

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 271
Bloomington, Minnesota**

August 10, 2020

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE
EXECUTIVE ORDERS ISSUED BY GOVERNOR TIM WALZ
THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA GOOGLE
HANGOUTS MEET AND LIVE STREAMED ON BEC-TV
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I. ROLL CALL

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the virtual School Board meeting of Independent School District 271 was called to order by Chair Nelly Korman at 7:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020.

Chair Korman announced that there is no public recognition tonight during this Hangouts Meeting. However, if you wish to contact the School Board, please send an email to schoolboard@isd271.org

Members Present
on Roll Call

Nelly Korman, Chair; Tom Bennett, Vice Chair; Dawn Steigauf, Clerk;
Beth Beebe, Treasurer; Mia Olson, Jim Sorum and Heather Starks.

Attorney Present:

David Holman.

Administration
Present:

Les Fujitake, Jenna Mitchler, Andy Kubas, Mary Burroughs, Dave Heistad,
Rick Kaufman, and Rod Zivkovich.

Chair Korman made the following statement: On behalf of my fellow School Board members, I wish to acknowledge and express our gratitude to all the staff, students and families for the feedback we have received over the last week. We understand we did not meet everyone's expectations with the decision to start the school year in a Hybrid model. We apologize for the inconvenience and the frustration this has caused some families. One of the many outcomes we have learned from distance learning last spring is that long-term school closures impact children's health, and pose other social, emotional and educational risks. Last Monday, each Board member expressed their personal reasons and rationale for their decision, which considered the balance of upsides and downsides of having students at home versus school. I want to assure you that the Board, collectively, approved a postponement to the start of the school year for one week to allow for more time to monitor the COVID-19 data, and for our administration to continue to collaborate with local and state public health officials in order to respond to further guidance if necessary. Administration continues to work with staff to address their work accommodation opportunities for non-in-person assignments, with the goal of responding to these requests no later than next week, and to continue to finalize the Hybrid Learning Model and Hybrid Flex option for parents and families. Finally, I would like to address the large number of emails and phone calls we have received regarding individual Board member comments. We respect the right of elected leaders to express their personal opinions and viewpoints in their decision-making process. Individual viewpoints are not the collective voice of all the current Board members, nor are they the beliefs of Bloomington Public Schools. Thank you for your continued patience, grace and understanding.

- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to approve the agenda
On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

- III. RECOGNITION
Principals new to the District were introduced—Carey Seely Drierzak, Ridgeview Elementary School; Akram Osman, Kennedy High School; and Molly Hollenbeck, Kennedy High School Assistant Principal.

- IV. PART A
 - 1. *Board Business*
Minutes
 - a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting on June 22, 2020.
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting on June 29, 2020
 - b. Licensed Personnel: Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status, Rescission of Non-Renewal of Probationary Licensed Teachers. Independent Personnel: Resignation, Retirement, Employment, Change of Status. Administrative Personnel: Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Retirements, Resignations, Employment, Changes of Status.

 - Personnel Actions
 - a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting on June 22, 2020.
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting on June 29, 2020
 - b. Licensed Personnel: Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status, Rescission of Non-Renewal of Probationary Licensed Teachers. Independent Personnel: Resignation, Retirement, Employment, Change of Status. Administrative Personnel: Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Retirements, Resignations, Employment, Changes of Status.

 - 2. *Grants*
Walser Foundation
 - a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts a \$15,000 grant from the Walser Foundation to support the Automotive Technology Program at the Bloomington Career and College Academy. The grant period is for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Comprehensive State Literacy Development Grant from the Minnesota Department of Education effective October 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021.

 - MDE Comprehensive Literacy Development
 - b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Comprehensive State Literacy Development Grant from the Minnesota Department of Education effective October 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021.

 - 3. *Contracts/Agreements*
City/Safe & Drug Free Schools 2020-2021
 - a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District approves the renewal agreement with the City of Bloomington to provide leadership services for the District’s Safe and Drug Free Schools Program. Effective dates for this renewal agreement are September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.
 - b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Amendment No. 6 to the Letter of Agreement and License Agreement with Parents in Community Action, Inc. (PICA) originally approved by the School Board on January 12, 2015.

 - PICA/Pond Center Amendment No. 6
 - b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Amendment No. 6 to the Letter of Agreement and License Agreement with Parents in Community Action, Inc. (PICA) originally approved by the School Board on January 12, 2015.

 - Hennepin County Data Sharing Agreement
 - c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Data Sharing Agreement with Hennepin County, on behalf of the Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD).

 - NCC/PSEO 2020-21 Concurrent Enrollment KHS
 - d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Income Contract with the State of Minnesota acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Normandale Community College for Concurrent Enrollment programming at Kennedy High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

 - NCC/PSEO 2020-21 District
 - e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Income Contract with the State of Minnesota acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Normandale Community College for Post-Secondary Education Option programming at the District for the 2020-2021 school year.

NCC/Joint Powers
2020-21/Dimensions
Academy High School

f. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) for the Dimensions Academy High School program located at Normandale Community College for the 2020-2021 school year.

Student Teaching/
St. Thomas University

g. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with the University of St. Thomas. The agreement will be in effect from August 10, 2020 to July 31, 2023.

4. *Finance*

Receipts/Disbursements

Receipts and Disbursements for the month of June 2020.

Nelly Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, approval of Part A items in accordance with all of the written material submitted to the School Board. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

V. PART B BARC Update

Chair Nelly Korman thanked the public for their emails. She and Superintendent Les Fujitake shared the reason for postponing the Bloomington Anti-Racist Coalition (BARC) Update from the August 3 meeting agenda, which was due to the expected time needed to discuss fall planning update (start of school) and not being able to give ample time to the BARC update topic at a late hour. The August 3 Board meeting ended after midnight. Superintendent Les Fujitake began with information about the Safe and Supportive School Plan and the resolution passed by the School Board June 22. Dr. Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent was hired for her training and background in Safe and Supportive Schools. The Superintendent noted that the Safe and Supportive Schools plan and June 22 resolution adopted by the School Board were not in response to demands of BARC. These District actions pre-dated CAG and BARC concerns and demands. Superintendent Fujitake provided an overview of meetings held with current and former students known as the Call to Action Group (CAG). Their concerns and demands focused in the following areas: inclusive curriculum, representation and resources (diversity in staffing) and renaming Jefferson High School. Superintendent Fujitake and Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations, had an initial meeting with CAG on June 22. It was indicated to the group that each demand topic would be discussed at a separate meeting. Safe and Support Schools was added as a discussion topic. On June 30, a meeting was held with CAG to talk about inclusive curriculum. As a follow up, on July 13 Andy Kubas, Executive Director of Learning and Teaching, and members of his team met with CAG representatives for more in-depth discussion that included the addition of novels and texts by BIOPC authors in the English and Language Arts curriculum, absent narratives and professional development for teachers regarding anti-racism. Some CAG students focused on policing (School Resource Officers), as did the Bloomington Anti-Racist Coalition; the two groups merged. A meeting was held on July 20 with BARC at which information was shared on what the District is doing to diversify staff, including one of the Superintendent's goals that includes establishing a Staff Diversity Advisory Team. No further meetings planned for this topic. Future meeting topics with BARC include renaming Jefferson High School, School Resource Officers, and the Safe and Supportive Schools Plan. Later on tonight's agenda, there will be an update on the School Resource Officer program in the Bloomington Public Schools.

Award of the Sale of
General Obligation
Bonds 2020A for
Alt Facilities Projects

Beth Beebe moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271, approves the attached resolution ratifying the award of the sale, determining the form and details, authorizing the execution, delivery and registration, and providing for the payment of \$26,320,000 General Obligation Bonds 2020A, to finance Alternative Facility projects. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

This resolution ratifies the award of the sale of General Obligation Bonds 2020A, to finance Alternative Facility projects, authorized at the June 22, 2020 School Board meeting. This resolution authorizes Ehlers and Associates, the District's financial consultant, to begin the process to sell these bonds. Greg Crowe, Senior Municipal Advisor with Ehlers, presented the Sale Day Report dated August 10, 2020. Eleven (11) proposals for the purchase of the General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds Series 2020A of the District received prior to 10:30 o'clock a.m. pursuant to the Terms of Proposal contained on the Official Statement, that the proposals had been opened, read and tabulated; and that the best proposal of each proposal maker was determined to be as follows: Low Bidder—Baird, Red Bank, New Jersey, at a rate of 0.8735%. The Sale Day Report yielded \$27,205,000 for the bonds.

Mr. Crowe highlighted the MN Credit Enhancement Rating: S&P Global Ratings of "AAA". Underlying Rating: S&P Global Ratings "AA." Mr. Crowe informed the Board of the negative outlook stated in the report that indicated the underlying rating could be lowered should the District draw on its fund balance outpace current projections so that the fund balance falls below its policy threshold of 5%. The enhanced credit rating was due to strong financial management by the District. The full resolution awarding the sale is on file and considered a part of these minutes.

VEBA Account
Termination

Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 approves the termination of the VEBA Trust, and authorizes Trust Point to distribute the remaining assets of the VEBA Trust to the three remaining participants after all benefits due have been paid. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

The District held a VEBA (Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association) Plan fund as part of the Principal Contract, which was closed to new participants after the Health Savings Account plan began in the District. Over time, the administrative fees of this plan have brought the balance to each participant below \$400. Instead of those funds being used for fees, board approvals allows distribution of those funds to the remaining participants.

Policy Review

The Policy Committee of the School Board met on July 28 to consider policy revisions brought forth by Administration. Two policies are being brought to the full membership of the School Board for approval.

503, Student
Attendance

Dawn Steigauf moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 503, Student Attendance. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

The purpose of Policy 503 is to establish the rules and procedures for attendance of students. The policy was reviewed by District administration, staff and the School Board Policy Committee for alignment to Bloomington Online School attendance requirements. Definitions specific to attendance in online school have been added. Language has been added to clarify what constitutes an excused absence for online school.

606.1, Questioned
Materials/Controversial
Issues in C&I

Heather Starks moved, Jim Sorum seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 606.1, Procedures for Handling Questioned Materials and Controversial Issues in Curriculum and Instruction. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction in handling questioned materials and controversial issues in schools regarding curriculum and instruction. The policy was reviewed by District administration, staff and the School Board Policy Committee to clarify the general statement and put forth the values of the District. Proposed changes also include defining "Controversial Issue" and the roles of the Board, staff and students. The accompanying regulation was reviewed and is presented for information.

School Resource
Officer Program

Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations, provided an update on the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in response to calls for change in the program from BARC and others following the unfortunate death of Mr. George Floyd on Memorial Day. The District and the City have a mutual responsibility to provide an outstanding education in a safe place for everyone in our schools and community. The benefits of this long-standing partnership are numerous and include joint training for safety and security, emergency preparedness, incident and emergency responses, educational programs on the dangers of drugs, alcohol and vaping as well as the use of social media and a school liaison program that serves to protect and educate. In 1975, the Minnesota Legislature enacted a safe schools levy law allowing funds for cities or counties to implement a police liaison program. Our program has been operational for 25 years. We have one full-time SRO at each of our high schools and nine officers assigned to middle and elementary schools. All of our SROs are members of the Police Investigation Division; having been investigators for five or six years before being assigned as an SRO. Officers in the program are chosen for their desire to work with and a positive record of working with students and staff. The partnership with the Bloomington Police Department helps to bridge the gap between law enforcement and well as our students, they build positive relationships and protect our schools from a variety of threats. The law allows for the SRO program; the District does not have a contract with the City for the SRO program. When the district's levy is approved, it provides authorization for funds for the SRO program. The Board's Community Engagement Committee met to consider next steps. Our two high school principals have reached out to students and staff to gather information regarding the SRO program. Data requested by BARC from the Bloomington Police Department regarding arrests/citations 2015-2020 has been received. The information was incomplete and needs clarity regarding what arrests were for students. Additional information is being sought as to number of students of color, the nature of the incident, etc. The District has reached out to the Bloomington Police Department extending an opportunity to share their perspective on the value of the program, officer selection and training, etc. High School principals, Dr. Anderson and Mr. Osman, responded to questions from the Board. The principals support the SRO program.

- VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS School Board members reported on meetings and activities. Beth Beebe and Mia Olson participated in the MSBA Summer Seminar highlighting the keynote session "Getting Boards on Board to Improve School Mental Health." Beth Beebe will attend the AMSD meeting on Friday. Dawn Steigauf reported that the Board Community Engagement Committee met to discuss their role as it related to Board Goals 2020-2021.
- VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Superintendent Les Fujitake indicated that the Board made the decision on August 3 to implement the Hybrid learning model to start the 2020-2021 school year. Administration will continue to monitor MDH and BPH guidelines and developments along with state and federal guidelines. The School Board is being kept informed.
- VII. OTHER None.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the School Board, Heather Starks moved, Tom Bennett seconded to adjourn. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Dawn Steigauf, Clerk