

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

**January 25, 2021**

- 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 January 25, 2021.
- 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.
- Chair Nelly Korman made the following statement: Please consider that while most of us in this meeting or viewing this meeting are not in the same room – all of us, wherever we are in Bloomington or the Metro Area are on the traditional, ancestral and contemporary land of Indigenous people. Bloomington Public Schools rests on Dakota land ceded in the Treaties of 1837 and 1851.
- Members Present on Roll Call: Nelly Korman, Chair; Tom Bennett, Vice Chair; Dawn Steigauf, Clerk; Beth Beebe, Treasurer; Directors Mia Olson, Jim Sorum and Heather Starks; Student Representatives Tristan Phay and Juma Waganda.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Les Fujitake, Jenna Mitchler, Mary Burroughs, Dave Heistad, Rick Kaufman, Andy Kubas, Jennifer McIntyre, John Weisser, and Jake Winchell.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC
- Paraprofessionals
- Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 honors the Proclamation from the Governor of the State of Minnesota recognizing January 25 through January 31, 2021 as Paraprofessional Recognition Week. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- Jennifer McIntyre, Executive Director of Student Services, highlighted the important role paraprofessionals play to ensure educational success for all of our students and expressed appreciation for their dedication and commitment.
- Student Board Representative Reports
- Tristan Phay reported on Kennedy High School Activities—winter sports update, student government sponsoring virtual spirit week that includes movie night, trivia game night, talent show; NHS project--students volunteered for Feed My Starving Children. Juma Waganda reported on Jefferson High School Activities—winter sports update, Jefferson Theater Company live production of “Radium Girls,” and plans for a spring play, DECA virtual state competition resulted in many students advancing to state competition in March, BSAC meeting today discussion emphasized be grateful for little things.

Public Chair Korman reviewed the procedure for public comment. The Board Received three comments; they were related to items on tonight's agenda and, therefore, were not read during the meeting.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

- a. Minutes of the Organizational School Board Meeting January 11, 2021.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Employment, Change of Status. Independent Personnel: Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Termination, Resignations, Retirement, Employments.

Personnel Actions

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

HTC Phlebotomy/  
Metro South

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Customized Training Income Contract between the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Hennepin Technical College and Independent School District 271 to provide Phlebotomy Technician Instruction to adult students attending Metro South. The contract is effective February 5, 2021, through May 28, 2021.
- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Independent School District 271 and Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC). The term of the agreement is from January 25, 2021, through June 30, 2024.

Lakes Country Service  
Cooperative Teacher  
Prep Field Experience

3. *Finance*

Polling Places 2021

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the attached list (on file) of polling places for the school district as provided by the City of Bloomington as required by law.
- b. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for December 2020.
- c. Receipts and Disbursements for December 2020.

Finance Reports

Receipts &  
Disbursements

Dawn Steigauf moved, Beth Beebe 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

Beth Beebe moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts donations as, indicated in the background, in the amount of \$6,250.00. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

MONETARY—Donation of \$1,500.00 to Jefferson High School from General Dynamics for the Robotics Club. Donation of \$500.00 to Kennedy High School from Ms. Anne Omara Kelly for Kennedy Community Alliance, specifically for 10<sup>th</sup> grade English books. Donation of \$250.00 to ISD #271 from Ms. Kelly Leahy for the Food for Thought program. Donation of \$4,000.00 to ISD #271 from Mr. John Kreger for BEC-TV. The list of donations is scrolled by BEC TV at the conclusion of the meeting.

Building Reservations  
Facilities Use  
Guidelines/COVID-19

Mia Olson moved, Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Building Reservations Facilities Use Guidelines during COVID-19 when renting district space to outside groups. Restrictions are based on the State of Minnesota’s learning model movement using the number of COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents. On roll call vote, directors Beth Beebe, Mia Olson, Jim Sorum, Dawn Steigauf, and Nelly Korman voted aye. Directors Tom Bennett and Heather Starks voted nay. Motion carried 5-2.

Background information provided as follows:

Cases per 10,000 Residents	Guidelines for Types of Events	Rationale
<30	Follow published <a href="#">State of Minnesota Industry Guidance</a> .	“Normal” COVID-19 operations, following all State guidance.
30 - <40	No spectators, no events intended to create a public gathering.  No tournaments.  Sports competition that brings teams from outside of Bloomington would cease  Auditorium rentals would be allowed without an audience, to stream/record their performances.	Intended to stop gatherings, thereby reducing the rate at which the virus moves through our community.  This aligns with the State’s guidelines that secondary schools move to a Distance Learning model at this point.
30 - <40	No spectators, no events intended to create a public gathering.  No tournaments.  Sports competition that brings teams from outside of Bloomington would cease  Auditorium rentals would be allowed without an audience, to stream/record their performances.	Intended to stop gatherings, thereby reducing the rate at which the virus moves through our community.  This aligns with the State’s guidelines that secondary schools move to a Distance Learning model at this point.
40 - <50	Only Bloomington-based youth sports practices would be allowed.  No competition/games.	Returns us to the conditions under which we operated in June and January.
50 or >	Suspension of all Building Reservations rentals.	

The criteria for determining Cases per 10,000 Residents will be the [14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County](#) document published by the State of Minnesota. This is the data chose by the State to determine learning model movement, as described in the [Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#).

There are two sets of data that will be considered: 1) Hennepin County and 2) any three of the other six Metro counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington). If either of the two sets of data would place the District in a more restrictive condition, that is the data set that will determine which events the District can host. The rationale for including other Metro counties is that the Building Reservations serves customers from a wide geographic area. For groups outside the Metro, their county case rate would determine their ability to participate.

Moving to a more restrictive condition would happen the Monday following the weekly Thursday update to county case rates. Moving to a less restrictive condition would occur two weeks after the weekly Thursday update when data would support the movement. This provides time to schedule staff and for groups to notify their participants. Any state or local guidance with greater restrictions than this plan will be followed for Building Reservations rentals.

Board members discussed the difference in the resolution of December 21, 2020 passed by the School Board authorizing a gradual reopening—governance versus operations. Hannah Hatch, Jake Winchell, and Mike Larson indicated that the resolution presented for action tonight sets the guide around that gradual reopening.

#### REA Update

Dr. Dave Heistad and Dr. Julio Caesar provided the School Board with a comprehensive update on a number of Research, Evaluation and Assessment topics that included statistical data for the following: *Research on College Readiness (GLDS)*—longitudinal data with filters and preliminary findings on Bloomington Career and College Academy effects; *Evaluation of Preschool Effectiveness*,—Development of MPSI-2000 Norms and NCEs and “Beat the Odds” BEKA results predicted by MPSI-R; *Assessment of School Climate and Social Emotional Learning (SEL)*—Use of validated items and development of new items; *Impact of IXL Use*—findings of IXL use on MAP Math target growth scores; and an *Update on Spring MAP and MCA Assessments*.

#### SEIS Update

Jennifer McIntyre, Executive Director of Student Services, provided an update on a Special Education Information System (SEIS) being designed to bring information together from a variety of sources in order for special education staff to make decisions regarding services for students. In February 2018, the Board was informed about the desire for streamlining a system to reduce time educators were spending on paperwork and organization of data. Some of this work had begun previously. Now, working with John Weisser and his team, and with assistance of a local company—The Nerdery, they helped by looking at our overall systems and provided guiding steps that were needed in order to be able to develop an information system that would allow more time for direct services to students. In the fall, a Letter of Intent was brought to the Board allowing work with *Instructiv* to start building out an efficient information system to bring the necessary components together and streamline paperwork for special education staff. A study conducted by our REA department indicated that special education teachers were spending 60% of their time doing paperwork. The goal is to create an efficient system so less time is needed navigating due process and the compliance components.

Model Movement  
Update/Secondary  
Schools

Hannah Hatch, Director of Nursing and the State's approved District COVID-19 Coordinator, led tonight's COVID-19 update that addressed elementary transition dates, vaccine update, secondary student transition, current case rates, recommendations related to secondary student transition and providing student supports. Hannah Hatch and Rick Kaufman are the District's COVID-19 Coordinators; the COVID-19 Response Team includes the coordinators, the superintendent and Bloomington Public Health—Dr. Nick Kelley, is the Bloomington Public Health administrator. Teams meet on a regular basis and continually seek guidance from state and medical professionals. On January 19, early childhood, pre-K and grades K-2 transitioned to full time in-person learning five days a week. On February 1, students in grades 3-5 are prepared to return. Additional mitigations strategies implemented for return to in-person learning. Vaccine is still focused on category 1a (health care staff, first responders, etc.); state is working on expanding capacity to vaccinate school staff.

The response team meets regularly with secondary principals and staff. Operationally, we are prepared to shift to a less restrictive model when it is safe for students and staff. The decision is based on a number of factors but primarily Bloomington's case rate. Dr. Kelley indicated that as of January 17, the 14-day case rate per 10,000 for Bloomington was 39.5; Hennepin County rate for Bloomington was 45.2; and Minnesota Department of Health rate for Hennepin County was 40.99. Dr. Kelley also cautioned about the expectation of a March spike in cases due to the variant strains of COVID-19.

Due to unstable case rates and new variant strains, we are continuing to monitor case rates closely and maintain transparency with our community. At this time, we do not feel it would be beneficial to set a return date for secondary schools. We do recommend implementing increased direct supports for students in our secondary schools. Jennifer McIntyre, Executive Director of Student Services, highlighted face to face services through special education that include academic to behavioral mental health, continue partnering with mental health agencies, adjusting the amount and location of services of services based on monitoring of overall case rates. Face to face services at the middle schools include re-tooling fall plans to expand existing interventions to meet the current needs of students under current circumstance, services for students based on academics and SEL needs and continuance of the virtual mentor program, extend class time for embedded office hours and home visits. Presenters, along with Principal Akram Osman and Principal Tim Ciavarrri responded to Board members' questions regarding student supports in place now and in the future. Principals stated that plans for secondary schools are in place for when it is safe to transition to a less restrictive learning model.

Some Board members prefer setting a target date for a secondary transition—survey parents now so it does not take three weeks to operationalize once the decision has been made; the community is looking for hope. Suggestion was made to have the Board pass a resolution giving a target date with conditions.

VII. BOARD MEMBER  
REPORTS

None given.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake commented that we look forward to welcoming back our students in grades 3-5 on Monday, February 1.

Bloomington Police Chief Jeff Potts will be retiring at the end of the week after serving 29 years, of which 12 was as Police Chief. We thank him for his support of the Bloomington Public Schools and the entire Bloomington community. We wish him well in his new professional endeavor as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Police Association.

There is a virtual professional development session for the School Board on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The topic is communications.

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 10:10 p.m.

Heather Starks, Clerk