

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 271
Bloomington, Minnesota

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
December 21, 2020**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the virtual Special Meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 271 was called to order by Chair Nelly Korman at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2020. Chair Korman announced that the School Board meeting tonight is being conducted remotely via Google Meet; it is being live streamed by BEC TV and will be replayed per the usual BEC TV replay schedule.

Roll Call

Members Present: Nelly Korman, Chair; Tom Bennett, Vice Chair; Dawn Steigauf, Clerk; Beth Beebe, Treasurer; Mia Olson, Jim Sorum and Heather Starks. Administration Present: Les Fujitake, Jenna Mitchler, Andy Kubas, John Weisser, Mary Burroughs, Dave Heistad, Jennifer McIntyre, Rick Kaufman, Jake Winchell and Rod Zivkovich. Attorney Present: David Holman.

Approval of the Agenda

Nelly Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Response to Governor's New Executive Order

As a result of the Governor's new Executive Order announced December 16, 2020 a special meeting of the School Board was called in order for Administration to provide an update to the Board on the District's preparedness and recommendations to move forward as a result of the new Executive Order. Superintendent Les Fujitake provided the frame work for tonight's update. In July 2020, the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health published a Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 school year. This document provides guidance for Minnesota Public Schools in dealing with the pandemic. This document is part of our Governor's Stay Safe Minnesota Plan. The Safe Learning Plan is updated usually with the issuance of new Executive Orders by our Governor. Last week a new Executive Order was issued, accordingly the Safe Learning Plan was updated prioritizing elementary schools reopening and ending the pause of organized youth sports. Our district's practice is to comply with this guidance while collaborating with the Bloomington Public Health Services to study COVID health data and health safety best practices. We started our schools in compliance with this guidance and consultation and have continued to adjust our programming to be in alignment with these evolving guidelines and changing COVID conditions. Our district teams have studied the latest updates to the Safe Learning Plan and have consulted with the Bloomington Public Health Department and our team's findings and recommendations.

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 dashboard presented gives 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. January 18th is the earliest date schools currently in Distance Learning may begin in-person learning. Distance Learning for families must continue. Elementary students will be prioritized for in-person learning. Two days of preparation time must be used to shift learning models. A rolling start strategy will be implemented; no more than three grade bands can be introduced into the building in a two-week period. Hannah Hatch, Supervisor of Health Services, reviewed new mitigation strategies—school staff with direct contact must wear masks and face shields (provided by the state), additional barrier provided when staff cannot maintain 6-ft distance. Bus drivers must maintain 6-ft distance—awaiting guidance on student loads.

Students must wear face coverings during indoor physical activity. Meal time and all specialists must take place outdoors or in the classroom. COVID-19 Testing for staff—training and saliva test kits to be provided by the state. Staff will have the option of being tested every other week; it is not required. Staffing will continue to be a challenge. A phase-in to the traditional learning approach of five days will begin on January 19 with Early Childhood programming and Kindergarten through Grades 2 beginning January 19-29 with Grades 3-5 beginning February 1. Andy Kubas, Executive Director of Learning and Teaching addressed plans for high-quality learning. Parents preference registration will take place December 22-30. Jake Winchell, Executive Director of Community Education, shared that ECFE will offer in-person or online classes. Pre-K and Early Learners Academy return to in-person January 19. Case rate data was presented by Dr. Nicholas Kelley, Acting Assistant Public Health Administrator, Bloomington Public Health (BPH). The District must continue to follow the State's Safe Learning Plan parameters, including case rates to determine learning models and consult with a regional support team to switch to a less restrictive model than Distance Learning. Jennifer McIntyre, Special Education Executive Director and Chris Christenson, Special Education Supervisor, addressed social and emotional learning and mental health supports—student and adult SEL will be prioritized for all. Resources for staff and students are available and will continue to be updated. SEL screening and assessments conducted for all students in grades 2-12. Site teams will analyze data to determine best supports. Activities Directors Chad Nyberg and Jon Anderson addressed resuming athletics and activities to resume on January 4. All programs submit a COVID-19 plan that is approved by nurses at each site. All programs will follow MSHSL and MDH guidelines. Jake Winchell spoke to facility use and rentals. Activity Centers: the walking track will reopen on January 4 to Bloomington residents only. Weight rooms reopen when mitigation standards can be responsibly met. Use by non-Bloomington residents is to be determined. Rentals: basketball courts will be open to youth sports (restricted to Bloomington-based organizations) on January 4. Other rentals for competition allowed per state guidance, medium-scale/large-scale rentals are yet to be determined.

Dawn Steigauf moved, Jim Sorum seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves and authorizes the Administration to accomplish the following:

- Move Elementary grades K-5 in grade level groupings from Distance Learning to Traditional Learning (5 days per week) beginning the week of January 18, 2021.
- Change the existing Professional Development day from January 19, 2021, to January 13, 2021, for the non-Bloomington Online School elementary staff and provide non-Bloomington Online School elementary staff 2 additional preparation days, one each on January 14 and January 15, 2021.
- Resume Early Learning Services the week of January 18, 2021.
- Resume Kids Safari Childcare for all families the week of January 18, 2021.
- Resume Elementary After-School Programs the week of January 18, 2021.
- Maintain Middle School (Grades 6-8) in Distance Learning following the same protocol and parameters (case rates) in the Safe Learning Plan.
- Maintain High School (Grades 9-12) in Distance Learning following the same protocol and parameters (case rates) in the Safe Learning Plan.
- Resume Targeted Services when Middle Schools shift to a less restrictive learning model.
- Resume High School Athletics and Activities on January 4, 2021, as allowed by the Governor's orders.
- Resume public use of Facilities, using a gradual reopening and as allowed by the Safe Learning plan, on January 4, 2021.

Presenters and other staff members responded to School Board member questions/comments pertaining to information shared such as consideration of timing of the return, staffing challenges including availability of substitutes, number of days per week for the return five versus four, goal date for targeted services for middle and high school students.

Heather Starks moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 amends the date in the first five bullet points of the resolution to February 1, 2021. On roll call vote, directors Beth Beebe, Mia Olson, Jim Sorum, Dawn Steigauf, Tom Bennett and Nelly Korman voted no; Heather Starks voted yes. Motion failed 1-6.

Heather Starks moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 amends the resolution by separating the resolution into two parts with the first resolution addressing bullet points one through five. On roll call vote directors Beth Beebe, Tom Bennett, Heather Starks, Mia Olson, Jim Sorum and Nelly Korman voted yes. Dawn Steigauf voted no. Motion carried 6-1.

Director Sorum called for the vote on the resolution pertaining to the first five bullet points:

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves and authorizes the Administration to accomplish the following:

- Move Elementary grades K-5 in grade level groupings from Distance Learning to Traditional Learning (5 days per week) beginning the week of January 18, 2021.
- Change the existing Professional Development day from January 19, 2021, to January 13, 2021, for the non-Bloomington Online School elementary staff and provide non-Bloomington Online School elementary staff 2 additional preparation days, one each on January 14 and January 15, 2021.
- Resume Early Learning Services the week of January 18, 2021.
- Resume Kids Safari Childcare for all families the week of January 18, 2021.
- Resume Elementary After-School Programs the week of January 18, 2021.

On roll call vote, directors Beth Beebe, Tom Bennett, Mia Olson, Jim Sorum, Dawn Steigauf and Nelly Korman voted yes. Heather Starks voted no. Motion carried 6-1.

Chair Korman called for the vote on the resolution pertaining to the second set of five bullet points:

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves and authorizes the Administration to accomplish the following:

- Maintain Middle School (Grades 6-8) in Distance Learning following the same protocol and parameters (case rates) in the Safe Learning Plan.
- Maintain High School (Grades 9-12) in Distance Learning following the same protocol and parameters (case rates) in the Safe Learning Plan.
- Resume Targeted Services when Middle Schools shift to a less restrictive learning model.
- Resume High School Athletics and Activities on January 4, 2021, as allowed by the Governor's orders.
- Resume public use of Facilities, using a gradual reopening and as allowed by the Safe Learning plan, on January 4, 2021.

On roll call vote, all directors voted yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Nelly Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to adjourn the Special Meeting. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Dawn Steigauf, Clerk