

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

October 26, 2020

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA GOOGLE
HANGOUTS MEET AND LIVE STREAMED ON BEC-TV
www.bectv.org**

- 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 October 26, 2020.
- 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, Mary Burroughs, Dave Heistad, Andy Kubas, John Weisser, Jake Winchell, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- Chair Korman called for a motion to establish a closed session upon the conclusion of tonight’s meeting of the School Board, October 26, 2020. The meeting will be closed as permitted by section 13D.03 to discuss the District’s labor negotiation strategy related to the District’s negotiations with all bargaining groups. So moved by Tom Bennett seconded by Beth Beebe. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Tom Bennett moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF/PUBLIC Reports were given by Student Representatives to the School Board. Juma Waganda reported on Jefferson High School activities. This week is homecoming week with a virtual spirit week and coronation on Wednesday; the debate team placed second in a tournament, and various fall sports were highlighted. The first meeting of BSAC was today. Ms. Waganda stated that she stands in solidarity with Bloomington Anti-Racist Coalition (BARC) as it calls for transparent and honest curriculum that correctly reflects the true nature of American history. Tristan Phay is in support of Ms. Waganda’s statement regarding BARC. Mr. Phay reported on Kennedy High School activities that included a successful senior shirt event, the planned movie night was cancelled due to snow, senior football night has been cancelled, and he highlighted how fall sports were doing. The first meeting of the high school representatives of the Board Student Advisory Council (BSAC) was today. Dr. Jenna Mitchler was the guest speaker on the topic of the District’s Safe and Supportive Schools Plan. Discussion included promoting teacher and student events for fun and relationship building. Citing the recent passing of a parent of a BPS elementary student due to COVID, he encouraged everyone to take the proper safety precautions—wear masks, social distance, wash your hands.

On the School Board page of the District's website, there is a link for Bloomington residents, district staff, students and parents to submit a comment to the School Board. Submitted comments may be read during the Recognition of the Public portion of the meeting providing that the comment is not related to topics on tonight's agenda and guidelines outlined on the comment form have been followed. Fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed to listen to public comment that has been submitted prior to the meeting. If the Board receives comments that exceed the 15 minutes, those comments not read during the meeting will be shared with the School Board. Should there be no comments or only a few that take less than the allotted 15 minutes, the meeting will proceed. A reminder that the School Board listens to public comment and does not respond during the meeting. Typically, matters are referred to Administration.

The School Board received eleven (11) comments. Topics included instructional models and requests from or related to the Bloomington Anti-Racism Coalition (BARC).

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting on October 12, 2020.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Leave of Absence, Employments, Change of Status. Independent Personnel: Employment, Changes of Status. Classified Personnel: Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.

Personnel Actions

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

BIG Rental/Games

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the First Amendment to the Rental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District 271 for the use of the Bloomington Ice Garden for games for the Jefferson High School and Kennedy High School hockey season. The term of this Agreement shall be from November 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021.

BIG Rental/Practices

- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Rental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District 271 for the use of the Bloomington Ice Garden for practice times for the 2020-2021 hockey season for Jefferson High School and Kennedy High School. The term of the Agreement is from October 26, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Panorama Education

- c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the agreement with Panorama Education for the use of social-emotional learning screening tools and instructional resources. The effective date is for a period of one year beginning October 1, 2020.

3. *Finance*

Finance Reports

- a. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for September 2020.

Receipts &

Disbursements

- b. Receipts and Disbursements for September 2020.

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

VI. PART B
Donations

Tom Bennett moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts donations as indicated in the background in the amount of \$14,234.65. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

MONETARY—Donation of \$3,000.00 to Jefferson High School from General Dynamics for Robotics Club. Donation of \$7,149.65 to Kennedy High School from The Minneapolis Foundation for Kennedy’s choir program. Donation of \$2,000.00 to Kennedy High School from Kopp Family Foundation for Random Acts of Kindness through KCA. Donation of \$500.00 to ISD 271 Food Service Department from Ellen C. Flaherty for meal distribution supplies. VALUE IN KIND—Donation of art supplies to the Art program at Kennedy High School from Donor’s Choose; an estimated value of \$495.00. Donation of 1,000 logo tote bags to ISD 271 Food Service meal distribution program from General Mills for elementary site meal distribution; an estimated value of \$1,090.00. The list of donations is scrolled at the end of the meeting.

Safe & Supportive
Schools Plan

Dr. Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on the Safe and Supportive Schools plan. We are in year two of the plan that aims to close gaps and raise achievement for all students through building a Safe and Supportive Schools System with the tools of Cultural Proficiency as the foundation. Development and implementation includes: Structure, Professional Development and District Administration and School Board. Site Improvement Plans include Safe and Supportive Schools goals and activities based on the Design Thinking Process—Empathy, Define, Plan (Plan & Ideate), Do (Prototype & Test), Study (Reflect), and Act. Action plans include: increase school climate as measured by family satisfaction reports; increase school climate as measured by student surveys scales; increase the percent of students attending school 95% of the time, and increase adult learner retention as measured by enrollment data. The timeline with activities outlined for this school year was reviewed.

Secondary Model
Movement

Superintendent Les Fujitake and the Board Chair agreed to give the School Board and community a report on the first week of Hybrid instruction at the elementary schools. Dr. Mitchler and Andy Kubas commented on the components of the model movement dashboard. Signs and videos are displayed at the schools reminding students of safety measures. There are challenges; staffing coverage continues to be one of them but principals and staff are making things work. Students and staff are excited to be in school and ready for instruction. Two challenges surfaced in talking with staff—compacting of curriculum and figuring out balance of instruction and relationships. Staff is doing amazing work in supporting all learners and families.

Superintendent Les Fujitake indicated that when elementary schools moved to the Hybrid model, Administration would bring an update to the School Board regarding secondary schools. To prepare for the update, we have been monitoring what other districts are doing, learning from our previous distance learning experience and targeting model movement for secondary students at natural breaks—middle school first quarter ends this week and high school first trimester ends later in November.

Dr. Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent reviewed the components of the model movement matrix that includes five key areas: physical health and safety; high quality learning; school and district operations; supporting all learners; and social and emotional learning (SEL) and mental health supports. The model movement dashboard provides an overview of the District's readiness for each level (preschool/elementary, middle and high school) to shift to a less restrictive learning model. The readiness factors for each level in the Hybrid learning model were reviewed.

Hannah Hatch, Supervisor of Health Services, indicated that COVID-19 case data continues to be reviewed to ensure the safety of our students and staff while considering the viability of shifting to a hybrid at the middle school level. Dr. Dave Heistad and Dr. Julio Caesar (Research, Evaluation and Assessment) reported on cases from September and trends ahead. The Minnesota Department of Health urges us to look at several factors—staffing, case rate numbers, safety of staff and students in our buildings, and data around the spread of COVID-19 by age group. Case data was presented by Nicholas Kelley, Acting Assistant Public Health Administrator, Bloomington Public Health (BPH); he also is a parent in the District. He reported an increase in local and regional positive cases and a projected upward trend in positive cases in the weeks ahead. Public health data is one of many factors the district monitors in coordination with BPH and the regional support team to deliver education during this pandemic in accordance with Minnesota's safe learning plan. Dr. Kelley reiterated that maintaining the hybrid learning model for elementary students is within the health and safety guidelines due to what is known about the disease dynamics and risk transmission in younger ages and because movement and interaction outside of school is more predictable among younger children than for older children.

Andy Kubas, Executive Director of Learning and Teaching, and Beth Flottmeier, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, addressed the enhancements to the previous Distance Learning model such as more synchronous learning and targeted services. Planning teams and Administration have been developing options to provide more student support at the middle school level. Consideration is being given to adding opportunities after school and adding more face to face instruction time to the student schedule. Brian Ingemann, Oak Grove Middle School Principal, presented three versions of a Hybrid learning model being considered when model movement is viable. Version 1 provides two days of in-person learning. Version 2 provides one day of in-person learning. Version 3 provides one day of in-person learning with Wednesday: a remote learning day. Mary Burroughs, Executive Director of Human Resources, reported that teachers are waiting for the District to choose a model before submitting leave requests. Kate Martin, Marketing and Communications Manager, shared the communications plan when a shift in learning models would occur, which includes a parent preference survey to determine Hybrid or Distance Learning student numbers. Dr. Jaysen Anderson, Jefferson High School principal, indicated that readiness factors are being reviewed at the high schools. A report on a return to learn plan for high schools will be presented on November 9.

School Board members discussed the challenges for parents/guardians, students and staff in changing/not changing learning models and the timing of transitions—giving parents as much notification as possible if there is a change. Also, taking into consideration timing should the numbers be such that elementary students would need to shift out of Hybrid. Staff members responded to questions during the discussion. It was noted that three weeks is needed to make an operational shift.

No action was taken by the School Board to change learning models for secondary students. There will be an update on high school readiness at the November 9 School Board meeting.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

School Board members reported on various meetings and school activities. Beth Beebe highlighted MSBA professional development sessions she has attended; most recently Representing Your Community through Policy and Engagement; Mia Olson and Heather Starks also attended MSBA professional development sessions.

Mia Olson highlighted the Education Foundation of Bloomington fundraising campaign in progress through December 31. Donations will be matched up to \$15,000. Dawn Steigauf shared that this campaign is in lieu of the annual golf tournament fundraiser that was not held due to the pandemic.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake extended congratulations to Jefferson High School seniors Alexander Carpenter, Benjamin Carpenter, Joseph Carpenter, Amy Wang and Yanyan Zeng who have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. The nationwide pool of 16,000 semifinalists represents less than one (1) percent of U.S. high school seniors and includes the highest-scoring entrants on the qualifying PSAT in each state.

The District has received a grant to offer 'grab and go' meals to adults through December 30. The grant is intended to serve adults in our community, whether or not they have school-age children. Meals may be picked up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday at Kennedy High School (Door 5).

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Beth Beebe moved, Mia Olson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m. A closed session for negotiations followed the meeting.

Dawn Steigauf, Clerk