

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

**May 27, 2008**

- SCHOOL SERVICE AWARDS  
(6:30 p.m.)
- Staff members who have retired or left the School District this past year, or plan to do so this spring/summer, were recognized for their ten or more years of service to the Bloomington Public Schools. Staff members who have been employed by the District for ten to fourteen years were presented with a certificate for meritorious service. Staff members who have been employed fifteen years or more were presented with a school bell in recognition of their service to the Bloomington Public Schools. Prior to the awards presentation, the School Board hosted a reception in their honor.
- 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 7:10 p.m. on May 27, 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, Tom Holton, Rick Kaufman and Rod Zivkovich.
- 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
- Assistant Superintendent Dr. Debra Fincham introduced Renee Sbrocco as the new Assistant Principal of Oak Grove Middle School. Currently, she is the Dean of Students for Oak Grove Middle School. Ms. Sbrocco has been a teacher and a strong leader in the District for the past ten years. She will replace Brian Ingemann, who has been selected as the new principal for Oak Grove Middle School due to the retirement of Ray Knoss.
- The Jefferson Speech Team earned honors at the State Tournament. Madison Rubenstein placed 6<sup>th</sup> in Prose, Katie Wutchiett placed 7<sup>th</sup> in Oratory and Matt Erin placed 8<sup>th</sup> in Drama. Coach Scott Sieling and Principal Steve Hill provided highlights of the event and accomplishments of the students.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on May 12, 2008.

Personnel Items

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

Non-Resident Agreements

c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2007-2008:  
Students entering Bloomington per list on file = 7  
Students leaving Bloomington per list on file = 5  
Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements 2008-2009:  
Students entering Bloomington per list on file = 24  
Students leaving Bloomington per list on file = 1

2. *Grants*

Eden Prairie

Foundation Grant

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts a \$3,050 grant that the Eden Prairie Foundation Board awarded to Community Education/SHAPE.

3. *Contracts/Agreements*

Parking/LifeTime

Fitness

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves an agreement with LifeTime Fitness Real Estate Company, Inc. and Independent School District No. 271 to utilize parking lot space at Poplar Bridge Elementary School. Administration is recommending a fee of \$2,000.00 per month for the group to use the allotted parking spaces at Poplar Bridge. The term of this agreement is May 27, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

4. *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 \$32,797.16.

Finance Reports

b. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for the month ended April 30, 2008.

Receipts/Disbursements

c. 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.

Among the gifts and donations being accepted at this meeting is a donation of \$10,000 from Allan and Lone Lambert designated for the Kinderprep Preschool Program at Pond Center. Allan Lambert is a custodian at Pond and the generous donation is in memory of his mother, Albina Lambert.

VI. PART B  
K-12 Phy Ed  
Curriculum

Jim Sorum moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the Grades K-12 Physical Education Curriculum effective with the 2008-2009 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

6-10 Health  
Curriculum

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the Grades 6-10 Health Curriculum effective with the 2008-2009 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Curriculum Coordinators Linda Lee and Amanda McCarty, along with Kennedy teacher and coach Matt Vollum, presented the new Phy Ed Curriculum for Grades K-12 and the new Health Curriculum for Grades 6-10. Over the past year, the K-12 Physical Education Steering Committee and the Grades 6-10 Health Curriculum Steering Committee has assessed and revised the District's K-12 Physical Education and 6-10 Health curriculum. These new curriculums incorporate State and National standards into a well-balanced program.

The Health curriculum offers abstinence plus curriculum at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Families have a choice to opt out of this unit. There are no state requirements for Health and Phy Ed. In Bloomington graduation requirements include .5 credit in each of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Phy Ed and .5 credit in Health in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Overall, the physical, mental and social components are addressed in the curriculum, which promotes the concept of healthy mind and healthy body.

These curriculum areas have been reviewed and are supported by the District's PER and Diversity Committees and are recommended for adoption by the District's K-12 Physical Education Committee and 6-10 Health Committee. The curriculum was presented in detail to the School Board at its May 19<sup>th</sup> Workshop.

K-8 Math  
Curriculum

Maureen Peterson moved, Jim Sorum seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the Grades K-8 Math Curriculum effective with the 2008-2009 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Curriculum Coordinators Linda Lee and Amanda McCarty, along with Valley View Middle School teacher Stacy Nelson, presented the new Math curriculum for Grades K-8. Over the past year, the Steering Committee has assessed and revised the District's Math curriculum. The new K-8 curriculum is based on State and National standards, vertical alignment of curriculum and skills, articulation of elements of Music, connection with other disciplines, core ethical values and dimensions of multicultural education.

Food Products  
and Supplies  
Bid Award

Jim Sorum moved, Arlene bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts the Appert's Foodservice, St. Cloud, MN bid to provide food products and supplies to the District for the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010; and authorizes Administration to issue a purchase order to Appert's Foodservice to facilitate these purchases. Motion carried unanimously.

The 236 products included in this bid represent the majority of the items used by the Food Service department excluding produce, USDA commodities and dairy products. Bids were sent to the four companies specializing in this service. The bid from Appert's Foodservice, our primary supplier for the past 7 years, was the only bid received. This bid award is for a two-year period renewable for an additional two years. Product bid prices are firm for the initial six-month period and increases for subsequent six-month periods are capped by Consumer Price Index language in the bid specifications. Based on an estimated product usage of \$368,042 for the six-month period of July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008, this bid award will result in an estimated six-month increase of \$25,542 when compared to our previous prices for the same products. The bid specifications were reviewed by our District attorney and insurance agent. There was discussion by School Board members. Directors Culver and Walter expressed concern about one bidder.

Support Services  
Update

Tom Oestreich, Director of Transportation; Mike Berg, Director of Facilities, and Jon Swanell, Director of Food Service, reported to the School Board that Bloomington schools have joined an increasing number of environmentally sensitive businesses that are "going green." From organic recycling to the use of environmentally safe cleaning products to becoming more energy efficient, the Bloomington Public Schools is doing its part to help the environment and save money.

Fuel and transportation management includes the purchase of fuel futures, when possible; GPS tracking systems, which provide the capabilities to monitor bus routes and idle times. GPS helped to reduce the number of miles students are transported and helped to reduce driver speeding issues, all of which contributes to greater operational efficiencies. Versatrans Logistic software is used for computerized routing and provides a digital mapping system. The maintenance program allows mechanics to track engine performances and product efficiencies and the capability to monitor bus maintenance, miles per gallon and engine efficiencies. Cost of fuel is a major factor. The average diesel cost per gallon for 2007-2008 was \$3.04. For 2008-2009, \$3.65 per gallon is being projected.

Olson Elementary and Middle Schools are part of a Hennepin County pilot project to collect organics for recycling. The two schools began recycling food scraps, food-soiled paper, restroom hand towels, and boxes from frozen and refrigerated foods in April. Organic recycling diverts vast amounts of waste from landfills and incinerators, and turns it into compost to be used in professional landscaping and road construction projects. Typically, 80 percent or more of the trash produced in commercial kitchens and cafeterias is compostable.

Organic recycling is expected to reduce the District's trash pick-ups by up to two-thirds by weight, which will reduce the waste bill. Hennepin County also is providing financial incentives for organics recycling.

The District is saving in other areas, while contributing to a cleaner environment. Buildings and Grounds Department studied the cleaning chemicals used by the District's custodial staff. Using cost effectiveness and being environmentally friendly products as criteria, the number of cleaning chemicals has been reduced from 36 to 20. Nine of the cleaning products have earned the Green Seal Certification or been labeled environmentally preferred.

Three schools - Poplar Bridge, Hillcrest and the Pond Center - are all *Energy Label Star* buildings, which recognizes schools with energy performance rankings in the top 25 percent in the nation. Schools with an Energy Star Label typically spend 40 cents less per square foot to operate than the average performing school. Bloomington's schools spent about \$1.06 per square foot in total utility costs last year, compared to \$2.00 per square foot for the average utility cost for schools. District officials are targeting a \$100,000 cost avoidance in annual energy use through measurable conservation efforts.

Food Service  
Budget  
2008-2009

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

Proposed 2008-2009 Food Service Fund Budget:

|                                         |                            |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Projected Beginning Fund Balance</i> | \$ 1,300,500               |
| <i>Revenue</i>                          | 4,798,377                  |
| <i>Expenditures</i>                     | <u>4,797,914</u>           |
| <i>Revenues/Expenditures</i>            | 463                        |
| <i>Projected Ending Fund Balance</i>    | <u><u>\$ 1,300,963</u></u> |

For next year, breakfast prices have increased by 10 cents and lunch prices have increased by 15 cents.

The Food Service Fund budget was discussed in detail with the School Board at its workshop on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Transportation  
Budget  
2008-2009

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

Proposed 2008-2009 Transportation Budget:

|                                         |                    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Projected Beginning Fund Balance</i> | \$1,785,297        |
| <i>Revenue</i>                          | 6,527,018          |
| <i>Expenditures</i>                     | <u>6,526,122</u>   |
| <i>Revenues/Expenditures</i>            | \$ 896             |
| <i>Use for Designated Funds</i>         |                    |
| <i>Projected Ending Fund Balance</i>    | <u>\$1,786,193</u> |

The Transportation Fund budget was discussed in detail with the School Board at its workshop on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Communication  
Audit Report

Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations, presented a summary of the Communication Audit recently conducted by Lew Armistead, an auditor with the National School Public Relations Association. The Communication Audit is a systematic assessment, formal and informal, of the Bloomington Public Schools capacity for and performance of essential communications and community relations practices. It determines what is working well, what is not, and what might work better if adjustments were made. The audit is designed to assess effectiveness of current communication; evaluate key facts, opinions, concerns and perceptions; suggest strategies and tactics for enhancing communication with key audiences (internal and external); and serve as the framework for a strategic comprehensive communications plan. The auditor reviewed publications, websites and materials. Ten focus groups were conducted including parents (2 groups), community leaders (business, faith and government), senior citizens, teachers, principals, support staff (custodian, clerical, paraprofessionals, assistant principals, managers), administrative cabinet, superintendent and school Board.

Mr. Kaufman indicated that the Key Findings are not listed in a sequential order. *Key Findings*—Bloomington Public Schools is a high-achieving school system; favorable comparison to neighboring districts. Bloomington is experiencing dramatic demographic change; must identify and meet new educational and communication needs. There is an East-West socioeconomic divide. Superintendent and leadership are committed to improving achievement and closing the gap; the challenge is few now of the vision. Communication has been inconsistent; no comprehensive strategic plan in place. Mixed reactions to publications. Web sites hard to navigate, lacked timely information. Internal email system (conferences) not supported. District lacks real public engagement. *Recommendations*—Develop a communication plan. Communication must be more proactive and systematic. Ensure consistent messaging. Research, evaluation communication efforts. Improve internal communications. Evaluate effectiveness of First class. Update publications. Improve external communications, expand public engagement and outreach. Improve communications with minority and non-English speaking populations. Revise, improve District and school websites. Provide professional development.

*In conclusion*— the breadth and complexity of the report reflect components for a communication plan. It is not possible to implement all recommendations immediately or with current staff configuration. Implementation will be based on time and available resources. The District has the components to be successful--visionary leadership, talented staff, strong community support, solid reputation and technology. *Next Steps* will be to share findings of the Executive Summary with focus group participants and staff. Communicate findings to the community through current communication channels. Develop a comprehensive communications plan. Report out the communications plan. Implement the communications plan. Regularly evaluate components of the plan. Work on the development of a three-year communication plan will begin this summer.

- VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Arlene Bush attended meetings of the Metropolitan Learning Alliance, the Association of Metropolitan School Districts and District 287 Board. The District 287 Board approved the new configuration of a 13-member board (from a 26 member board). Terms of office for current Board members will be extended from July to December. Ms. Bush highlighted the Elementary art show at Bloomington Civic Plaza, which featured art from all ten of our elementary schools. Maureen Peterson attended the Labor Management Committee Meeting; the last one for this school year. Lynne Scherer was honored and Wendy Marczak was introduced. Mark Hibbs reported on the Community Education Advisory Council meeting. The Committee reviewed goals, which includes expanding its membership. Mr. Hibbs highlighted the recent "generations" breakfast. Chuck Walter and Arlene Bush highlighted Prom, which includes both high schools. Chuck Walter attended the PTSA Academy and the Kennedy Evening of Excellence. Tim Culver highlighted AMSD and MSBA legislative summaries.
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
- Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. The 2007-2008 school year is quickly coming to a close. Graduation ceremonies will be at the Target Center, at 7 p.m. Kennedy High School students will graduate on Wednesday, June 4 and Jefferson students will graduate on Thursday, June 5. The last day of school for students is Friday, June 6.
- IX. OTHER
- Tim Culver moved, Jim Sorum seconded, to establish a Board Workshop on June 9, 2008, at 6 p.m. for the purpose of the Superintendent's annual evaluation. Motion carried unanimously.
- X. ADJOURNMENT
- Having completed the agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned, but immediately rescinded the declaration because a motion was required for a special meeting. Upon motion being made by Jim Sorum, seconded by Chuck Walter, it was resolved to hold a special meeting of the School Board on Friday, May 30, 2008, at 6:00 a.m. for the purpose of approving and ratifying employee contracts for 2007-2009. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned (10:25 p.m.) by the Chair.

Chuck Walter, Clerk