

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

**November 13, 2012**

- 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 Melissa Halvorson Wiklund at 7:00 p.m. on November 13, 2012, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Melissa Halvorson Wiklund, Chair; Mark Hibbs, Vice Chair; Tim Culver, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Maureen Bartolotta, Dick Bergstrom and Nelly Korman.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Chris Lennox, Rod Zivkovich, and Tom Holton.
- Attorney Present David Holman.  
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Arlene Bush moved, Dick Bergstrom seconded, approval of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITIONS The School Board recognized and presented a Certificate of Achievement to Jefferson High School National Merit Scholars. Principal Steve Hill highlighted the program and the accomplishments of the students achieving these designations.
- National Merit Scholars JHS

**National Merit Semifinalists**

Four Jefferson students have been named Semifinalists in the 58th annual National Merit Scholarship Program for 2013— Michael Blazanin, Nathan He, Kangqiao Peng and Samuel Wagner. These students will be in the running for one of the merit scholarship awards that will be offered next spring. More than 1.5 million high school juniors entered the 2012 National Merit Program by taking the preliminary PSAT/National Merit scholarship qualifying test, which served as an initial screening of program entrants. These students placed among the top one-half of one percent of their national Class of 2013.

**National Merit Commended Students**

National Merit Commended Student status recognizes exceptional academic promise demonstrated by performance on the PSAT qualifying test used for program entry. Three Jefferson students earned the designation of Commended students—Rothanna Fricke, Trevor Poonai and Joshua Punnoose. These students place among the top five percent of their national Class of 2013.

BAJs

On previous occasions, the School Board has recognized the BAJs as a FRIEND of the Bloomington public Schools. Dan Heintzman, accompanied by Pat Cady, Jerry Narragon, and Bob Swanson, highlighted the BAJs Random Acts of Kindness program. The BAJs presented a donation of \$3,000 to be used by the two high schools to help support participation fees for students who need funding assistance. Jefferson Principal Steve Hill and Superintendent Les Fujitake accepted the donation on behalf of the school district. Each year, the BAJs award thousands of dollars in scholarships to high school seniors. Mr. Heintzman indicated that this spring the BAJs will be awarding ten \$1,000 scholarships.

FRIENDS

**Children's Dental Services**

Children's Dental Services joined Fairview Pond Center Clinic in April, 2010. Children's Dental Services provides dental care for children whose families cannot pay for dental care and for children without any insurance. Staff from Children's Dental Services are at the Fairview Pond Clinic on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of month from 8:30 a.m to 5:00 pm. Over the past 2 years, Children's Dental Services has provided care to 562 patients over the course of 55 days of service at the Clinic. Highlighting this collaboration and the importance of dental care for children was Senior Manager Jeff Bartleson.

**League of Women Voters**

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Bloomington League of Women Voters has a long history in the community, establishing itself as a community resource for questions about issues, candidates, voting procedures, and citizen involvement. The Bloomington LWV meets monthly during the school year and coordinates forums, seminars, community service projects, and other events throughout the year. Members have worked with Jefferson and Kennedy high schools to provide information and assistance on voter registration for students who have reached voting age (18 years old). Members of the League of Women Voters volunteer within the community—Diversity Day activities, Cornerstone and Heritage Days are examples. Highlighting this partnership was President Kaye Aho, along with members Amanda Crombie and Suzanne Kienietz.

Citizenship/Voting

The Bloomington Public Schools, Bloomington Daymakers Rotary and the City of Bloomington work cooperatively to provide the Take Your Child to Vote project to promote citizenship with students. The project connects Character Education studies in the classroom with Election Day. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the project. Elementary and middle school students learned about citizenship, rights and responsibilities and the power of freedom to vote. On Election Day, November 6, parents brought their children to the polls to see actual precinct locations and witness the voting process. There was a special voting box at each polling place for students to deposit their own Message of Citizenship and they received a citizenship sticker. The Rotary Club paid for teacher resource packets, voting boxes and stickers.

Rotary members compiled the Citizenship Messages, with the entire project being facilitated by the school district and the City Clerk's office. Kate Koester, Olson Middle School Social Studies teacher, highlighted the related curriculum. Accompanying her were two students—Brandon Smith and Justin Zielinski—who shared Messages of Citizenship collected from the special voting boxes at the polling places. Debbie Belfry, Career Development Coordinator, provides the leadership for this project.

Chemical Health Week

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Dick Bergstrom seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 proclaims the week of November 12-16, 2012, Minnesota Chemical Health Week in Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Denise Reese, 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. Janelle Brown and Tom Gardner, Kennedy High School students, highlighted a variety of activities planned during this week, including the wearing of the color red on November 14. Ms. Reese 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. The School Board viewed the newly created public service announcement, Together We Stand, which answers the question, "Who Stands between teens and alcohol?" The announcement features a variety of school and community stakeholders who work together to support the teens of Bloomington.

American Education Week

Mark Hibbs moved, Dick Bergstrom seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the attached (on file) proclamation proclaiming November 12-16, 2012, as American Education Week in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Lennox, Assistant Superintendent, highlighted American Education Week as an annual observance emphasizing 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. He accepted the proclamation on behalf of teachers and all staff members who are a part of a child's educational experience.

Westwood  
MESPA School  
of Excellence

Westwood Elementary School has been designated as a 2012-2013 School of Excellence by the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association. The Minnesota School of Excellence Program promotes excellence through a rigorous evaluation process that showcases dynamic schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Principal Carolyn Hartwigsen, along with staff member Becky Frey, highlighted the application process and the six national standards focused upon for selection: Learning Centered, Diverse Communities, 21st Century Learners, Quality Instruction, Knowledge and Data and Community Engagement. The Minnesota School of Excellence Program endorses schools whose principal, staff, students and community—working as a team—demonstrates the desire to strengthen education by successfully undertaking the program’s researched-based school improvement process. A school celebration of this award will be conducted in the spring.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on October 22, 2012.

Personnel Items

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

Non-Resident

Student Agreements

c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2012-2013: Students entering Bloomington Public Schools total 6 and 16 students are leaving.

2. *Field Trip Approval*

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the field trips per the attached list (on file).

3. *Grants*

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts grants totaling \$31,678 from the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) for school district violence prevention activities during the 2012-2013 calendar year.

4. *Contracts/Agreements*

Student Teaching  
Augustana

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with Augustana College. This agreement will be in effect from October 24, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

Student Teaching  
St. Ben/St. John

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University. This agreement will be in effect from October 24, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

Blackboard Connect

c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a one-year renewal of the Services Agreement with Blackboard Connect, Inc. The Service Fee of \$25,750 (\$2.50/student) and annual support charge of \$1,000 is unchanged from the approved 2011-2012 agreement. The new contract is effective upon the Board’s approval.

Opportunity Partners

d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a contract with Opportunity Partners, Inc. to provide Certified Learning Platforms, a five-week skills training program to Independent School District 271 special education students.

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Dick Bergstrom 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  
Bid Award  
VVE Addition  
Early Childhood

Mark Hibbs moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Jorgenson Construction, Inc., Coon Rapids, Minnesota bid of \$963,325 to provide the Valley View Elementary School Early Childhood Addition and approves the contract with Jorgenson Construction, Inc. to facilitate this work. Motion carried unanimously.

At the March 26, 2012 School Board study session, the Board supported funding for expanded early childhood programs at Valley View Elementary and directed administration to continue planning for an addition at the school to accommodate the program. On June 25, 2012 the Board approved to match the funding for this project provided by a State of Minnesota grant in the amount of \$695,589. Total cost of the project is projected to be \$1,391,178. This bid of \$963,325 is for the addition of two classrooms, parent education space, bathrooms and storage space comprising approximately 3,776 square feet. The remaining \$427,853 will be used for furniture, equipment and site work, etc. The District funding contribution for this project is from reserves in the Building Construction Fund. The contract was reviewed by the District's attorney and insurance agent.

Audit Report

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Auditor's Reports from Kern, DeWenter, Viere, Ltd., which includes Audited Financial Statements, Audited Financial Statements of the Student Activity Accounts and accompanying Management Letters for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Kern, DeWenter, Viere, Ltd. has completed a general financial audit for 2010-2011 conforming to State and Federal guidelines. KDV Principal Matt Mayer shared the details of the audit results with the School Board. He indicated it was a clean opinion, which is the best possible result, as it provides a true record of the District's financials. Disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear. One recommendation cited was that School Board Members abstain from voting to approve contracts when there is a conflict of interest. Mr. Mayer reported that the favorable financial position of the District is due to good stewardship.

Committed/Assigned  
Funds

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves committed and assigned funds in the areas specified as follows:

Committed:

1. \$235,000 for Worker's Compensation Insurance.
2. \$232,382 for Third Party Medical Assistance.
3. \$74,759 for Wellness Dollars.
4. \$72,350 for Band Uniform and Instrument Replacement.
5. \$9,782,025 for Operating Referendum.
6. \$500,000 for Transportation Building.
7. \$2,919,767 for Transportation.
8. \$700,000 for Transportation Bus Purchase.
9. \$2,129,435 for Severance Insurance.
10. \$1,799,045 for Technology Replacement.
11. \$250,000 for LCTS Repayment.
12. \$1,000,000 for Energy Savings.
13. \$250,000 for Security Systems.

Assigned:

1. \$100,261 for Staff Development.

Motion carried unanimously.

Operating Transfers

Dick Bergstrom moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the Community Education School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the operating transfers of \$777,427 from the General Fund to certain programs accounted for in the Community Service Fund for fiscal year 2011-2012. Motion carried unanimously.

The annual process of financially closing a school year requires District Administration to make recommendations to the School Board to transfer resources between our District's accounting funds. Transfers are necessary because the Community Service Fund revenue is received combined with General Fund revenues. The District deposits and records all this combined revenue into the General Fund. A transfer is subsequently made to record the revenue in Community Service Fund. For example, the majority of Metro South Adult Basic Education's revenue is initially received in the General Fund along with the District's State aid payments. At year-end, a transfer of resources from the General Fund to the Community Service Fund is required to recognize the amount of State aid generated by Metro South Adult Basic Education students. Similarly, the District also makes transfers to recognize costs attributable to facilities such as Pond and Southwood Centers.

Success Measure  
Strategic Direction E

Rod Zivkovich, Executive Director of Finance and Support Services, presented 2011-2012 results for Strategic Direction E of the Success Measures Report—*Increase funding base and maximize use of existing resources—for 2011-2012*. The success measures address fund balances for the General Fund and other funds, annual revenue, net open enrollment and resident student enrollment retention.

Course Fees  
2013-2014

Mark Hibbs moved, Dick Bergstrom seconded, that the School Board of Independent School 271 approves Middle School and High School Course Fees for the 2013-2014 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with MN Statutes § 123B.35 and 123B.36, school districts have the right to establish fees in areas considered extracurricular, non-curricular or supplemental to the requirements for the successful completion of a class or educational program. By approving fees at this time, the fees can be included in the school registration guides for 2013-2014. After consultation with middle and high school principals, Administration is recommending no changes to the current middle or high school course fees, and only two changes to the Music course fees. Specifically, the fees for the Jive Treble Choir and Connection Show Choir at Jefferson High School have been adjusted to align with the supplemental materials and/or activities for those courses. (The list of course fees is on file.)

KinderPlus

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Dick Bergstrom seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves maintaining KinderPlus fees for the 2013-2014 school year. The fee will be \$390 per month, for a total fee of \$3,510.00. This is the same fee as 2012-2013. A minimum of 20 students will be required to offer a section. Motion carried unanimously.

KinderPlus is an option for parents seeking all-day school for their child. KinderPlus blends half-day kindergarten with an enriched half-day childcare experience. KinderPlus offers the same curriculum as traditional half-day sessions, yet it provides more time for enrichment activities. The State of Minnesota funds only half-day kindergarten; therefore, parents pay a monthly fee for the KinderPlus program. This enhanced half-day care option offers the same licensed teacher in the same classroom both morning and afternoon. The program was cost neutral for the 2012-2013 school year and costs can be maintained for the 2013-2014 school year to remain self-sustaining. Representatives from the Kindergarten Oversight Committee, Human Resources, Finance, and the Assistant Superintendent have reviewed the fee rates.

Community Service

Mark Hibbs moved, Dick Bergstrom seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the proposed fee increases for Kids' SAFARI, Early Learners Academy, Aquatics and Summer Spectrum. Motion carried unanimously.

Administration proposes fee increases for Kids SAFARI, Early Learners Academy, Aquatics and Summer Spectrum. The proposed fees are competitive with other local school programs. Administration is not proposing increases to the registration fee charged in Kids' SAFARI and Early Learners Academy. The last fee increase for Kids' SAFARI was effective 2011-2012 school year, the last fee increase for Early Learners Academy was effective 2012-2013 school year, the last fee increase for Aquatics was effective 2010-2011 school year and the last fee increase for Summer Spectrum was effective summer of 2012.

The proposed rates and effective dates are on file. None of these fees are on a sliding fee scale. Fee assistance can be requested and will be provided when possible.

AIPAC  
Recommendation  
Response

Mark Hibbs moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board adopts the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271

1. Shares concern regarding the achievement gap for American Indian students expressed by the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee.
2. Does not agree to establish a new task force because the work can be conducted by existing organizations (for example, AIPAC, Academic Services, Indian Education Program) working together.
3. Directs the Superintendent working in collaboration with the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) to create a plan to improve Math achievement levels.

In addition, the Superintendent will report back findings to the School Board in May 2013. Along with the findings should be an Action Plan.

Findings to be brought back to the School Board include:

- a. Determine to what degree native students and their families are accessing existing resources and District programs. (Including scholarships for Early Childhood Education and Full-Day Kindergarten, participation in after school and summer school programming.)
  - b. Determine the Rate of Mobility for American Indian students.
  - c. Determine Attendance Rates for students not performing at grade level.
  - d. Examine Referrals, Suspension and Expulsion rates.
  - e. Examine level of Culturally Relevant Curriculum relating to American Indians.
4. Directs the School Board Attorney to review the updated AIPAC bylaws and provide recommendations back to the School Board by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

Dick Bergstrom reported on meetings of Bloomington United for Youth and the Pond Center Parent Advisory Committee. He also highlighted flag raising ceremonies he attended. Director Bergstrom congratulated Chair Halvorson Wiklund on her election as Senator for District 50.



Director Bergstrom inquired as to how her Board position would be filled and when the process would begin. Director Bartolotta suggested the process planning should begin now. The Chair indicated that she will determine a date of resignation and so inform the Board; she will be sworn in to the Legislature on January 8, 2013. Through Board member discussion of past practice or possible scenarios to fill the position, District legal counsel indicated that Chair Halvorson Wiklund can be a part of the replacement process; however she cannot vote on her replacement.

Tim Culver reported that AMSD will be hosting a legislative preview on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Director Culver pointed out that the 2013 Legislature will have 32 new members. The AMSD Executive Committee is drafting possible legislative topics, which may include the final report on teacher evaluation and the report from the Education Funding Working Group, the finance group on which Superintendent Fujitake serves.

#### VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake indicated that there is a School Board meeting and study session scheduled on November 26. Due to a change in the agenda items for the study session, Administration requested to cancel the study session scheduled for November 26 and establish a study session on December 3 at 7 p.m. (The School Board meeting will be conducted on November 26.) So moved by Tim Culver, seconded by Maureen Bartolotta. Motion carried unanimously.

The study session topic on December 3 will be the report of the District's community survey presented by Bill Morris of Decision Resources.

Administration requested to establish a study session on November 19 at 7 p.m. Agenda topics include Dimensions Academy High School, Success Measures for Strategic Directions B and C and an update on the Early Childhood Long Range Plan. So moved by Maureen Bartolotta, seconded by Dick Bergstrom. Motion carried unanimously.

Administration requested to cancel the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month meeting and study session, which this year falls on December 24<sup>th</sup>. So moved by Maureen Bartolotta, seconded by Dick Bergstrom. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Fujitake thanked the local branch of the Minnesota National Guard for conducting flag raising ceremonies at our schools in honor of Veterans' Day and expressed appreciation to the men and women of the military who are currently serving our country.

Congratulations were extended to School Board Chair Melissa Halvorson Wiklund on her election to the Minnesota Senate. She will be representing Bloomington as a Senator for (new) District 50. Along with her will be Melisa Franzen representing Senate District 49. Congratulations were extended to our Bloomington House of Representatives delegation—Paul Rosenthal (District 49B), Linda Slocum (District 50A), and Ann Lenczewski (District 50B).

