

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

**March 24, 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 March 24, 2008 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> 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, Debra Fincham, Pat Geraghty, Rod Zivkovich, 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 Arlene Bush moved, Maureen Peterson 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 Jeff Shannon, Assistant Wrestling Coach, who has been inducted into the Kennedy High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. Jeff Shannon is a Kennedy High School graduate who is the District's Lead HVAC Tech and has been coaching wrestling. Chuck Vavrosky, Head Wrestling Coach at Kennedy, highlighted the valuable contributions Jeff has made to the Wrestling program during the past ten years of his involvement, including the development of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade wrestling program as well as assisting with the high school team at Kennedy. Mr. Vavrosky also noted that Dave Arens, former Kennedy Wrestling Coach, will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame on April 12.
- Dr. Gail Swor, Principal of Poplar Bridge Elementary School, is the recipient of the 2008 Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESP) Division Leadership Achievement Award. The award honors principals for exemplary leadership towards effective school learning programs, including improving education. MESPA is the professional association of Minnesota's elementary and middle level principals. Dr. Swor currently is among three statewide finalists for the 2008 Minnesota National Distinguished Principal honor. She has served the last two years as president of the West Suburban MESPA Division.
- The new art display is provided by students from Oak Grove Elementary School. Stephanie Damlo is the Art Specialist.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on March 10, 2008.

Personnel Items

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

Non-Resident

c. Non Resident Student Agreements:  
2007-2008 Students Entering Bloomington = 4  
2007-2008 Students Leaving Bloomington = 1  
2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 4  
2008-2009 Students Leaving Bloomington = 3

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Student Teaching

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with the University of North Dakota. This agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2008 and end on June 30, 2010.

Educational Access  
Cable TV

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District No. 271 to participate in the promotion and development of Educational Access programming (BEC-TV) on the Bloomington cable television system, and approves the agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District No. 271 to provide the facility and staff for *The Bloomington Channel 14 (TBC)*.

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 \$22,570.30.

Finance Reports

b. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the month ended February 29, 2008.

Receipts/Disbursements

c. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Tim Culver 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

PTSA Council  
Update

Chip Groth, Co-President of the PTSA Council, updated the School Board on focuses for 2007-2008. Sheri Brezinka is the other Co-President. The goal of the Council is to empower school PTSAs and to develop future leaders. PTSA Council is comprised of representatives from each of the schools, the Superintendent, Community Relations Director and Ridgeview Principal Steve Abrahamson represents the principals. The Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month.

Forthcoming is a PTSA website which will provide a variety of resources for parents. On March 17<sup>th</sup> the PTSA Council sponsored speaker Dr. David Walsh with his presentation on "Say Yes to No." School PTSAs will conduct a study group on Dr. Walsh's book which focuses on why kids need to hear NO.

Early Success  
Kindergarten DVD

Curriculum Director Tim Anderson and Curriculum Coordinator Lisa Grundstrom presented a new instructional tool created by Bloomington Kindergarten teachers to assist children in learning letters, letter sounds, sight words and numbers. The use of the Early Success DVD will help prepare a child for great success in school, in Kindergarten and beyond. The DVD helps to lay the foundation for building literacy and math skills for a successful future. The K-DVD is a collaboration of teachers, school district staff and the City of Bloomington to create a very professional and educational DVD for preschool and kindergarten students and families. The viewers have the opportunity to view or interact with the chants, that also include a kinesthetic movement to reinforce each individual skill.

The production team included school district staff: Washburn Kindergarten teachers: Kari Sickman (lead), Amanda Brinkman (on camera), Aimee Johnson, Whitney Zanos, and ESC staff: Jeff Olson, Danny Leung, Lisa Grundstrom, Tim Anderson. The DVD was recorded and edited at the City of Bloomington production studio by Martha Low. Additional staff who were involved include Kay Miller, Sue Burke, Jon Millerhagen, and all of the Kindergarten teachers who came together to agree on the images that represent each letter.

In addition to the DVDs, all Kindergarten and PreKindergarten teachers will receive a classroom chart that correlates to the DVD, as well as additional print resources that can be used in the classroom or sent home with families. By providing the DVD to families prior to entering Kindergarten, we will help bridge the Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten transition, while working to maximize student achievement and eliminate the achievement gap with our very youngest learners. The Early Success DVDs will be distributed to 2008-2009 incoming Kindergarten students as they are assessed in April.

Bloomington School  
Election Districts  
Legislation

Maureen Peterson moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 goes on record stating its opposition of new legislation calling for Bloomington School Election Districts effective with the election in 2013. On roll call vote Maureen Peterson, Maureen Bartolotta, Arlene Bush and Mark Hibbs voted aye. Jim Sorum and Tim Culver voted nay. Chuck Walter was present and abstained. Motion carried 5-2. *[The School Board functions under Robert's Rules of Order Revised, which provide that an abstention is recorded with the majority vote.]*

Legislation has been introduced that would establish school election districts for the Bloomington School Board. The current bills are S.F. 457 and H.F. 1394. Senator Dan Larson and Representative Ann Lenczewski attended the February 25<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting to share their perspectives and rationale for proposing the legislation, which was introduced last year. The bills call for dividing the school district into four single-member election districts from which one board member each must be elected. Three additional members would be elected at-large.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arlene Bush reported on meetings of the MLA Board of Trustees, AMSD and the District 287 Board. Maureen Peterson, Maureen Bartolotta and Arlene Bush attended the meeting of MSBA District IV Directors, which was held at the new South Education Campus. Maureen Bartolotta highlighted the BUY Job Fair being held April 12 at Civic Plaza. The job fair will focus on summer employment opportunities. BUY is working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Clubs on this event.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake called upon Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations, to give an update on an application to the City for a conditional use permit in the Oak Grove Elementary and Middle School neighborhood. The City of Bloomington's Planning Commission and City Council are considering a request to allow a residence at 10535 Humboldt Avenue to become a Boarding House for up to ten (10) adult men who are recovering from drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation. The men are transitioning into independent living after finishing a year-long treatment program. The house currently backs to Oak Grove middle and elementary schools. The City's Planning Commission held a public hearing on Thursday, March 20, and the City Council will hold a public hearing on this request on Monday, April 7. The permit applicants are proposing to operate the residence as a sober home, thereby qualifying the residents as "disabled" under Federal guidelines. The property owners will conduct background checks on the residents, however that information is not subject to public disclosure. There are no minimum distance or proximity guidelines for this type of proposed residence with respect to school property or facilities. Neighbors and other area residents have expressed concerns about the request to City and school/district officials. A number of residents will testify in opposition to the request and may ask the Bloomington Board of Education to pass a resolution opposing the conditional use permit request. The latest information from City staff indicates that the permit applicants may withdraw the application due to the strong opposition. The request withdrawal will need to be submitted in writing.

Congratulations to Kris Krenz, Kennedy High School Dean of Students, for her efforts in pursuing a counseling grant for Kennedy High School. We have received notice of a grant award in the amount of \$100,000.

There is no school for students on March 27-28 due to workshops and/or conferences. Spring Break is March 31 through April 4. Classes resume on Monday, April 7.

Oak Grove Middle School Principal Ray Knoss has announced his plans to retire at the end of this school year. Mr. Knoss has served the Bloomington Public Schools for fifteen (15) years.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Chuck Walter, Clerk