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and receiving grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. *Jefferson--*Shaun Fernandes, Mia Howard, Judy Ly, Victor Wang and Alexandra Zayed (plus 16 who graduated in 2007). *Kennedy--*William Boulay (plus 4 who graduated in 2007).

**College Board's Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor**

Students qualify by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. *Jefferson--*Matthew Amys, Silas Berkowitz, Michelle Gaffaney, Christopher Norby, Andrew Ohrt, Andrew Solberg, Joshua Vincent, Melinda Zhang (plus 7 who graduated in 2007). *Kennedy--*Amanda Helling (plus 5 who graduated in 2007).

**College Board's Advanced Placement Scholar**

Students qualify by completing three or more AP Examinations, with grades of 3 or higher. *Jefferson--*James Alverson, Gregory Anderson, Justin Campagna, Laura Clinton, Molly Conrad, Alexander Fish, Elise Gale, Shannon McEvoy, Michael Mendel, Amanda Olson, John Perkins, Kathryn Plasynski, Michelle Radle, Tenzin Tseky, Justin Tumberg, Tyler Twistol, Megan Wagner, Winnie Wu, Katherine Wutchiett (plus 9 who graduated in 2007). *Kennedy--*Danielle Berndt, Kyle Hayes, Elise Wattman (plus 13 who graduated in 2007).

Jefferson Principal Steve Hill, Kennedy AP Coordinator Sara Dahl-Wyland and Gifted and Talented Programs Coordinator Dr. Richard Cash congratulated the students on their academic achievements.

American Education  
Week

Jim Sorum moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the attached Proclamation proclaiming November 12-16, 2007, as American Education Week in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

**American Education Week Proclamation**

*WHEREAS, throughout American history, schools have helped democratize our nation, strengthen our communities and widen opportunities for all people; and*

*WHEREAS, by integrating different groups through commonly shared values, schools prepare this nation's diverse population to live harmoniously in a democratic society; and*

*WHEREAS, educational employees strive continually to serve our children and our communities with dedication, professionalism and compassion; and*

*WHEREAS, for generations, our schools have answered the call to develop and challenge the future leaders of our families, our communities and our nation; and*

*WHEREAS, there is no greater legacy than the sound education of our children and the continuing education of our adults;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, we, members of the Bloomington Board of Education, proclaim in the Bloomington Public Schools that November 12-16, 2007, be observed as the 86th anniversary of American Education Week.*

American Education Week is an annual observance which highlights the essential role of public schools in developing democracy, integrating diverse groups around shared civic values, developing skills and knowledge and fostering the nation's future leaders. Accepting the proclamation on behalf of all Bloomington School District staff was David Dorova, Grade Three Teacher at Valley View Elementary and Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Bloomington Federation of Teachers.

Chemical Health Week

Chuck Walter moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 proclaims the week of November 12-16, 2007, Minnesota Chemical Health Week in Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

**Chemical Health Week Proclamation**

*WHEREAS, alcohol and other drug abuse in the United States severely affects individuals, families, schools and communities; and*

*WHEREAS, the color RED has been chosen to represent individual and community commitment efforts to reduce alcohol and other drug abuse in our community; and*

*WHEREAS, business, government, law enforcement, schools, religious institutions, service organizations, neighborhoods, youth, senior citizens and other individuals are encouraged to demonstrate their commitment to helping reduce and prevent alcohol and other drug abuse by wearing and/or displaying the color RED during Minnesota Chemical Health Week, and wearing and/or displaying a RED RIBBON;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Bloomington Public Schools does hereby declare November 12-16, 2007, Minnesota Chemical Health Week in Bloomington Public Schools and encourages its students, staff and families to participate in drug prevention education activities, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free community.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board of Bloomington encourages all students, staff and parents to support alcohol and other drug abuse prevention efforts year round.*

Melissa Drews, Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinator, accepted the proclamation. Chemical Health Week is set aside to create an awareness of substance abuse and encourage a commitment to prevention. Many activities will be going on in the schools. Red bracelets, the color representing individual and community commitment to reduce alcohol and other drug abuse, will be distributed and displayed during this week. Red bracelets were presented to Board members. Ms. Drews emphasized that although this is a special week of observing chemical health awareness, safe and drug free schools are a year round focus in the Bloomington Public Schools.

National  
Community  
Education Day

Jim Sorum moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation declaring November 13, 2007 as "*Connecting Communities*" National Community Education Day, a celebration of Community Education programs and services. Motion carried unanimously.

***National Community Education Day Proclamation  
"Connecting Communities"***

*WHEREAS, there is an increasing public insistence that all levels of government become more responsive to citizen needs and desires; and*

*WHEREAS, there is a limited amount of tax money and other resources, both human and physical, available to meet public demand for facilities, programs, and services; and*

*WHEREAS, full use of existing public facilities, programs and services is a desirable community goal; and*

*WHEREAS, community education philosophy advocates full use of public facilities, programs and services by every age group in the community; and*

*WHEREAS, community education philosophy assumes that when local communities identify their own needs and resources and public agencies work cooperatively, community betterment will result; and*

*WHEREAS, agency coordination and cooperation improve public service and maximize the use of tax money; and*

*WHEREAS, the involvement of local communities is essential to the development of community education programs; and*

*WHEREAS, November 13, 2007, has been proclaimed National Community Education Day by joint resolution of Congress and by authorization of President George W. Bush, and*

*WHEREAS, the theme of National Community Education Day in 2007 is "Connecting Communities."*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Bloomington Board of Education, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, November 13, 2007, as National Community Education Day and call upon the citizens to recognize and participate in this special observance.*

On behalf of all Community Education staff, Tom Holton, Executive Director of Community Education for the Bloomington and Richfield school districts, accepted the proclamation.

V. CANVASSING  
OF ELECTION  
RESULTS

Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School district No. 271 has canvassed the election returns, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the School Board hereby declares the following:

1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the special election of the voters of this school district held on November 6, 2007, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.

*Operating  
Levy*

2. As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, at said election a total of 17,077 voters of the school district voted on the question of increasing the referendum revenue authorization of the school district for taxes payable in 2008 and thereafter (SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1, Operating Levy),

8,675	YES
8,402	NO
102	Undervotes
5	Overvotes

*Technology  
Levy*

3. As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, at said election a total of 17,093 voters of the school district voted on the question of increasing the referendum revenue authorization of the school district for taxes payable in 2008 and thereafter (SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 2, Technology Levy),

8,619	YES
8,474	NO
90	Undervotes
1	Overvotes

Said propositions, having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, are hereby declared to have passed.

Motion carried unanimously.

*School Board  
Election*

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 has canvassed the election returns, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the School Board hereby declares the following candidates elected to four year terms, beginning January 7, 2008:

Maureen Bartolotta  
Jim Sorum  
Chuck Walter

And Clerk of said Board is instructed to so notify the candidates according to law.

VOTE RECAP

Maureen Bartolotta	10,065
Jim Sorum	10,471
Chuck Walter	9,680
Write Ins	290
Undervotes	21,034
Overvotes	12

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on October 22, 2007.

Personnel Items

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

Non-Resident Agreements

c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2007-2008:  
Students Entering Bloomington = 10  
Students Leaving Bloomington = 3

2. *Grants*

Success for the Future

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the annual amount of \$67,275 from the Minnesota Department of Education to be used for American Indian Education Programming.

3. *Contracts/Agreements*

Student Teaching Agreement

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with North Central University. This Agreement will be in effect from August 25, 2007 and end on June 30, 2009.

BIG Contract

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington School District for the use of the Bloomington Community Ice Garden for the 2007-2008 hockey season for the District high school teams.

4. *Finance*

Finance Reports

a. Statements of Revenues and Statements of Expenditures for June, July through August, and September.

Receipts/Disbursements

b. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Maureen Peterson 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.

VII. PART B

Education  
Foundation Grants

Maureen Peterson moved, Jim Sorum seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the \$19,426 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. The Education Foundation received 24 grant requests totaling over \$40,000. The Education Foundation Board approved 18 grants totaling \$19,426. Some of the grant requests were adjusted down so more grants could be given. Some programs submitting more than one grant are being given authority to use the grant money in any of the areas submitted, thereby, having the ability to prioritize their own needs.

Food Service  
Contract  
2007-2009

Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approve and ratify the 2007-2009 Negotiated Contract between Bloomington Independent School District and the Bloomington Food Service Association. Motion carried unanimously.

The Bloomington Food Service Association ratified the tentative agreement for the 2007-2009 Master Contract on November 2, 2007. The tentative agreement includes salary schedule improvements of 1.00% for 2007-2008 and 1.50% for 2008-2009. In addition, the tentative agreement includes fixed District contributions to health and dental insurance premiums, clarification of severance, definition of classifications and position titles, modifications to the layoff procedure, clarification of benefit eligibility, addition of progressive discipline language, definitions of operational terms, addition of one paid holiday in 2007-2008, and substantial "housekeeping" changes.

Reserve Teacher  
Wage Amendment

Mark Hibbs moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271, amend the previous resolution on August 27, 2007 to include an increase in the rate of pay for an assignment for 10 consecutive days for the same absent teacher to be paid at the rate of \$125.00 per day. Motion carried unanimously.

This increase request was inadvertently excluded from the previous request for board action. An increase in this rate is necessary to remain proportionate with the approved daily rate increase and to attract quality reserve teachers to the long-term assignments.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

Chuck Walter highlighted National Family Literacy Day activities at Pond. Maureen Peterson and Tim Culver, members of the Board's Legislative Committee, will be meeting with PTSA representatives to begin preparing for the 2008 legislative session. The Jefferson Indoor Marching Band Concert is this weekend. During this event, three Jefferson graduates and a retired music teacher will be inducted into the First Annual Arts and Activities Hall of Fame—Mark Saxenmeyer, Clark Rundell, Mark Wolfram and retired band instructor, Dr. Earl Benson.

- IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. November 12 was the observance of Veterans' Day. Flag raising ceremonies were conducted at all of our schools by veterans from Everett McClay VFW Post #1296 and the Earl C. Hill American Legion Post #550.

The 2007 Minnesota Legislative STEM Education Symposium is November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The main purpose of the symposium is to highlight the need for more rigorous Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education in Minnesota and how the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota schools are working to address this issue. Several school teams will present/demonstrate how innovative STEM initiatives are being delivered in their schools. Bloomington will be highlighting Project Lead the Way. Students from Olson Middle School, Tim Ciavarrì's class and Kennedy High School, Kevin Baas' class will be featured demonstrations.

Each year, the Bloomington Community Foundation selects an individual to receive The Bloomington Legacy Award. The award is granted to individuals who have demonstrated significant community leadership by notable achievement for our city, by his or her support of community projects and by exhibiting high ethical standards. This year, the Bloomington Community Foundation has selected Arlene Bush as the recipient of the Bloomington Legacy Award. A reception will be held in her honor Thursday, November 15, 2007, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Airport. Congratulations!

Superintendent Fujitake expressed appreciation to the community for supporting the operating and technology levies and affirmed that the school district will be good stewards of the money as we continue to provide excellence in educating our learners.

- X. OTHER

None.

- XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk