

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

August 13, 2007

- 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 7:03 p.m. on August 13, 2007 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Members Present Maureen Bartolotta, Chair; Maureen Peterson, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer; Tim Culver, Mark Hibbs and Jim Sorum.
- Administration Present Les Fujitake, Debra Fincham, Pat Geraghty, Bruce Pappas, Tom Holton and Rod Zivkovich.
- Attorney Present David Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Arlene Bush moved, Chuck Walter 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 the Kennedy SkillsUSA national award winners. State gold medal winners advanced to the SkillsUSA National Championships held June 25-29 in Kansas City, Missouri. Among the competitors were seventeen (17) Kennedy students. Over 500 industry judges participated as approximately 5,000 students from every state and three territories competed in 87 contests in technical, skilled, and service occupations including health occupations.
- Ashley McKenzie, 3rd Place National—Preschool Teaching Assistant
Allison Scherer, 10th Place National—Job Interview
Cassie Dominguez, Final Round National—Promotional Bulletin Board
National Quiz Bowl Team, 7th Place—Amy Blommel, John Ericson,
Richard George, Melvina King and Tyler Larson.*
- Other SkillsUSA competitors were: Nardos Makonnen, Kelsey Cook, Hanna Daniel, Tan Do, Ellen Gray, Amanda Ly, Laura Mitson, Ngoc Nguyen and Phanny Phay.
- The SkillsUSA Coordinator is Kevin Chederquist, assisted by Scott Etzel and Deb Finch.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on July 23, 2007.

Personnel Items

b. Licensed Personnel: Retirement, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status. Non-Unit Personnel: Employment. Classified Personnel: Resignations, Termination, Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status, Reductions in Force, Position Elimination.

Non-Resident Agreements

c. Non-Resident Student Attendance Agreements:
Students leaving Bloomington 2006-2007 = 3
Students entering Bloomington 2007-2008 = 16
Students leaving Bloomington 2007-2008 = 6

2. *Grants/Applications*

BCPA Grants

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 accepts grants totaling \$19,500 from the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) for school district violence prevention projects during the 2007-2008 school year.

3. *Contracts/Agreements*

Food Catering Agreements

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the continuation of providing catering services to the following non-public schools for the 2007-08 school year: Nativity of Mary, Bethany Academy, Life Academy and Minnehaha Academy; and authorizes Administration to renew catering agreements with these non-public schools.

Safe & Drug Free Schools Leadership Services with City

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a contract with the City of Bloomington to provide leadership services by the City for the schools Safe & Drug Free Schools Program. This contract is for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

SHIELD Central Referral Services

c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a contract with the City of Bloomington to provide SHIELD services for handicapped children under age five and their families. This contract is for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Lutheran Social Services Truancy Intervention

d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a contract with Lutheran Social Services to provide truancy intervention related support services to students attending the Bloomington Public Schools. This contract is for the period of October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Services to Children with Handicapping Conditions Interagency Funding

e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a contract with the City of Bloomington to provide Interagency Early Intervention Services for handicapped children under age five and their families. This contract is for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Interagency Funding Contract/Ministerial Adjustment

f. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves amendments to the agreement for Hennepin County to fund a portion of the cost of South Interagency Early Learning and Development Program (SHIELD).

Storefront Group
Mental Health Services

g. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a contract with Storefront to provide mental health services to students experiencing serious emotional disturbances. This contract is for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Storefront Group
Support & Collaborative
Services

h. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 contract for Storefront's use of District facilities, ancillary support and collaborative services.

CALT
Minneapolis

i. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 enters into an agreement with Minneapolis Public Schools to use the Bloomington Computerized Achievement Level Tests (CALT[®]) in the Minneapolis Public Schools for the term of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

CALT
Robbinsdale

j. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 enters into an agreement with Robbinsdale Public Schools to use the Bloomington Computerized Achievement Level Tests (CALT[®]) in the Robbinsdale Public Schools for the term of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

4. *Finance*

Receipts/Disbursements

a. 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.

VI. PART B

SARB Report
2006-2007

Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, introduced staff from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Mary Anderson and Patty Fahlander, who updated the School Board on the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). Mary Anderson is the SARB Program Director. Mr. Geraghty indicated that attendance is the most important factor for student success. SARB is an intervention program designed to help students and families avoid court referral for truancy. SARB goals are to devise a plan empowering the student to fulfill their obligation to attend school while emphasizing the real and potential assets of the child and considering personal strengths along with family and community support.

Participants of the SARB process include the student, school and parent(s). Along with school representatives, the SARB Board is comprised of Bloomington volunteers from the Bloomington Police and Public Health departments, Cornerstone Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services, Familink and Hennepin County Family and Children Services. The SARB Board meets with truant students and their parent(s) to provide intervention measures and seek alternatives to court referral.

Truancy risk factors can be categorized into student, family, economic or school. In 2006-2007, there were 110 referrals to SARB. Eighty-seven (87) students were served by SARB.

The 2006-2007 school year was the second year that a 60 day pre/post SARB attendance comparison was documented. The SARB meeting impacted the attendance of 51 students and data was collected on these students. Thirteen (13) students had significant, maintained improvement in attendance. Twelve (12) students showed some improvement and twenty-six (26) students showed no improvement—fifteen (15) of those students were referred to Hennepin County for truancy and one (1) for educational neglect.

In 2006-2007, of the 110 referrals to SARB, the largest number of referrals were from Kennedy and Jefferson in grade 9 and grade 10. Of the 110 referrals, 87 students/parents attended a SARB meeting. This is the second year using the truancy risk factor tool, which identifies the multiple issues that can play into student attendance problems. Among the 87 students and their parent/guardian served, 264 risk factors were identified at referral, in phone conversation with a parent/guardian or at the SARB meeting. Examples include: *Student Factors*: attendance issues more than one year, peers who skip, failing grades more than one year, special education, mental health issues, lack of social skills, lack of involvement in after-school activities, poor physical health, drug and/or alcohol use, lack of social skills, prior assaultive behavior and running away. *Economic Factors*: single parent home, poverty, high mobility rate, parent has multiple jobs, lack of childcare and student employed. *Family Factors*: lack of parent supervision/control, social or language barriers, parent mental health issues and lack of commitment to education.

Conclusions over the two years of data shows that the top six (6) truancy risk factors are the same: single parent home, attendance issues prior school year/s, peers who skip, special education, failing grades more than one year and mental health issues. Two school years of data shows that 25-30% of students who attend a SARB meeting have a significant and sustained improvement in attendance.

Lutheran Social Services coordinator requests and received feedback from school staff and board members about SARB coordination or process. Recommendations are as follows:

- Considering that two years in a row the second highest risk factor was *attendance issues prior school year/s*, we recommend that school staff from feeder middle schools red flag students going to Jefferson and Kennedy who had attendance issues in 8th grade. LSS SARB coordinators will also pass on to the high schools the names of 8th grade students who attended SARB.
- If SARB board members are able to adjust their schedules, drop 2 SARB meetings in May and add 1 meeting in November, January, February and March.
- Submit two SARB reports: one covering the period of September through February and a summary report of the entire school year.

Pat Geraghty, Executive Director of Student Services, indicated that the recommendations are achievable and will be implemented for the next school year.

ATPPS Update
[Q-Comp]

Bruce Pappas, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Barb Parrish, Vice President of the Bloomington Federation of Teachers, reported to the School Board on the Alternative Teacher Professional Pay Systems (ATPPS/Q-Comp). As an introduction, the statutory rationale for Minnesota Statute 122A.414 is to: provide incentive to improve teacher knowledge and skills which improves student learning; recruit and retain teachers; encourage teachers to take challenging assignments and support teachers in improving students' achievement. Part one of the statute provides for the *Educational Improvement Plan*, which establishes measures for improving the performance of the school district, site, teacher and individual student. The plan must be developed with substantial participation by the exclusive representative of the teachers. Part two of the statute provides for the *Alternative Pay Plan*, which establishes career advancement opportunities, compensation aligned with measures of student achievement and teacher evaluation, site-based professional development led by teachers, no quotas and open to all teachers and encourage collaboration, not competition, among teachers. ATPPS is a potential revenue source of \$2.7 million per year, subject to renewal by the State Legislature.

The ATPPS Team is comprised of representatives from the District and the Bloomington Federation of Teachers (BFT). Barb Parrish was the BFT Chair and Bruce Pappas was the District Chair. Over the summer, the team held eight meetings. Small group work addressed career advancement, professional development, teacher observation/evaluation and performance pay/alternative salary schedule. The timeline sets forth the following actions. During workshop week, teachers will be updated as to activities so far and next steps. In September, BFT Stewards will seek approval of the application. The goal is to submit the application to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and ATPPS preliminary levy would be certified by the School Board. In November, approval would be granted by the MDE. In December, ratification vote by the Union (BFT) and the School Board. In 2008, January through August, training for teachers and administrators takes place. January 2008, ATPPS revenue factored into budget development. August 2008—implement the plan at the start of the school year. ATPPS is a collaborative project that will be of great benefit to learners.

Establishment of
Referendum Levy
Election

Mark Hibbs moved, Jim Sorum seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 BE IT RESOLVED, that, the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 adopts and supports the attached resolution calling for two school levy referendums on the general election date of November 6, 2007. First is to increase the general education revenue of the School District starting in pay 2009. The second is for a capital projects levy to provide funding for technology starting in pay 2008. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

The resolution proposes that an election be held on November 6, 2007, to increase our referendum authorization up to our new State cap.

The additional general education revenue to be requested in this election would be \$1503.11 per resident marginal cost pupil unit. The referendum revenue authorization is for taxes payable in 2009.

The resolution also includes an additional question for a Capital Projects Levy for \$3,000,000.00 per year for 10 years. The authorization is for taxes payable 2008.

Reasons for the referendums include:

- Minnesota property tax reforms of 2000 and 2001 reduced school taxes on all properties and at the same time increased the amount school districts can levy through local elections. This amount increases each year based on the annual inflationary factor in Minnesota State Statute.
- The proportion of state aid in funding public education has dramatically increased with a commensurate reduction in property taxes making the Bloomington Public Schools dependent upon the more volatile income, capital gains, sales and corporate taxes.
- The Minnesota State Legislature has increased the general education formula for 2% for 2007-2008 and 1% for 2008-2009. With unknown increases in future years, additional funds are needed to maintain existing programs, class sizes, services, local initiatives and the strategic plan.
- Inflationary expenditure increases continue to be greater than general educational formula increase. This revenue is 62% of the District's total revenue. Based on these facts, Bloomington Public Schools must seek additional funding or make budget cuts to keep a balanced budget.
- The Bloomington Public Schools has been prudent in its use of public funds resulting in balanced budgets and sustained programming up to 2006-2007.
- Unlike cities, counties and other taxing jurisdictions, school districts only can increase operating levy revenue through a referendum.
- Neighboring school districts receive up to \$570 more per student in operating referendums than the Bloomington Public Schools.
- Technology funding is needed for maintaining the progress we have made in the appropriate use of technology. This funding helps to ensure that all students and staff have the tools they need to be successful in the learning environment and to compete in our global society.
- Technology funding will continue the District's goal of technologies that facilitate data analysis / assessments and increase the home to school communications.
- Neighboring school districts receive up to \$5.7 million more in capital projects levy than the Bloomington Public Schools.

State Statute requires us to inform the County of our intent to call an election 53 days prior to the proposed election date. Therefore, our deadline for informing the County is September 14, 2007. The resolution was drafted by Tom Deans, an attorney who drafted our prior years' election resolutions. Kingsley Holman, District Counsel, has reviewed the resolution.

RESOLUTION CALLING AN ELECTION ON THE REVOCATION OF A PORTION OF THE EXISTING REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE APPROVAL OF A NEW AUTHORIZATION AND ON THE APPROVAL OF A CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY AUTHORIZATION

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 271, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. (a) The school board hereby finds and determines that it is necessary and expedient for the school district to revoke \$991.40 per resident marginal cost pupil unit of the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,503.11 per resident marginal cost pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per resident marginal cost pupil unit" as "per pupil." The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately .13812% of the referendum market value of the school district for taxes payable in 2009, the first year it is to be levied. The school district's actual referendum revenue authorization for any year shall not exceed the statutory maximum for that year. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. For this purpose, the rate of inflation shall be the annual inflationary increase calculated under Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, Subdivision 2, paragraph (b). The question on the revocation of the existing referendum revenue authorization and the approval of this new authorization shall be School District Ballot Question 1 on the school district ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

If the new referendum revenue authorization is approved by the voters of the school district, the existing \$991.40 per resident marginal cost pupil unit shall be revoked effective for taxes payable in 2009.

(b) The school board also finds and determines that it is necessary and expedient for the school district to submit a capital project levy authorization to the voters for their approval. The proposed authorization will be in the amount of 2.501% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$3,000,000 for taxes payable in 2008, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. The money raised by the capital project levy authorization will be used to provide funds for the purchase and installation of software and technology and the support and maintenance of technology. The program will be commenced prior to November 5, 2012, which date is not more than five (5) years from the date of the special election authorizing the approval of the capital project levy. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded by the proposed capital project levy authorization is approximately \$30,000,000. The question on the approval of the capital project levy authorization shall be School District Ballot Question 2 on the school district ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

2. The actions of the administration in consulting with the Minnesota Department of Education, causing a proposal to be prepared for submission on behalf of the board to the Commissioner of Education for the Commissioner's Review and Comment and taking such other actions as necessary to comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.71, as amended, are hereby ratified and approved in all respects. The actual holding of the special election on School District Ballot Question 2 above shall be contingent on the receipt of a positive Review and Comment from the Commissioner on the projects included in that question.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the Commissioner's Review and Comment to be published in the legal newspaper of the school district at least twenty (20) but not more than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the special election as specified in paragraph 3 of this resolution.

3. The ballot questions below shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the school district at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. This election shall be conducted in conjunction with the City of Bloomington municipal elections.

4. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said special election to be given to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, and to the Commissioner of Education, at least fifty-three (53) days prior to the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of said special election and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at said special election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days before the date of said special election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said special election and to cause a sample ballot to be posted in each polling place on Election Day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be published in the official newspaper of the school district, for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of said election.

The notice of election so posted and published shall state the questions to be submitted to the voters as set forth in the form of ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the rules and instructions for use of the optical scan voting system to be posted in each polling place on Election Day.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of the election to be mailed by first class mail to each taxpayer in the school district at least fifteen (15) but no more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the special election. The notice shall contain the required projections and the required statement specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 9, paragraph (b). The clerk is also directed to cause a copy of this notice to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the election.

5. The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials and to take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this special election and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting other elections on that date.

6. The clerk is further authorized and directed to cause or to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form, color and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate an optical scan voting system:

SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION BALLOT

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 271
(BLOOMINGTON)
SPECIAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 6, 2007

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "YES" for that question.
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "NO" for that question.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1
REVOKING EXISTING REFERENDUM REVENUE
AUTHORIZATION; APPROVING NEW AUTHORIZATION**

The board of Independent School District No. 271 (Bloomington) has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$991.40 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,503.11 per pupil for taxes payable in 2009, the first year the new authorization would be levied. The school district's actual referendum revenue authorization for any year shall not exceed the statutory maximum for that year. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

YES Shall the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of

NO Independent School District No. 271 be approved?

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU
ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 2
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT
CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY AUTHORIZATION**

The school board of Independent School District No. 271 (Bloomington) has proposed a capital project levy authorization in the amount of 2.501% times the net tax capacity of the school district to provide funds for the purchase and installation of software and technology and the support and maintenance of technology. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$3,000,000 for taxes payable in 2008, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$30,000,000. The projects to be funded have received a positive review and comment from the Commissioner of Education.

YES

Shall the capital project levy proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 271 be approved?

NO

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION,
YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

Optical scan ballots must be printed in black ink on white material, except that marks to be read by the automatic tabulating equipment may be printed in another color ink. The name of the precinct and machine-readable identification must be printed on each ballot. Voting instructions must be printed at the top of the ballot on each side that includes ballot information. The instructions must include an illustration of the proper mark to be used to indicate a vote. Lines for initials of at least two election judges must be printed on one side of the ballot card so that the judges' initials are visible when the ballots are enclosed in a secrecy sleeve.

7. If the school district will be contracting to print the ballots for this special election, the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to prepare instructions to the printer for layout of the ballot. Before a contract in excess of \$1,000 is awarded for printing ballots, the printer shall furnish, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 204D.04, a sufficient bond, letter of credit or certified check acceptable to the clerk in an amount not less than \$1,000 conditioned on printing the ballots in conformity with the Minnesota election law and the instructions delivered. The clerk shall set the amount of the bond, letter of credit, or certified check in an amount equal to the value of the purchase.

8. The trained election judges appointed by the City of Bloomington for the November 6, 2007 municipal elections in that city are also appointed as election judges for the school district's special election held in conjunction with that municipal election. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit the results to the school board for canvass in the manner provided for other school district elections.

9. If the capital project levy authorization proposed in School District Ballot Question 2 is approved, a capital project referendum account shall be created as a separate account in the general fund of the school district. All proceeds from the capital project levy must be deposited in the capital project referendum account. Interest income attributable to the capital project referendum account must be credited to the capital project referendum account. Money in the capital project referendum account may be used only for the costs of acquisition and betterment of the approved project. The funds in the capital project referendum account may be accumulated and not be expended until sufficient funds are available, may be accumulated and not be expended until additional funds from a bond issue are available, or may be expended on an ongoing basis for approved project costs. Any funds remaining in the capital project referendum account that are not applied to the payment of the costs of the approved project before its final completion shall be transferred to the school district's debt redemption fund.

10. This special election shall be conducted by election officials from the City of Bloomington. The clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those election officials, including entering into agreements or understandings regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing. The City Clerk of the City of Bloomington is authorized to carry out any necessary duties delegated by the school district clerk.

Each School Board member made statements of support for the two levy referendum questions. Director Culver emphasized that this action is looking to the future as the District is not in crisis due to sound financial management. The operating levy replaces a referendum authorization that currently is in place. This action comes strongly recommended by the Community Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) and the Educational Technology Advisory Committee (ETAC).

Addressing the School Board regarding the referendum were Laura Schmit along with Renee Raming and Ron Marien, who were the co-chairs of the 2003 citizens referendum committee, Unite Bloomington for Schools. Ms. Schmit shared an example of citing how Bloomington Schools is behind neighboring districts. They all urged the School Board and the public to support both the technology and operating levies so that students in the Bloomington Public Schools have every opportunity to receive the best possible education. They are committed to educating citizens about the referendum. Also in the audience showing their support were PTA members from some of the schools.

Chair Bartolotta stated that the District's new Strategic Plan calls for increasing the funding base and maximizing resources. Failure of the referendum will result in budget cuts of \$5.2 million for the 2009-2010 school year.

Extended Field
Trip-Olson Middle

Chuck Walter moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the Extended Field Trip Application for the 8th grade students from Olson Middle School to participate in YMCA Camp Widjiwagan in Ely, Minnesota. Motion carried unanimously.

Greg Gilbert, Laurie Dahlgren and Kathleen Stauble, teachers at Olson Middle School, submitted the Extended Field Trip Application for 8th grade students to travel to Ely, Minnesota, from March 11-14, 2008. Students will be absent from school four days, which by policy requires approval of the school Board. The purpose of the trip is to provide a wilderness experience, group building and environmental education.

New Policy 701.3
Fund Balance

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the second reading of new Policy 701.3, Fund Balance. Motion carried unanimously.

The policy has been created to ensure financial stability of the District, to provide a sound basis to justify continuation of the strong financial rating and to provide a reserve enabling the District to deal with unbudgeted expenditures. District Counsel has reviewed the Fund Balance policy. The accompanying administrative regulation outlines procedures related to this policy.

- VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS Tim Culver and Arlene Bush reported on District 287 Board activities. The South Education Campus project continues to be on schedule and under budget. District 287 is in the process of strategic planning and reviewing services offered and services needed by member school districts. Arlene Bush attended the last day of Summer BLAST at Valley View Middle School, highlighted the Education Foundation Chip in for Schools golf tournament and reported that John Wheeler, General Manager at the Mall of America, is leaving. Mr. Wheeler has served on the MLA Board since the MLA opened. Jim Sorum highlighted the Summer BLAST Family Fun Night.
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Superintendent Les Fujitake indicated that with the establishment of the referendum levy, the School Board needs a planning workshop.
- Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board establish a workshop on Wednesday, August 15, at 5 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.
- 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.

Chuck Walter, Clerk