

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

September 22, 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 7:02 p.m. on September 22, 2008 in the Community Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th 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, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Pat Geraghty, Tom Holton, Rick Kaufman, Bruce Pappas and Rod Zivkovich.
- Attorney Present David Holman.
(There are no abstentions unless otherwise stated.)
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Mark Hibbs moved, Tim Culver seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC The Jefferson Theatre Company is presenting ***Fiddler on the Roof*** October 1-5. Adam DeGonda, starring as Tevye, performed "Tradition" accompanied by Vocal Music teacher Jeff Kelly. Over 50 students on stage and in the orchestra will be involved in the production.
- thinkPINKkids Day***
Chuck Walters moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the joint proclamation with the City of Bloomington proclaiming September 26, 2008, as thinkPINKkids Day in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

thinkPINKkids Day Proclamation

*Whereas, the American Cancer society estimates one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer some time in their lives; and
Whereas, the people of Bloomington recognize the pervasive and devastating impact of breast cancer—in some cases personally; and
Whereas, there is hope in the community of Bloomington that a cure will be found for the disease through continued breast cancer research; and
Whereas, young people who commit their time and energy to serving their community while encouraging others to become involved deserve recognition; and
Whereas, through collaboration the people of Bloomington will help raise awareness and funding for a cause that impacts our community and the world; and*

Whereas, funds raised through Bloomington's thinkPINKkids efforts, a major research grant to find a cure for breast cancer has been awarded to the University of Minnesota, one of only 39 institutions in the United States to be recognized by the National Cancer Institute as a comprehensive cancer center for its ongoing, significant advances in cancer research; and

Now, therefore, we, Gene Winstead, Mayor of the City of Bloomington, and Maureen Bartolotta, Chair of the Bloomington Board of Education, do hereby proclaim, September 26, 2008 as thinkPINKkids Day in Bloomington, and call upon the people of Bloomington to observe this day by participating in an inaugural 5K Walk at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, at 8:30 a.m. to help raise awareness and funding for finding a cure for breast cancer.

Olson Middle School Principal Tom Lee and Doug Ellingson, currently a ninth grade student at Jefferson accepted the proclamation. Doug Ellingson and Max Woodrich founded thinkPINKkids last spring when they were students at Olson Middle School. On September 26, the people of Bloomington will observe thinkPINKkids Day by participating in an inaugural 5K Walk at the Mall of America to help raise awareness and funding for finding a cure for breast cancer. Students from Olson Middle, and Jefferson High School will participate in this national kickoff event.

Parade of Schools

Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations, highlighted the second *Parade of Schools*, which will be held October 21. The event is a great opportunity for prospective families to visit schools that best meet their children's needs, as well as community residents who have not been in a school for years. Students and staff are looking forward to showcasing their school and work. Although our schools always are open to new families and residents, we have set aside a day to really encourage our community to come and visit our schools. Principals and student tour guides will welcome visitors to their schools, provide tours of classrooms and serve refreshments. Tour times are 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. A special publication — *Bloomington Parade of Schools* — is a full color magazine that features each school with photos and information about programs and facilities. A copy of the magazine was mailed to every community residence for last year's event. The magazine is supported completely by community advertisers. This year, the magazine is available at the schools. *Parade of Schools* was developed as a two-year publication by the District's Marketing Committee, led by Principal Tom Lee and Addie Mattson, former Community Relations Specialist.

Public

Two residents addressed the School Board regarding athletic fields. Bob Gunderson encouraged Board members to vote in favor of turfing the fields at the high schools citing student success and student safety as primary considerations. Success of schools is important to attract new families to the community. Part of that involves athletics. He believes the field is not safe for students, whether it is football, lacrosse or soccer. Students are incurring minor injuries on a frequent basis. Keeping students on high school campuses for practice and games also is a safety factor. Students would not be traveling in other students' cars to go offsite for practices and games. Mr. Gunderson supports having a turf field at each of the high schools, Jefferson and Kennedy.

Chuck Houts indicated that he mirrored Mr. Gunderson's points of view regarding safety. Also, he believes that to remain competitive in the Lake Conference, it means having facilities, programs and buildings including turf fields. The disrepair of the current field is a concern for student safety as it is the cause of injuries to the athletes. The availability of fields is a consideration. Outdoor sports could practice outside in the spring. Several of the Lake Conference schools are upgrading and improving fields at the high schools. There will be twelve teams in Lake Conference next year. Currently seven of those schools have or will have turf fields. He supports a long-view for Bloomington rather than a short-cited plan for the future. Mr. Houts believes a field is needed at Kennedy High School and at Jefferson High School.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*
Minutes

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board on September 8, 2008.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Leaves of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status. Classified Personnel: Termination, Resignations, Leave of Absence, Employments, Changes of Status.
- c. Non Resident Student Attendance Agreements:
 - 2007-2008 Students Entering Bloomington = 1
 - 2008-2009 Students Entering Bloomington = 26
 - 2008-2009 Students Leaving Bloomington = 7

Personnel Items

Non-Resident
Agreements

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Center for Learning
Solutions

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the amendment to the agreement between The Center for Learning Solutions (CLS) and Family Education in support of the Minnesota Reading Corps. The agreement was approved at the July 28, 2008, School Board meeting. The financial terms of this agreement change from a total amount of \$8,837 to \$9,141 due to an increase in hours for the Master Coach for the addition of one site.

3. *Finance*

Insurance Renewals

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271, for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, renews our District's insurance: Commercial Property and Casualty Insurance policies with MSBA Insurance Trust, annual premium is \$352,918. Equipment Breakdown Insurance policy with Hartford Insurance Company, annual premium is \$17,859. Storage Tank Impairment Liability policy with Endurance American Specialty Insurance Co., annual premium is \$8,796. Identity Fraud Expense Coverage with Travelers Insurance Company, annual premium is \$4,996. International Travel Coverage with ACE American Insurance Co., annual premium is \$2,831.

Receipts/Disbursements

- b. Receipts and Disbursements as submitted.

Mark Hibbs 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.

VI. PART B
Hybrid Classes
JHS

Jefferson High School offers hybrid classes, which provide an opportunity to learn differently and teach differently. Hybrid courses combine online learning with teacher led, face-to-face classroom instruction. Principal Steve Hill, Assistant Principal Kevin Groebner and teachers John Weisser and Liz Boeser provided an overview for the School Board and explained how a hybrid course will meet best practice and fit into the District's strategic plan.

Components of a hybrid course include the same high standards, curriculum and expectations as the traditional approach--rigor, relevance, relationships. Essential and important standards are being addressed. High technology and 21st century skills are being developed and utilized-- Interpersonal skills and technological skills are needed to participate and succeed in our rapidly changing world. Key components to a hybrid course are that the student is in class part of the week and online part of the week. Some students do their online work at school, in which case the teacher is available to assist the student. The online environment provides rich resources and content. Hybrid tools used are email or gmail, blogs, web pages, wikis (group of students work together; all students within the group can edit work), social communities. Jefferson conducted a hybrid class pilot last year and implemented the following courses for the 2008-2009 school year: Creative Writing, College Writing, iSearch for Happiness, Physics of Fun, SPOTS, Honors Algebra II and Advanced Photography.

District 287
Safe Schools Levy

Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves this resolution of Intermediate School District No. 287's Safe Schools Levy and authorizing the District's use of this revenue on safe schools projects. Motion carried unanimously.

Intermediate districts do not have levy authority; State statutes allows intermediates to perform Safe School functions and allocate the costs, up to \$10.00 per Average Marginal Computed Pupil Unit (AMCPU), to member districts for inclusion in their levy data. The thirteen member districts must adopt their portion of the annual 287 Safe School Levy. Bloomington's portion for 2009-2010 is \$119,743.20. This is based on \$10.00 per Bloomington Schools 2009-2010 AMCPU.

District 287
Health & Safety
Levy

Maureen Peterson moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the resolution of Intermediate School District No. 287's Health and Safety Program budget and authorizing the inclusion of those projects in the District's application for Health and Safety revenue. Motion carried unanimously.

Intermediate districts do not have levy authority; State statutes allow intermediates to perform Health & Safety functions and allocate the costs to member districts for inclusion in their levy data. The thirteen member districts must adopt their portion of the Health & Safety levy.

Bloomington's portions were \$5,131.26 for 2007-08, and \$9,811.95 for 2008-2009. Bloomington's portion for 2009-2010 is \$11,436.00. This is based on Bloomington's 2008-2009 planned enrollment (ADMs) for District 287 Programs.

District 287
LCTS Funds

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approve a LCTS Funding Payback Resolution for Intermediate School District 287. Motion carried unanimously.

The Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) payback is the result of a federal audit of the program. Based on the audit's findings, the Federal Government requires participants to payback unapproved expenditures. The collaborative that ISD 287 is part of has little LCTS funding remaining to pay back their portion. The state legislature has provided a three-year levy funding mechanism for the payback. Bloomington's share of 287's payback is \$7,156.13 over three years or \$2,385.00 per year.

Proposed Property
Tax Levy

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves a property tax levy as recommended below for the proposed 2008 payable 2009 levy of \$41,833,243.43.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event of any changes to levy amounts by the Minnesota Department of Education, it is the intent of the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 to levy the appropriate amount as allowed by law. The state requires that districts use the term "Maximum" on the certification sheet to allow these corrections to the levy. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED 2008 PAYABLE 2009 LEVIES

Referendum	\$18,162,881.44
Referendum Other	895,972.42
Other	12,016,323.23
Community Services	1,643,862.55
Debt Services	<u>9,114,203.79</u>
Proposed Certified Levy	<u>\$41,833,243.43</u>

Annually, the School Board is required to certify a preliminary levy. This year, the District is required to submit this certified preliminary levy information to the County by September 30, 2008. This certified preliminary levy information will be used by the County to generate property tax notices that show parcel specific tax impact for each taxpayer in our district for the coming year. These notices will be mailed in November 2008. The District will hold its Truth in Taxation Public Hearing on December 2, 2008. The final levy will be certified by the School Board on December 8, 2008. This final certified levy information will be used by the county to calculate actual property taxes payable in 2009.

State law prescribes the maximum amount a school district can levy annually. The five major categories are Referendum, Referendum Other, Community Services, Debt Service and Other. The School Board decides whether to levy the maximum or an amount less than the maximum. The final levy cannot be greater than the preliminary levy. The proposed preliminary levy was discussed by the School Board at its September 15 workshop.

Rod Zivkovich, Executive Director of Finance and Support Services, provided an overview of the levy process and highlighted changes from last year's levy. Tonight's proposed levy includes the latest MDE adjustments and the District 287 levies approved tonight. For a comparison, last year the levy total was \$35,301,247. Next year the total is \$41,833,243. With the voter approved referendum, the 2008-2009 levy represents an 18.5% increase in revenue over 2007-2008 or \$6.5 million dollars. The District per pupil authority increased from \$991 in pay 08 to \$1,503, pay 09. The change in referendum levy revenue increased from \$11,979,483 to \$18,192,080. One of the new items in the "Other" levies category is alternative teacher compensation (ATPPS) has been included (\$941,097). Also in this category is a lease levy for fields in the amount of \$334,443. For next year, using an average home valued at \$242,000, there will be an 8.6% (\$222) increase in taxes, which includes County, City and School District taxes. This includes a 7% County increase, 6% City increase, voter approved referendums, \$645,161 reduction in Debt Service, \$602,500 reduction in Alternative Facilities, adding ATPPS (current year only), prior year adjustments and artificial turf.

Dr. Nancy-Allen Mastro, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed the status of the District's ATPPS application process and next steps. The application was submitted, reviewed by the Minnesota Department of Education and resubmitted for consideration. The resubmission was rejected. The Commissioner of Education has recommended changes, which will be considered by the ATPPS team. The changes pertain to the teacher observation process. The suggested changes need to be supported by the membership of the Bloomington Federation of Teachers. If it is agreed to and we go forward, ATPPS funding is too late for this year, but it would position the District for funding 2009-2010.

School Board members stated their intent to support or not support the proposed levy as it relates to artificial turf for athletic fields at the two high schools.

Mark Hibbs presented his statement regarding the proposed levy, providing the background of Board discussions and considerations related to fields and the stadium, one of which is the parking lease at the stadium expiring in 2011. Current occupants at the Lincoln site will not give commitment to a renewal of the parking lease until 2010.

Mr. Hibbs stated that he has been elected to represent the interest of all students and the stadium issue is not simple. We need to provide a safe place for athletes to compete. He is committed to the stadium site because of its neutral and central location and emphasized the need to be good stewards of the resources provided. Mr. Hibbs is advocating for spending the least amount of money for the fields and for that reason will not be voting in favor of the levy.

Tim Culver inquired as to cost to repair and maintain grass fields at high schools and the stadium as opposed to turf fields. Mr. Culver asked about the number of injuries to athletes this year compared to last year.

Tim Culver inquired about trend projection information on home values for next year. He believes that there has been no time for the School Board to identify this project and attach a dollar figure. He inquired if a budget had been developed. He has concern that there has been no opportunity for a public hearing indicating that this is not a one-year appropriation, but a fifteen-year commitment for a lease levy. Bloomington stadium still remains a problem that needs to be addressed--condition of the field as well as parking. Mr. Culver suggests doing nothing this year as he believes it is not the right time to take action.

Tim Culver moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, to delete \$334,443 from the budget and take another look next year and consider taking action on long-term needs.

Maureen Peterson agrees something needs to be done to address the needs but she will not support the proposed levy, which includes turfing of fields at the two high schools.

Vote was called on the amendment to the motion. The amendment failed 2-5. Tim Culver and Maureen Peterson voted in favor. Chuck Walter, Jim Sorum, Maureen Bartolotta, Arlene Bush and Mark Hibbs voted against.

Discussion on the original motion continued.

Chuck Walter presented his statement in support of the proposed levy. Points included specific relation to the District's Strategic Plan--direct impact on kids that supports extended learning opportunities and relates to core values. The cost of this project is within the amounts allowed by law. Mr. Walter stated that was now time to make a decision. Student safety is primary concern, as well as perceptions by parents and other communities that Bloomington has sub-standard outdoor facilities. The impact of resources given towards an unknown outcome i.e. renovating the stadium is not a good one. The ability to keep students at their respective schools for competition makes sense from both an economic and safety standpoint. Mr. Walter acknowledged the concerns of other board members and accepted responsibility for his support of this portion of the levy even in difficult financial times.

Arlene Bush stated her support for turf fields at the two high schools.

Maureen Peterson indicated that there still would be the problem of the unsafe field at the stadium. Academic climate is our first concern. She believes turfing the fields is not well supported within the community. She will not support the proposed levy. She agrees that the fields should be a stand-alone project rather than part of the levy.

Mr. Hibbs indicated that there is uncertainty should the Bloomington stadium be abandoned—location of a new stadium. If placed at Jefferson, how would Kennedy students and parents feel. All are trying to achieve the goal of establishing quality fields but this action does not fit into a master plan for facilities.

Jim Sorum indicated that over the years maintenance has been deferred. We have a long-term investment in the two schools and we should move forward with improving the fields at the schools. If we decide to turf the stadium and it does not work out and it needs to be relocated, that will not be a good scenario. We cannot move forward until the levy is passed; then planning can begin. The cost of turfing may come in lower than anticipated.

Director Tim Culver stated that his vote to oppose the proposed levy was due only to the inclusion of the lease levy for the fields. This is not the year to move forward; it is not a high enough priority for him at this time.

Vote was called on the original motion. On roll call vote, Chuck Walter, Jim Sorum, Arlene Bush and Maureen Bartolotta vote aye. Directors Maureen Peterson, Tim Culver and Mark Hibbs voted nay. Motion carried 4-3.

Policy 302

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Peterson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the second reading of Policy 302, Superintendent. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 302, Superintendent, will replace current Policy 2112, which outlines the job description for the Superintendent of Schools. Policy 302 reflects the updated format providing a statement of purpose and a general statement of policy. Regulation 302 incorporates the current policy identifying Major Responsibilities, Illustration of Major Responsibilities, Key Duties and Organizational Relationships. The policy was reviewed with the School Board at the August 25th Board Workshop.

Policy 413

Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the second reading of Policy 413, Harassment and Violence. Motion carried unanimously.

The primary changes in this policy (and regulation) include several non-substantive language, grammar and formatting modifications, added reference to violence prevention and character education programs offered in schools throughout the District and the addition of the Harassment and Violence Report Form. The draft policy (and regulation) were reviewed at the August 25, 2008 Board Workshop. As a result of feedback from Director Walters, the following modifications were made to the Harassment and Violence Report Form: added a statement clarifying confidentiality parameters and added a statement to clarify who received the completed form. Kingsley Holman has reviewed this draft policy.

Policy 414

Chuck Walter moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the second reading of Policy 414, Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse. Motion carried unanimously.

The primary changes in this policy (and regulation) include the following: added definition of "Accidental" to the regulation, which is consistent with this addition in State statute and several non-substantive language, grammar and formatting modifications. The draft policy (and regulation) were reviewed at the August 25, 2008 Board Workshop. Kingsley Holman has reviewed this draft policy.

Policy 701.4

Jim Sorum moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the second reading of revised Policy 701.4, Budget Process. Motion carried unanimously.

This policy was developed in Community Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC). The policy was developed to establish procedures to govern the District's budget process and to adhere to the District's Fund Balance Policy 701.3. Policy 701.4 was reviewed at the August 25, 2008 School Board Workshop. This policy has been reviewed by District Counsel.

Policy 407

Maureen Peterson moved, Tim Culver seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the first reading of revised Policy 407, Environmental and Health Safety Standards. Motion carried unanimously.

This policy reflects the current policy format and establishes procedures to govern environmental health and safety standards to school facilities. Policy 407 was reviewed at the September 15, 2008 School Board Workshop. This policy has been reviewed by District Counsel.

Policy Deletions

Maureen Peterson moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the deletion of Policy 6130, Inclusion and Policy 6140, Diversity/Inclusion Education. Motion carried unanimously.

As part of an ongoing review process, the aforementioned policies, and any accompanying regulations, have been reviewed and determined to be obsolete or have been incorporated within other policies. Policy 6130 Inclusion is addressed in new Policy 521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination.

Policy 6140 Diversity/Inclusion Education is addressed within Policy 102 Equal Educational Opportunity. While new or revised policies have two readings, deletions need only one School Board action. Regulations are deleted by Administration and the School Board is so notified. If there is a regulation accompanying the policy being deleted, the regulation also will be deleted, as there are no stand-alone regulations. District Counsel has reviewed the policies recommended for deletion and concurs with the action recommended by Administration. These policy deletions were reviewed and discussed with the School Board at its workshop on September 15th.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mark Hibbs reported on the first meeting of the Community Education Advisory Council at which committee goals were discussed. The next meeting will focus on a new program through United Way. Chuck Walter reported on a House Committee meeting he attended regarding reconfiguring educational finance (H.F. 4178 Mindy Grieling). Maureen Bartolotta and Arlene Bush also were in attendance at the meeting. Director Walter presented to the Knights of the Roundtable at Normandale Hills highlighting topics being discussed by the School Board. Maureen Peterson reported on the first Labor Management Committee meeting. Goal setting for the year was a topic of discussion. Arlene Bush attended meetings of the District 287 Facilities, Finance and Transition Committee meetings, AMSD and Education Foundation of Bloomington. Tim Culver attended the District 287 meeting and highlighted the "green" design of the South Education Campus.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted District activities. Ten (10) juniors and seniors from each of our high schools will be given Chamber of Commerce memberships. As full-fledged Chamber members, the students will have opportunities to interact with business and community leaders. TDS, a Fortune 500 telecom corporation, will be funding this program. Minnesota is the only State with this program. Mr. Fujitake reviewed recent public engagement activities.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk