

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

March 9, 2009

- 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 9, 2009, in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Jim Sorum, Vice Chair; Maureen Peterson, Clerk (7:10 p.m. arrival); Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Tim Culver, and Chuck Walter.
- Member Absent Mark Hibbs.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, Bruce Pappas, 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 Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC
- OGMS Musical Oak Grove Middle School will be presenting its annual musical. This year, "Cinderella" will be presented March 12-14. Cast members performed a musical selection from the production and extended an invitation to the School Board and the entire community to attend one of the performances. Music teacher/musical director Bryan Blessing accompanied the students.
- Voice of Democracy Essay Winner The Voice of Democracy scholarship contest is sponsored by the U.S. Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary. Kate Raxon, a ninth grade student at Jefferson High School, was this year's Seventh District and Minnesota winner in the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition. Her audio essay was entitled *Service and Sacrifice by America's Veterans Benefit Today's Youth by ...* Bloomington's Everett McClay VFW Post 1296 and its Ladies Auxiliary sponsored Kate in the district and state competitions. VFW Post 1296 Commander Bill Hagstrom and Phyllis Berg from the Ladies Auxiliary highlighted the competition and Kate Raxon presented her speech.
- Box City Vigil Grant Award Youth Ventures and Best Buy partnered to sponsor the @ 15 Challenge. The Box City team was one of 30 teams applying for one of 15 \$10,000 grants and they came out a winner. Spectra Myers, Youth Ventures, highlighted the grant process and presented a check to representatives of our award winner, Box City Vigil—Molly Kalina, Michael Riebel, Kelly Strawman, Dana Hanson and Courtney Gallagher.

Box City Vigil is a team of seven high school students from Bloomington Public Schools and two adult team leaders who work together with the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless and Bloomington United for Youth to help raise awareness for youth homelessness. For the last five years, participants have spent the night outside the Minnesota State Capitol in boxes to simulate the experience of being homeless. This year, the date is May 8th. The committee plans to allocate the funds to outreach efforts with other schools across Minnesota with the hope of increasing their message's visibility to state legislators. The Box City team is using some of the grant funds for making personal hygiene kits for the homeless. Box City Vigil is a partner with Bloomington United for Youth.

MAEF
Oak Grove
Elementary

Oak Grove Elementary School is one of 23 schools statewide selected to receive the 2008 Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation School Spotlight Award for academic excellence and student success. Dr. Nancy Allen-Mastro provided background on the process and introduced Principal Raymond Yu. Mr. Yu expressed appreciation to the entire staff for their efforts in working together as a team to make the school something special. Focused efforts to close the achievement gap for students were in place long before the school was identified as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Oak Grove Elementary students had the highest Reading scores in the state for schools with similar demographics. The work of Professional Learning Communities is one more reason for achieving these results.

V. PART A
1. *Board Business*
Minutes

Personnel Items

Non-Resident

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on February 23, 2009.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Resignation, Employments, Changes of Status. Independent Personnel: Retirement, Leave of Absence. Classified Personnel: Employments, Changes of Status.
- c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2008-2009: Students entering Bloomington total 15 and 11 students leaving. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2009-2010: Students entering Bloomington total 12 and 3 student leaving.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Educational Access
Cable TV

- a. 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*

Finance Reports

Receipts/Disbursements

- a. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the month ended January 31, 2009.
- b. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Arlene Bush moved, Tim Culver 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
Early Learners
Academy
Update

The School Board received an update on the Early Learners Academy presented by Kristina Grossinger and Carol Huttner. Early Learners Academy is designed to meet the needs of families needing full-day childcare and desire an early education experience for their three-, four-, or five-year old child. The academy environment supports the educational development of children and prepares them for the existing kindergarten curriculum in the Bloomington Public Schools. The program began in 2007-2008 with locations at Polar Bridge and Ridgeview. Both programs were at capacity with 40 students. In 2008-2009, the Early Learners Academy was expanded to include Westwood. All three locations are at capacity with 60 students. There are 40 families on the waiting list. Also, this year, a Minnesota Reading Corp member has been placed at Westwood. In January, an information night was held for the 2009-2010 program. The program is full at all three locations and twelve families are on the waiting list. Participation and improvement has been shown in the individual growth development indicator assessments. Short-term impacts of the Early Learners Academy include establishing program enrollment and reputation, projecting a loss for the initial two years of the program and offering a high-quality program option to prepare children for Kindergarten. Long-term impacts include attracting new families to Bloomington, high-quality programming, increasing K-12 enrollment, connecting to school and Kindergarten programs and generating a margin to reinvest in programs for at-risk students.

Policy 610

Jim Sorum moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the second reading of Policy 610 Field Trips of School-Related Groups. Motion carried unanimously.

A first reading of this policy and the accompanying regulation occurred at the School Board meeting on February 9, 2009. Since that time, a change has been made to the regulation requiring that an administrator is to accompany a group exceeding 35 students traveling outside of the continental United States with the expense paid by the booster club or trip organizing body. The policy/regulation has been reviewed with Principals and the District's legal counsel.

School-Linked
Mental Health
Grant Update

Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, reported on School-Linked Mental Health Services, a collaboration between the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Washburn Child Guidance Clinic and the Bloomington Public Schools. The Minnesota Department of Human Services is providing a \$513,000 grant over a three-year period of time.

Goals of the collaboration are to provide timely access to mental health services regardless of income or health insurance, improve social and academic functioning of children served, provide consultation to school staff for children's mental health and to improve access to mental health services for traditionally underserved cultural groups. Primary services will include diagnostic assessments along with individual and family therapy. Ancillary services will include parent and school staff consultation, inservice for school staff, participation in school meetings and care coordination. Staffing would be three full-time mental health professionals—two of the professionals would be located in two of our Bloomington schools and one professional would provide direct service—half-time at the clinic at Pond Center and half-time providing supervision and coordination. Implementation would be for the 2009-2010 school year.

Budgeting for
Success
Update

Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations, reviewed the Budgeting for Success information that will be presented this week at staff and parent/community meetings at the schools and site. Feedback from these meetings will be shared with the School Board at its workshop on March 16. The 590 ideas submitted were reviewed by the Budgeting for Success Review Team. In that review, ideas were assigned impacts on students, schools and the District. A dollar amount was projected for the reduction or revenue enhancement. Ideas were prioritized into categories—positive or minimal impact, significant negative impact, will severely damage schools and infrastructure and not feasible. The list is posted on the District website. On March 24th, the Budget Review Team will review feedback from the meetings and generate a final prioritized list. Public engagement sessions with the School Board will be held on April 13 and 14. At the School Board workshop on May 18th, a target dollar amount will be set for budget reductions, enhancements and shifts for the 2009-2010 school year. The final budget for the 2009-2010 school year will be adopted by the School Board in June.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Arlene Bush and Maureen Peterson attended meetings of the Long-Term Financial Planning Group. One more meeting is scheduled. Arlene Bush attended the PER meeting. Maureen Peterson reported that the Labor Management Committee has been and will continue to look at health insurance options. Chuck Walter reported that the Community Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) will meet on March 16. CFAC will be ranking the Budgeting for Success prioritized list of budget enhancements, reductions, and shifts. Mr. Walter reported that House File 195, a bill that would have allowed school to start prior to Labor Day in 2009 and 2010, failed on a 13-11 vote in the House Finance Committee this morning. Nine members of that committee were not present to vote.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. There is a School Board Workshop on Monday, March 16, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center.

Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to establish a Closed Session on Monday, March 16, 2009, after the workshop. The purpose is for negotiations discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, to establish an additional Board Workshop on Monday, March 30, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center. The agenda will be a Budgeting for Success Update. Motion carried unanimously.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Boeser, Jefferson High School Language Arts teacher, who was one of 101 nominations for the 2009 Minnesota Teacher of the Year and now is one of 27 semifinalists. A panel will name the ten finalists in late March and the winner will be identified in May.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Maureen Peterson, Clerk