

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

February 8, 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 February 8, 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 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; Dawn Steigauf, Vice Chair; Heather Starks, Clerk; Beth Beebe, Treasurer; Directors Tom Bennett, Mia Olson, and Jim Sorum.
- Attorney Present:
- David Holman.
- Administration Present:
- Les Fujitake, Jenna Mitchler, Mary Burroughs, Rick Kaufman, John Weisser, and Rod Zivkovich.
- 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
- Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the attached (on file) proclamation proclaiming February 2021 as Black History Month in the Bloomington Public Schools. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- Black History Month
- Dr. Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent, shared that Black History Month was proposed by Harvard trained historian, Carter G. Woodson and established in 1926. The acknowledgement of Black History Month was created as an annual celebration of the achievements of Black Americans and as a time for recognizing the central roles of African-Americans in U.S. History. Every U.S. President has designated the month of February as Black History Month since 1976.
- Pioneer & Changemaker
- The City of Bloomington has recognized Dinna Wade-Ardley, Director of the Office of Educational Equity, among Bloomington’s Pioneer and Changemakers. She will be part of a profile series featuring Black leaders who have a connection to Bloomington.

The people featured in this series have worked to advance civil rights and remove barriers to equity. In this series, the City is honoring pioneers who have done so much to chart the path to where we are today and changemakers who are paving the way for future generations.

MSBA Awards

On January 30, the Minnesota School Board Association held a virtual awards ceremony honoring the accomplishments of Board members around the state. Some of our School Board Members were honored as part of that ceremony. Beth Beebe was a recipient of the Directors' Award—Recognizing 100 hours of MSBA trainings within a four-year period. Leadership Development Certificates were awarded to Beth Beebe, Mia Olson and Heather Starks for completing all four phases of MSBA Board Member training.

Public

Chair Korman reviewed the current procedure for recognizing comments from the public. No comments were submitted for tonight's meeting.

V. PART A
1. *Board Business*
Minutes

Personnel Actions

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting January 25, 2021.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Leaves of Absence, Employments.
Independent Personnel: Employment. Classified Personnel:
Retirement, Resignations, Employments.

Nelly Korman 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
Revised School
Calendar 2020-2021

Dawn Steigauf moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the revised calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Dr. Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent, presented the revised calendar. On Friday, January 29, 2021 early childhood, preschool and elementary school classes paused in-person learning and shifted to distance learning. The two-week pause of in-person learning is in keeping with the MN Safe Learning Plan, and in consultation with state and local public health agencies.

Due to this pause, the following are proposed revisions to the 2020-21 school year calendar:

- Classes for all early childhood, preschool and elementary, non-Bloomington Online School, grade levels, including grades 3-5, will resume in-person learning on Friday, February 12, 2021.
- The February 12th Professional Development day will be moved to April 30th for all elementary, non-BOS students, to allow students to return to schools on Friday, February 12, 2021.

Revised School
Calendar 2021-2022

Tom Bennett moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the revised calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Dr. Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent, presented the revised calendar. The School Board approved the 2021-2022 school calendar on November 23, 2020, which included the first day of school starting the day after Labor Day. We've since recognized that the first day of school conflicts with the first full day of Rosh Hashanah in 2021.

The following are proposed revisions to the 2021-2022 school year:

- Move the start date to Wednesday, September 8, 2021.
- Add a day at the end of the 2021-22 school year, moving the last day to Thursday June 9, 2022.

Model Movement
Plan/Secondary
Schools

Superintendent Les Fujitake shared a presentation to provide information to the School Board regarding Administration's recommendation to move secondary schools from Distance Learning to Hybrid Learning. He shared Two reasons why some districts are moving between learning models quicker than other districts—State Guidance and some districts are not adhering to State Guidance. Hannah Hatch, Director of Nursing and the State's approved District COVID-19 Coordinator, reviewed the State 14-day case rate numbers per the guidelines for model movement along with Bloomington COVID case rates and those of our neighboring districts and Hennepin County. She reiterated that our case rates need to be below 30 for a consistent time period for the Hybrid learning model. Superintendent Fujitake reviewed the State guidelines for implementing a rolling start for model movement—no more than three grade levels can be introduced into a building in a two-week period; local public health approved our request to reduce the two-week rolling start to one week between high school grade bands (grade 9 & 12 students one week and grade 10 & 11 students the following week); up to five days for staff preparation days when moving learning models. Recommended transition dates were reviewed; subject to stable COVID case rates based on a 7-day average. Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations and the District's Co-COVID-19 Coordinator; reviewed the middle and high school Hybrid learning models, which were presented at the October 26 School Board meeting and the January 12 Community Engagement event.

Teachers would have three days of preparation. Middle School Teacher Prep Days February 24-26, with students transitioning on March 1 or 2, grades 6-8 in-person (Cohort 1 & 2) for one day per week. High School Prep Days March 8-10 with students transitioning on March 9 or 10, Grade 9 Orientation (Cohort 1 & 2); March 11 or 12 for grade 9 & 12 in-person (Cohort 1 & 2); March 15 or 16, grades 10 & 11 in-person (Cohort 1 & 2) for two days per week. The goal is to move to traditional learning as quickly and safely as possible. Mr. Kaufman reviewed the communication and engagement plans. Parents, students and staff to be informed tomorrow. Parent preference survey will be open until February 12. A community engagement event will be held on February 18 with presentations of the middle and high school hybrid models and focused student supports along with health guidelines and an opportunity for questions and answers; carried live on BEC TV.

Jim Sorum moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves and authorizes the Administration to implement a model movement plan for secondary schools subject to stable COVID case rates based on the 7-day average and case data in students and staff in March:

- Middle School grades 6-8 from Distance Learning to Hybrid Learning beginning Monday, March 1, 2021.
- High School grades 9 & 12 from Distance Learning to Hybrid Learning beginning Thursday, March 11, 2021 (no school on March 8).
- High School grades 10 & 11 from Distance Learning to Hybrid Learning beginning Monday, March 15, 2021.
- Middle School staff preparation days February 24-26, 2021.
- High School staff preparation days March 8-10, 2021.

On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

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 are set forth in this resolution. Upon transition plan dates being approved by the School Board tonight, beginning tomorrow, February 9, middle and high school families will be asked to complete a preference survey.

Board member discussion included adding another in-person day to the Hybrid models, staff survey, parent preference survey results, including the percent of students of color remaining in Distance Learning; and emphasis on the need for everyone in the community to take personal responsibility to help reach the goal of getting students back to traditional school and being able to stay in school—follow mitigation strategies.

Legislative Priorities 2021

Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves legislative priorities for the 2021 legislative session per the attachment (on file) that includes addressing the following: General Education Allowance Increase, Pandemic Enrollment Loss, English Language, Special Education, Voluntary PreK, Teachers of Color, Online School Certification, and Cruz Guzman Lawsuit. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

The Board Legislative Committee met on January 26th to develop priorities for the 2021 legislative session. The attached document (on file) provides information related to the specific topics identified for legislative action. Additional items may be brought to the School Board after February 8, if needed. Superintendent Fujitake provided bill highlights. These priorities will be shared with our Bloomington legislators and other legislators as appropriate as well as the Bloomington Public Schools Advocacy Council.

Implementing Learning
Models & COVID-19
Related Matters/
Superintendent Authority

Dawn Steigauf moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 adopts the attached resolution regarding the implementation of learning models for the 2020-2021 school year as well as other COVID-19 related matters. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

The resolution is a model resolution from the Minnesota School Boards that gives authorization to the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board Chair and School Board, to make timely decisions relating to implementing a different learning model and decisions related to other COVID-19 matters should conditions warrant immediate attention.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and
WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District 271 [hereinafter the "Superintendent"] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and
WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, *Superintendent*;
WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01, which declared a peacetime emergency in Minnesota in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
WHEREAS, on July 30, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-82 and the Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021 (the "Safe Learning Plan"), which set forth five Learning Models (in-person learning for all, in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students, hybrid learning for all students, hybrid learning for elementary students and distance learning for secondary students, and distance learning) and authorized all school districts in the State of Minnesota to select and implement an appropriate base Learning Model in accordance with, and subject to, the Safe Learning Plan; and
WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education ("MDE") has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and
WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health ("MDH") has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and
WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding the available Learning Models, the current MDE and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and
WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board and the School Board has approved that Distance Learning was the base Learning Model that has been implemented at the commencement of the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 271 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent was directed to implement the following base Learning Model to open the 2020-2021 school year: Distance Learning.

Section 2: In subsequent action, the Superintendent was directed to implement in-person learning for early learners, PreK and elementary students.

Section 3: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement a different Learning Model for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of a different Learning Model is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The Learning Model selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement a different Learning Model.

Section 4: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District's efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Tom Bennett reported on District 917 activities including the renaming of the training center at Concord Education Center in honor of former Board Chair Jill Lewis who recently passed away. The Board approved the name as the Jill Lewis Training Center. Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) will provide consultant services for the District 917 Superintendent Search. Member districts will be surveyed in preparation for the search. Board Policy Committee will be meeting next Tuesday. The new process for policies will commence at the next meeting. Policies passing the committee will be brought to the Board for discussion and if supported by the majority of the Board, they will be brought to the next Board meeting for adoption in the consent agenda. Mia Olson shared that the virtual Bloomington United for Youth (BUY) Awards celebration honoring youth-related volunteers is February 11 at 7 pm and will be carried by BEC TV. Beth Beebe highlighted tonight's Board Student Advisory Council meeting with middle school representatives. Dr. Molly Coyne, Director of Learning Supports, was the guest speaker on the topic of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). She continues to attend AMSD and MSBA meetings. Jim Sorum reported on the Insurance Committee meeting; Beth Beebe also is a representative on the Insurance Committee—monthly claims are on track and healthy solutions were discussed. Mr. Sorum reported on the Community Education Advisory Committee meeting—Bloomington Community Education has been awarded the 2020 Region 4 Excellence Award for Projects (Books). Meeting speakers included Rynetta Renford for Grab and Go Meals; Andrew Wilkins for Bloomington Online School; and Jake Winchell for Metro South ABE Distance Learning success. Heather Starks highlighted MSBA legislative updates on Fridays, MSBA Coffee and Conversation, the BSAC Middle School meeting and the Early Learning Services Committee meeting at which City staff discussed and received feedback from the parents of children under the age of five regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake highlighted the Senior Achievement Recognition Awards for 2021. Nominations are being accepted for this event, which recognizes outstanding Jefferson and Kennedy high school seniors. Students who excel in or make contributions to the school and community in one of four categories—curricular excellence, artistic excellence, volunteerism and leadership—may be nominated by school staff, parents, employers, faith leaders and other community members and organizations. A fifth category, academic excellence, also will be recognized and is determined by the top 10 percent of each high school's graduating class. Nominations must be received by the nominee's high school no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, February 26. A committee of faculty and community representatives will review all nominations and make selections. Award winners will be guests of honor at the Senior Achievement Awards program on Monday, May 3.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jenna Mitchler expressed gratitude to staff and families for all of their hard work as we navigate these challenging times.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Chair Nelly Korman moved, Beth Beebe seconded, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Heather Starks, Clerk