

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

March 22, 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 March 22, 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 stated: 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; Heather Starks, Clerk; Beth Beebe, Treasurer; Directors Tom Bennett, Mia Olson, and Jim Sorum.
- Member Absent Dawn Steigauf, Vice Chair.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Les Fujitake, Jenna Mitchler, Mary Burroughs, Dave Heistad, Rick Kaufman, John Weisser, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Nelly Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to amend the agenda by removing under Part B. items c. and d. Student Athletic Fees and Student Activity Fees, respectively. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Beth Beebe moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC Tristan Phay reported on Kennedy High School Activities—Sam Gardner placed 9th in state diving competition; wrestlers Victor Cabrera, Max Carlson and Zach Greenhouse are moving on to individual state preliminary rounds; the swim team placed 6th in sectionals with many members experiencing their personal record bests; boys basketball and boys hockey coming to closure. Tristan reported that the Board Student Advisory Council and the two high school Student Governments worked collaboratively on the Encouragement Project—posters were made to create a positive learning environment for students and staff as they returned to in-person learning. Students returning to in-person learning are happy; others are happy to have the option of being in distance learning.
- Student Board Representative Reports

Juma Waganda reported on Jefferson High School Activities—Winter sports coming to an end. Girls hockey, boys and girls basketball teams all did well. Show choirs--Connection and Jive--filmed their show choir sets last Saturday. Jon Clark placed 8th in the state Nordic ski race. Bhavya Sivaram advanced to the Humor finals of the NSCA national qualifiers. Students are excited to be back in school. Encouragement Project--posters welcoming freshmen and a card was made for each teacher expressing appreciation for their hard work. She encouraged everyone to relax, be mindful and stay safe during spring break.

Public

Chair Korman reviewed the current procedure for recognizing comments from the public. Five submissions were shared. Clint Robinson addressed the March 9 message to parents relating to the Chauvin trial--do not have teachers talk to my children about this trial or express any other political views to them. This is not their responsibility, nor am I okay with adults expressing political opinions to my children without me present. Instead, please ensure that teachers are teaching the curriculum they are paid to teach and leave the politics, opinions, and moral lessons to the parents. A second submission by Mr. Robinson shared that school counselors are there to support the kids with any of their concerns and he suggested that two emails could have been written. He requested the School Board not take political positions; let kids be kids and get lost in their schoolwork, friendships, and extracurricular activities; they don't need politics. Tahm Lloyd wants to know how the School Board will make sure to keep BIPOC during budget cuts. Student Anna Benjamin expressed the need to continue to implement more diverse curriculum and encourage anti-racist conversations in the classrooms; educating all students and teachers on issues of race needs to be a priority. Kevin Hinrichs, expressed disappointment in the parent message of March 9 regarding the Chauvin trial and in particular the YouTube video contained therein. As a retired Commander from the Bloomington Police Department, he is not sure we realize the amount of work and effort over many years by both entities to develop and maintain a good working relationship, not just at the administrative level but at the operational level as well.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

Personnel Actions

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting March 8, 2021.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Leaves of Absence, Employments, Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Resignations, Position Eliminations, Employments, Changes of Status.

2. *Finance*

Auditor's Report

Federal Programs

Finance Reports

Receipts &

Disbursements

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program from BerganKDV, Ltd. for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
- b. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for February 2021.
- c. Receipts and Disbursements for February 2021.

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

AIPAC Resolution
of Non-Concurrence
2020-2021

Tom Bennett moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Resolution of Non-Concurrence by the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee for the 2020-2021 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Minnesota. Statute 124D.78 states School Boards and American Indian schools must provide for the maximum involvement of children enrolled in education programs, programs for elementary and secondary grades, special education programs and support services. Accordingly, the board of a school district in which there are 10 or more American Indian children enrolled and each American Indian school must establish an American Indian education parent advisory committee. If a committee whose membership consists of a majority of parents of American Indian children has been or is established according to federal, tribal or other state law, that committee may serve as the committee required by this section and is subject to, at least, the requirements of this subdivision and subdivision 2.

The American Indian education parent advisory committee must develop its recommendations in consultation with the curriculum advisory committee required by section 120B.11, subdivision 3. This committee must afford parents the necessary information and the opportunity effectively to express their views concerning all aspects of American Indian education and the educational needs of the American Indian children enrolled in the school or the program. The school board or American Indian school must ensure that programs are planned, operated, and evaluated with the involvement of and in consultation with parents of students served by the programs.

Dr. Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent, and Hiedi Hecker, American Indian Education Program Coordinator, presented information regarding the determination of non-concurrence for this year. Gina Aulwes, AIPAC Chair; and Anita Eckert, AIPAC Co-Chair; shared the concerns of parents. This year was particularly challenging with the lack of connection between students and teachers. The recommendations are an effort to keep students from falling so far behind that they cannot catch up. More engagement is needed with a focus on academics.

Recommendations

We, the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC), voted to submit a resolution of non-concurrence on March 5th, 2021 for the 2020-21 school year.

AIPAC has presented the School Board concerns about the lack achievement and engagement of our Native students for many years dating back to 2011. We are here today with the same concern as we have not seen adequate progress. A significant number of our Native students struggled during Distance Learning and we have real concern how this is going to further impact the Achievement Gap and graduation rates. The American Indian Education Program has a staff of two to work with more than 200 students spread across 15 school buildings - this is not nearly enough support to meet the needs of our children and to provide teachers with cultural resources.

Our recommendations moving forward are:

- Identify students not meeting academic standards and those at risk for not graduating.
- Provide a recovery plan for the academic ground lost this year.
- Ensure that AIPAC is provided the opportunity to contribute guidance and input for the Achievement and Integration Plan so that funding can be allocated to help meet the unique needs of Native students.
- Provide a year-round school option.
- Provide personalized academic plans to increase engagement and build teacher-student connections.

AIPAC welcomes the opportunity to discuss solutions and build relationships. Next steps include collaboration with various departments regarding each recommendation, receive a response from the School Board and District within 60 days, and collect data and monitor progress throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Computer Science Update

John Weisser, Executive Director of Technology and Information Services, shared that the purpose of the presentation is to provide an update on Computer Science (CS) programs and share results of the first-year evaluation. Presenters included Annie Schroeder, Computer Science DL Specialist, along with Dr. Cassie Scharber and Lana Peterson from the University of Minnesota. He noted that the 2013 technology referendum and the collaborative partnership with the University of Minnesota have made this program possible. Our work with Next Technologies for Learning (NTL) that shifted us to one-to-one devices, digital content in the classrooms and addressing the internet access gap ended up with the District being prepared for this difficult learning time of COVID.

Computer Science (CS) helps put the District's vision into action—Pathways to Career and College. Three important components of the program: *Skills*—teaches transferable thinking skills, *Equity*—early access helps increase participation in CS and STEM for groups underrepresented in these fields. *Joy*—helps students express themselves creatively, solve problems they care about and create new and fun innovations. Update details addressed equity in CS, what does CS look like today highlighting a piece on Indian Mounds kindergarten students, dual pathways of CS Immersion and CS for All at each of the elementary, middle and high school levels—where we are now and how we will grow in 2021-2022. Evaluation included student and teacher surveys, observations of professional development and classrooms, interviews and focus groups, artifacts and meeting notes. The evaluation of teacher professional development indicated teachers are growing in confidence and skills in CS, professional development has been effective and integrationist co-teaching has been the most effective method in preparing staff to teach CS. Elementary CS Immersion findings indicated a successful first year launch—hands-on and engaging curriculum, the program addressed opportunity gaps in education, and teachers are curious about the future of CS within elementary education. Middle School Immersion findings indicated a disparity in skills and confidence between students who attended elementary immersion schools and those who did not—summer programming is needed to catch up non-elementary immersion students. District Pathways findings included evidence of much progress despite disruptions due to COVID and that District people behind CS are managing many, large interconnected projects.

The CS program is unique and already garnering notoriety in the state and beyond. The presentation ended with Mr. Weisser noting that this project would not be possible without all those willing to trailblaze new pathways for students—CS teams, CS teachers, classroom teachers, tech integrationists, principals and leaders, University of Minnesota partners in curriculum and instruction, parents and families.

Donations

Mia Olson moved, Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts donations as indicated in the background in the amount of \$20,550.59. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

MONETARY—Donation of \$4,000.00 to Indian Mounds Elementary School from Hometown Church to purchase books to promote literacy and create libraries at home for students. Donation of \$1,250.00 to ISD #271, Community Relations Department for the Senior Achievement Recognition event. VALUE IN KIND—Donation of thirty Chromebooks, computer cases and headphones to Valley View Elementary school from Alarm.com. An estimated value of \$15,300.59.

Student Parking Fees 2021-2022

Heather Starks moved, Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student Parking Fees for Kennedy High School and Jefferson High School at the rate of \$270 per year (\$90 per trimester) for the 2021-2022 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Bloomington high school students are charged a trimester fee of \$90.00 to park their vehicles on school parking lots, or a total of \$270 per year. Administration recommended that the parking fee remain unchanged for the 2021-2022 school year for the following reasons: (1) Since students often pay this fee, there is a large elasticity of demand. As price increases participation decreases. Therefore, there is often a zero sum gain when increasing these prices. (2) More students are taking PSEO and Career & College Courses and there will be more internship opportunities. Often students need to use cars to participate in these programs. Increasing parking fees will counter our encouragement of students to participate in these programs. (3) The fees help to pay for the cost of the parking lot attendant and maintenance. (4) Student financial hardships are considered on an individual basis.

Student Instrument User Fees 2021-2022

Mia Olson moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student Instrument Rental User Fees for the 2021-2022 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Activities have a strong correlation to academic success. When students are engaged in activities, they have a more positive attitude toward school. Administration recommended that the current Instrument User Fees remain the same for the 2021-2022 school year. Fees are used for high school uniforms and instrument replacement.

Student/Adult
Admission Fees
2021-2022

Tom Bennett moved, Ma Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student/Adult Admission Fees for Activities for the 2021-2022 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Administration recommended that the current Student/Adult Admission Fees for Activities remain the same for the 2021-2022 school year.

Paraprofessional
Negotiations Update

Mary Burroughs, Executive Director of Human Resources, provided an update on negotiations with the paraprofessionals regarding a contract for 2019-2021. All units except paraprofessionals have ratified their contract. All units settled within Board parameter. The paraprofessional unit and the District have met many times, including three rounds of mediation and additional sessions after mediation failed to bring about an agreement. The last session with paraprofessionals was March 18, 2021. District has been at Board parameter in all offers since mediation, and have tried numerous ways to distribute funds to meet unit needs. District remains at Board parameter, and have settled all outstanding non-monetary items. If the District offer was accepted, the wage range for the 2020-2021 school year for Class III paraprofessionals, that are the majority, would be \$15.35-\$21.65 in non-longevity steps. The average wage increase for step movement for Class III is 6.64% each year through year 6, without any change to schedule – about 34% of the unit. The comparison to Intermediate District 917 is not comparable, since they are a setting IV Special Education program, which we do not provide. The Last/Best/Final offer was stated at the March 18, 2021, meeting with the paraprofessionals. The District is asking that the paraprofessional unit take the District's final offer to its membership for review and vote.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Jim Sorum reported on meetings of the PTSA Council and the District Diversity Advisory Committees. Mia Olson highlighted the MSBA legislative advocacy sessions and bills coming before the Legislature. Beth Beebe acknowledged the work of the negotiating teams relative to Paraprofessional negotiations.

Chair Korman reviewed the work of the Board Superintendent Search Committee to date—four meetings, some of which included meetings with cabinet members, elementary principals, secondary principals and employee unit leaders.

Chair Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to establish a professional development session of the School Board on Wednesday, March 24, at 4:30 pm for MSBA training on the topic of a superintendent search process. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Chair Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to establish a special meeting of the School Board on Monday, March 29, at 7:00 pm to discuss a superintendent search process. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Chair Korman announced that the next meeting of the School Board Superintendent Search Committee will be Saturday, March 27, at 4 pm, if needed, to prepare for the special meeting.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake shared that Bloomington Online School has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Education as a state-approved online provider offering comprehensive and supplemental programming for grades K-12. Congratulations to John Weisser and his team.

Congratulations to Isabelle Lynch and Molly Arnold who are the 2021 Athena Award winners from Jefferson and Kennedy high schools, respectively. The Athena Award is given each year to an outstanding female athlete in each school's senior class.

Congratulations to Jefferson High School Language Arts teacher Nick Hupton who has been selected as one of 25 semifinalists chosen from across the state for Education Minnesota's Teacher of the Year.

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 8:41 p.m.

Heather Starks, Clerk