

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

**November 9, 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](http://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 November 9, 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, Rick Kaufman, Andy Kubas, Jennifer McIntyre, John Weisser, Jake Winchell, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Beth Beebe moved, Jim Sorum seconded, to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC
- Veterans Day 2020 Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted upcoming Veterans Day and expressed appreciation to all veterans for their service and in particular our local organizations, Earl C. Hill American Legion Post 550 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1296, along with currently serving members of the armed forces, especially those men and women of our Bloomington-based 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division located at the Bloomington National Guard Armory.
- The Bloomington Police Department Honor Guard is making it possible for our schools, through video, to engage in a virtual flag raising ceremony on Veterans Day. Flag raising ceremonies on Veterans Day have been a long-standing tradition in the Bloomington Public Schools. Many of our Bloomington police officers are veterans while some are currently serving.
- Bloomington is a designated Beyond the Yellow Ribbon city. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting service members and their families with community support, training, services and resources.
- Public Chair Nelly Korman reviewed the procedure for Bloomington residents, district staff, students and parents to submit a comment to the School Board as virtual meetings are conducted. The information can be found on the District's website on the School Board page along with the link to the form for submitting comments.

For tonight's meeting, the School Board received two (2) comments regarding COVID-19. That topic will be addressed as part of tonight's presentations on instructional model movement.

Chair Korman thanked the parents, students, and community for their patience and support as we navigate through this pandemic. She also expressed appreciation to all staff for the extra efforts in serving the needs of our students and families.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

Personnel Actions

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting on October 26, 2020.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Employment, Change of Status.  
Independent Personnel: Resignations, Retirement, Employment, Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.

Nelly Korman moved, Tom Bennett 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

Enrollment Report

John Weisser, Executive Director of Technology and Information Services, presented to the School Board the 2020 Enrollment Report, which is a snapshot of District information as of October 1. The snapshot is designed to describe K-12 enrollment demographics at a single point in time, the actual recorded enrollment at the beginning of October. Enrollment impacts many aspects of the District. The data in the report is intended to assist District decision makers in creating and maintaining an exceptional system for all learners in our community. Historical trends in enrollment are included in the report to help illustrate the story of changing enrollment over the past ten years. Student enrollment for the 2020 October 1 snapshot is 9,645 (a decrease of 364 students from last year) down 90 students from enrollment projections; a total decrease of 274. The most affected was students in grades K-5. This year's enrollment report includes the new Bloomington Online School (BOS). Ethnic diversity district wide is 53% (an increase of 1%). Ethnic diversity has increased 1% each year for the last ten years. Free/reduced meal eligibility is 34% (a decrease of 5% from last year). English Language students are at 13%. Open enrollment students total 9% (up by 2% over last year.) Open enrollment breaks down to 60% students attending charter or private schools, 20% home schooled, and 20% other options. Also noted—there are 768 high school seniors and an incoming Kindergarten class of 600. Secondary enrollment is stable. The loss of revenue based on enrollment totals \$2.6 million. Enrollment reports can be accessed on the District website under the Technology and Information Services page.

Model Movement Update

Superintendent Les Fujitake provided the frame work for tonight's update on model movement. 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 (early learning services/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 rate data continues to be reviewed to ensure the safety of our students and staff while considering the viability of shifting to hybrid at the middle and/or high school levels. Case rate data was presented by Dr. Nicholas Kelley, Acting Assistant Public Health Administrator, Bloomington Public Health (BPH); He reported a significant increase in local and regional positive cases in October and November 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. Data would indicate a more restrictive model for elementary students and secondary to remain in Distance Learning.

Administrators Jenna Mitchler, Jennifer McIntyre, Megan Willrett, Jake Winchell, and Rick Kaufman reviewed a programming calendar that addressed the following schools/programs: elementary, elementary supports, elementary after school programming, middle schools, middle school supports and targeted services, high school, high-school supports, early childhood, Kids SAFARI, Facility Rentals and Athletics and Activities.

Dr. Jaysen Anderson, Jefferson High School principal, along with Mr. Akram Osman, Kennedy High School principal, shared that readiness factors are being reviewed at the high schools and they are ready with a Hybrid instructional model. However, current information would suggest continued in-person supports for certain students depending on their level of need and continuing in Distance Learning. Board member discussion included the timing of the next update—first week in January--and possible implementation date for secondary model movement (middle school quarter endings January 20, high school first trimester ends November 24).

Board members also discussed internet access for all students, early childhood services and special education services, testing, COVID outbreaks among sports, to name a few.

Tom Bennett moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 adopts instructional model movement as follows:

- Elementary grades K-5 moving from Hybrid to Distance Learning with the last day of Hybrid being no later than November 20, 2020.
- Middle School grades 6-8 to remain in Distance Learning.
- High School grades 9-12 to remain in Distance Learning.
- Early Learning Services last day no later than November 20, 2020.

In addition, the last day for the following programs/activities will be no later than November 20:

- Elementary After-School Programs
- Targeted Services at the Middle Schools
- Athletics and Activities
- Facility Rental

Model movement, along with programs and activities, will be re-evaluated during the first week of January 2021.

Director Heather Starks pointed to frustration about the lack of coordination regarding sports at the athletic conference or MSHSL level and questioned how club sports fit into the equation. Athletic and Activities Directors Jon Anderson (Kennedy) responded to questions related to fall sports and activities, in particular the football and volleyball seasons coming to closure, and winter sports that would be moving to virtual coaching. Director Starks suggested having the two fall sports end the season organically. Board member discussion followed. Legal counsel offered a suggestion for wording of the amendment regarding the fall sports.

Tom Bennett moved, Heather Starks seconded, to amend the motion to allow fall sports—football and volleyball—to continue until Minnesota State High School League playoffs end, at the latest. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Chair Korman called for the vote on the resolution as amended: That the School Board of Independent School District 271 adopts instructional model movement as follows:

- Elementary grades K-5 moving from Hybrid to Distance Learning with the last day of Hybrid being no later than November 20, 2020.
- Middle School grades 6-8 to remain in Distance Learning.
- High School grades 9-12 to remain in Distance Learning.
- Early Learning Services last day no later than November 20, 2020.

In addition, the last day for the following programs/activities will be no later than November 20:

- Elementary After-School Programs
- Targeted Services at the Middle Schools
- Athletics and Activities\*
- Facility Rental

\*Fall sports—football and volleyball—are allowed to continue until Minnesota State High School League playoffs end, at the latest.

Model movement, along with programs and activities, will be re-evaluated during the first week of January 2021.

On roll call vote, all directors voted aye on the resolution as amended.

The start of the 2020-2021 school year began in the Distance Learning 2.0 with Supports instruction delivery model. Early Learning Services and Elementary Schools transitioned to Hybrid on October 19. Monitoring and studying data related to health conditions, state and federal guidelines and learning what other school districts are doing has continued, which has led to the recommendations being presented to the School Board. Under the instructional model movement for elementary, there would be no classes on November 23-24; November 25-27 already are non-instructional days. Elementary, Middle and High School Supports will be limited to serving the highest need students as determined by special education staff and principals. Kids SAFARI will be scaled down to required childcare only and re-evaluated the first week in January 2021.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

School Board members reported on various meetings and school activities. Dawn Steigauf reported on the Pathways Advisory Committee meeting that included these topics: Safe and Support Schools Plan, Learning Model Update, and an overview of the curriculum review process. K-12 Science is in Phase 2 and K-12 English and Language Arts is in Phase 1. Mia Olson reported on the meeting of the middle school representatives of the Board Student Advisory Council at which Dr. Mitchler was the guest speaker addressing the Safe and Supportive Schools Plan. Nelly Korman highlighted the Oak Grove Middle School bikes for students project that is featured on the District's Facebook page.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake shared that the Bloomington Public Schools Advocacy Council, under the leadership of Dennis Kane, is hosting a virtual legislative forum with our local legislators on Monday, November 16, at 6 pm. School Board members have been invited and plan to attend the forum, which will be live streamed by BEC TV.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Dawn Steigauf, Clerk