

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

**April 28, 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 Vice Chair Jim Sorum at 7:00 p.m. on April 28, 2008 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Jim Sorum, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Tim Culver and Maureen Peterson.
- Members Absent Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; and Mark Hibbs.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Debra Fincham, Pat Geraghty, Bruce Pappas, Rod Zivkovich, Tom Holton and Rick Kaufman.
- Attorney Present David 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.
- (In the absence of the Board Chair, the closed session scheduled for after the regular meeting is canceled.)*
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC An American Indian drum group performed a Flag Song of the Ojibwe Nation. The drum group was formed two years ago and is led by Randy Gresczyk.
- Kennedy SkillsUSA The mission of SkillsUSA is to help its student members become world-class workers and responsible American citizens. It also provides students with leadership opportunities.
- Congratulations to the Kennedy SkillsUSA student competitors and advisors with their success at the Minnesota SkillsUSA State Championships April 4-6 in Bloomington. The team won 49 medals and honors as 42 students competed in 20 contests.
- Debbie Belfry, Career Development Coordinator, introduced Kevin Chederquist, SkillsUSA Advisor. Mr. Chederquist introduced the student award winners.

The following students won awards in their respective contests:

Chris Aubitz	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Quiz Bowl
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	TV/Video Production
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
Rahel Berhane	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Crime Scene Investigation
Mark Boettcher	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Culinary Arts
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Customer Service
Cat Choy	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team,
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Quiz Bowl
Kelsey Cook	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Community Service,
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Customer Service
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Extemporaneous Speech
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
Darius Cox	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
Hanna Daniel	HM	Job Interview
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Preschool Teaching Assistant
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
Lexie Dubose-Briski	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Outstanding Chapter
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
Steven Emami	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Web Design
Michael Englehorn	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Computer Maintenance Technology
Houda Ennassiry	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Crime Scene Investigation
Richard George	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	TV/Video Production
Ellen Gray	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Quiz Bowl
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Computer Maintenance Technology
Paul Haggerty	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
Jennifer Hernandez	HM	Photography
Trevor Knose	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Firefighting
David Kowalczyk	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Web Design
Tyler Larson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Ad Design
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Prepared Speech
Mahlet Makonnen	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Quiz Bowl
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Prepared Speech
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Preschool Teaching Assistant
Nardos Makonnen	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Job Skill Demonstration
Oscar Menjivar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Customer Service
Pad Morgan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
Phanny Phay	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Quiz Bowl
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Community Service
Marshall Rockwell	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Related Technical Math
Allison Scherer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Job Interview
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Prepared Speech
Aden Tesfaye	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Opening & Closing Ceremonies Team
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Crime Scene Investigation

In addition to Kevin Chederquist, SkillsUSA advisors include Craig Banham, Wendy Braun, Michelle Christenson, Nels Dokken, Kristin Donnelly, Scott Etzel, Deb Finch, Dan Gasner, Amanda Hanson, Mike Holman, Shane John, Ryan Keith, Chris Lyons, Cheryl Martin, Kari McElveen, Joe Meuwissen, Nate Pakan, and Brad Pike.

These successes have created 25 invitations for students to represent the State of Minnesota as they compete at the National SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, Missouri June 23-28, 2008.

Maureen Peterson moved, Chuck Walter seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation declaring the month of May as Older Americans Month. Motion carried unanimously.

Older Americans  
Month

***Older Americans Month Proclamation***

*WHEREAS, Bloomington is a community where 13,000 citizens age 65 or older make their home; and*

*WHEREAS, older adults in Bloomington and throughout the U.S. are a growing population with evolving needs; and*

*WHEREAS, older Americans are valuable members of our society—rich with experience and deserving of our respect; and*

*WHEREAS, the number of baby boomers reaching traditional retirement age continues to increase, a fact that spotlights the need for increased attention to the needs of older adults; and*

*WHEREAS, our older citizens of today and tomorrow promise to be among the most active, creative and engaged older adult populations in our Nation's history; and*

*WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of this and all U.S. communities to work together and prepare for changing older adult populations—modernizing systems of care and providing consumers with more control over their lives; and*

*WHEREAS, overall quality of life can be greatly enhanced when supportive communities help their older citizens obtain: Evidence-based information useful in making behavioral changes to reduce risk of disease, disability and injury. Tools to make informed decisions about, and gain better access to, existing health and long-term care options. More options to voice placement in nursing homes and to remain at home as long as possible.*

*THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Bloomington Board of Education, Independent School District No. 271, Bloomington, Minnesota does hereby proclaim May 2008 to be Older Americans Month. We urge everyone to take time this May to honor our older adults and the professionals, family members and citizens who partner with other adults. We urge all citizens to work collaboratively to strengthen the services Bloomington provides to its older adults in ways that recognize the changing nature of their needs, and that provide older adults with more opportunities to make informed choices about their lives. Please join us this May as the Human Services Division offers creative and information events and workshops throughout the community.*

Accepting the proclamation on behalf of the School District and the City's older adult community is Osman Elhadary, President of the non-fiction Book Club at Creekside Center.

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation declaring May 2008 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Asian/Pacific  
American  
Heritage Month

***May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month***

*WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed immeasurably to the richness of our dynamic, multicultural society in the United States of America, Minnesota and Bloomington; and*

*WHEREAS, the cultural values of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders embody many of our Nation's core values of citizenship, family, hard work and community service; and*

*WHEREAS, the people of this diverse and rapidly growing community have contributed to education at all levels, the professions, government and public service, the arts and sports; and*

*WHEREAS, the Bloomington community long has been home to thriving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who contribute in many ways to cultural and economic life; and*

*WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continue to find their homes in our community and entrust the educational needs of their children and families to the Bloomington Public Schools; and*

*WHEREAS, the Bloomington Public Schools are committed to providing a learning community where children and adults of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds can thrive and learn together;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Bloomington Board of Education, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in the Bloomington Public Schools and call upon residents of the School District to observe this occasion with appropriate activities.*

Hung Phung, Asian Advocate, accepted the proclamation along with Amanda Crombie, a consultant with the Office of Educational Equity. Mr. Phung and Ms. Crombie invited the community to a Learning Link Up picnic on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Valley View playfields.

Teacher  
Appreciation  
Week  
Proclamation

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation proclaiming May 5-9, 2008, as Teacher Appreciation Week in the Bloomington Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

### ***Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation***

*WHEREAS, the teachers of the Bloomington Public Schools are central to the teaching-learning process that leads to the successful academic, social and emotional development of our students; and*

*WHEREAS, Bloomington teachers actively promote the inherent right of our students to a high-quality education; and*

*WHEREAS, Bloomington teachers work cooperatively with school, home and community to develop the entire learner; and*

*WHEREAS, Bloomington teachers help keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship and community service; and*

*WHEREAS, Bloomington teachers continuously pursue professional development through training, inservice education, course work and certification; and*

*WHEREAS, Bloomington teachers are active partners in shaping the curriculum outcomes, instructional practices and assessment methods that guide our students' progress;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Education of the Bloomington Public Schools does hereby proclaim May 5-9, 2008, as Teacher Appreciation Week in the Bloomington Public Schools.*

Accepting the proclamation on behalf of all Bloomington teachers was Aaron Deris, BFT Treasurer Elect (Student Services/ESC), Rebecca Brower, BFT Social Co-Chair and BFT Steward (Oak Grove Middle) and Wendy Marczak, BFT President Elect (Hillcrest and Ridgeview).

Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the attached proclamation declaring May 7, 2008, as Registered Nurses and Health Associates Day in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Registered Nurses  
and Health Associates  
Day Proclamation

***Registered Nurses and Health Associates Day  
May 7, 2008***

*WHEREAS, Registered Nurses and Health Associates in the Bloomington Schools have provided first aid, administered medications, and performed health screening and special health procedures for chronic illnesses such as asthma and diabetes and;*

*WHEREAS, Registered Nurses and Health Associates work to prevent communicable disease transmission and ensure that all students are appropriately immunized and;*

*WHEREAS, Registered Nurses and Health Associates address the needs of students with increasingly complex social, medical, and emotional problems that may interfere with learning and;*

*WHEREAS, Registered Nurses and Health Associates improve students' health to promote student learning;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Bloomington Public Schools does hereby declare Thursday, May 7, as Registered Nurses and Health Associates Day in the Bloomington Public Schools and encourages its students, staff and families to recognize the contributions of the district's nurses and health associates.*

*Be it further resolved that the School Board of Bloomington encourages all students, staff and families to promote the health of students to improve student learning.*

Accepting the proclamation was Paulette Wollenhaupt, Health Services Supervisor.

OGMS  
Principal  
Introduction

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Debra Fincham introduced Mr. Brian Ingemann, the new Principal of Oak Grove Middle School effective July 1. Mr. Ingemann came to the Bloomington Public Schools in 2002. Currently, he serves as the Assistant Principal of Oak Grove Middle School. Mr. Ingemann will replace Mr. Ray Knoss who is retiring at the end of this school year.

V. PART A  
1. Board Business  
Minutes

Personnel Items

Non-Resident

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on April 14, 2008.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Retirement, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments. Administrative Personnel: Retirement. Non-Unit Personnel: Leave of Absence. Classified Personnel: Retirement, Resignations, Leave of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.
- c. Non Resident Student Agreements:  
2007-2008 Students Entering Bloomington = 12  
2007-2008 Students Leaving Bloomington = 9  
2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 27

2. Finance

- Gifts & 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 \$31,429.56.
- Finance Reports b. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the month ended March 31, 2008.
- Receipts/Disbursements c. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Arlene Bush 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

American Indian Education Report

Hiedi Hecker, Indian Education Coordinator, and Parent Advisory Council Co-Chairs Pam Siewert and Misty Seeger and committee member Leonard Geshick provided an overview of the activities of the Committee for 2007-2008.

The mission of the Bloomington American Indian Education Program is to ensure that American Indian students have access to equal education opportunities and enriching cultural experiences to better prepare them for successful and satisfying life experiences. Assessing the needs of these students is ongoing in the District.

Program highlights included: *Curriculum Support*—A total of 81 books and movies were loaned for classroom and professional development. Schools using the resources were Valley View Elementary, Poplar Bridge, Oak Grove Elementary and Kennedy High School. *Tutoring*—Two licensed teachers provided support for students' Reading proficiency. *Reading for Life*—Focused on quality out-of-school experiences that utilize literacy, science and technology while teaching history, culture and lifestyles of American Indians. *Families Reading for Life*—A workshop series consisting of six Saturday sessions connecting families and communities. *Family Nights*—Monthly evening of food and activities. *Family Field Trips*—Three family field trips were offered this year. *The Works*—A Technology Discovery Center in Edina, American Indians in Science at the Minnesota Science Museum and Indian Education Day and Wacipi at Osseo Public Schools. *Youth Leadership Retreat*—Kennedy students will attend a two-day retreat and students will attend the University of Mankato annual pow-wow.

American Indian Transmittal Resolution

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the Resolution of Concurrence by the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota Statute, 124D.78 (previously known as 126.51) requires that school districts which enroll ten or more American Indian students establish or identify a Parent Committee to afford parents the necessary information and opportunity effectively to express their views concerning all aspects of American Indian Education and the educational needs of the American Indian Children enrolled in the school or program. The parent committee must review programs offered and develop its recommendations in consultation with the curriculum advisory committee (required by M. S., Section 126.666, Subd. 2), and review policies and procedures in the district and submit to the local board a resolution reflective of parent and community views of program offerings, with applicable recommendations.

The Native American Parent Advisory Council decided to pass the above Resolution of Concurrence.

Paraprofessionals  
Contract 2007-2009

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves and ratifies the 2007-2009 Negotiated Contract between Bloomington Independent School District and the Bloomington Federation of Paraprofessionals. Motion carried unanimously.

The Bloomington Federation of Paraprofessionals ratified the tentative agreement for the 2007-2009 Master Contract earlier this evening, April 28, 2008. This tentative agreement includes salary schedule improvements of 2% for 2007-2008 and 1.5% for 2008-2009. In addition, the tentative agreement includes the following:

- Conversion to a High Deductible Health Plan and Health Savings Account in July 2008
- Additional of longevity step in 2008-09
- Fixed District contributions to health insurance premiums
- Modifications to leaves of absence
- Modifications to the layoff procedure
- Clarification of benefit eligibility
- Definitions of operational terms
- Addition of progressive discipline language
- Substantial "housekeeping" changes

Community Ed  
Independent Hourly  
Employees Wage  
and Benefit Plan  
2008-2009

Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the 2008-09 Community Education Independent Hourly Employees Wage and Benefit Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

In a Board Workshop on March 17, the School a draft of the proposed 2008-09 Community Education Independent Hourly Employees Wage and Benefit Plan. The proposed final plan now before you represents administration's first step toward establishing comprehensive wage and benefit plans for all independent (non-unit) employees in the School District. The proposed plan consolidates seven different Community Education documents and separates hourly and salaried employees, who were before included on the same plan.

On April 14, the School Board approved the wage increases and insurance changes included in the proposed plan.

- Includes salary wage improvements of 1.5% for 2008-2009.
- Converts insurance to a High Deductible Health Plan and Health Savings Account.
- Separates CE hourly employee wages and benefits from CE salaried employees.
- Provides consistent benefits for all CE independent hourly employees.
- Provides wages and benefits consistent with bargaining groups.
- Increases wages within financial parameters established by the School Board for bargaining groups.
- Lays groundwork for creating similar plan for CE independent salaried employees.
- Includes adjustment to one classification in response to wage comparisons in comparable districts.

Authorizing  
Expenditures  
2008-2009

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 authorizes Administration to begin purchasing items needed for the 2008-2009 school year. These purchases will not exceed 5% of the 2007-2008 General, Capital and Community Service budgets. Motion carried unanimously.

This preliminary authorization will enable the administration to begin purchasing items needed for the 2008-09 school year. The 2007-08 General, Capital and Community Services budgets are \$93,943,758, \$3,198,214 and \$12,284,868 respectively.

Dental Insurance  
Budget 2008-2009

Tim Culver moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the proposed 2008-2009 revenue and expenditure budgets for the Dental Insurance Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Dental Insurance Fund - Proposed 2008-2009 Budget

Projected Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 517,056
Revenue	1,065,000
Expenditures	<u>1,055,000</u>
Revenues/Expenditures	10,000
Projected Ending Fund Balance	<u><u>\$ 527,056</u></u>

The Dental Insurance Fund budget was discussed with the School Board in detail at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Workshop.

Debt Service Fund  
Budget 2008-2009

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the proposed 2008-2009 revenue and expenditure budgets for the Debt Service Fund. Motion carried unanimously.



<u>Debt Service Fund - Proposed 2008-2009 Budget</u>	
Projected Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 107,166,382
Revenue	10,874,025
Expenditures	<u>10,817,421</u>
Revenues/Expenditures	56,604
Projected Ending Fund Balance	\$ <u>107,222,986</u>

The Debt Service Fund budget was discussed with the School Board in detail at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Workshop.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chuck Walter highlighted the Community Education “Generations” session, and the Senior Recognition Night. The Legislative Action Committee met on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Committee supports establishing and maintaining relationships with legislative representation. A strategy to engage parents and community members on legislative issues that impact education will be developed. A Legislative Committee web site is linked from the School Board site. Each legislative delegate representing Bloomington Public Schools was profiled. The Committee supports a "report card" of legislators' positions on public education issues. Spring is concert season. Director Walter encouraged everyone to support the arts. Normandale Hills took honors in the AAA poster contest—a first, second and third place in the Primary Division (Grades K-2) and second place in the Grades 3-5 division.

Arlene Bush attended the Community Education Advisory Council meeting, Jim Ramstad’s Third Congressional District Art Competition at the Bloomington Art Center, which included art from Jefferson and Kennedy students and a student recognition rally at Olson Elementary. Arlene Bush and Tim Culver attended a District 287 Board meeting. Discussion continues on the number of representatives from its member districts. The proposal calls for reducing the Board to 13 members rather than 26.

Maureen Peterson reported on the meeting of the School Board with its Youth Advisory Council. The Minnesota Student Survey was the topic of discussion.

Jim Sorum highlighted the Bloomington Senior Recognition Night held Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The event honored students in the top ten percent of the 2008 graduating class from Kennedy and Jefferson and selected students from each school were recognized for their achievements in the following categories: Academic Excellence, Curricular Excellence, Artistic Excellence, Leadership and Volunteerism. A special thanks to Maureen Bartolotta for her leadership for this special event, along with Debbie Belfry, Nancy Eidem, Deb Bunkholt and Rick Kaufman.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. A tentative contract settlement has been reached with the Custodians and Bus Drivers for 2007-2009.

A lack of health care is one of the factors affecting student under-achievement. The school district is in the process of establishing a free health clinic. The list of interested providers include Fairview Health Systems – Pediatrics, Minnesota Mental Health Clinics – Mental health services, Normandale Community College – Dental services and Northwestern Health Sciences University – Alternative medicine.

The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce is working with high school administration to discuss the feasibility of starting a new program, which will provide some of our high school students a membership in the Chamber. Students would be able to take advantage of Chamber programming as well as receive mentorships.

The Superintendent met with a citizen group advocating for homeless youth. The group is gathering information on the size and growth of this problem in the communities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie and Richfield.

Superintendent Fujitake has been asked to serve as the K-12 representative on the United Way Nurturing Children and Families Committee. The committee is advisory to the United Way Board. The committee's vision includes having students read by third grade and supporting out-of-school activities that are positive.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk