

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

April 12, 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 April 12, 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; 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, Andy Kubas, Rick Kaufman, Jake Winchell, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Nelly Korman moved, Beth Beebe seconded, to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC
- Clerical
- The dedication and commitment of our clerical and community education employees and our volunteers was recognized. Mary Burroughs, Executive Director of Human Resources, highlighted clerical staff emphasizing the tremendous support provided through a variety of positions in our buildings. These 120 clerical staff members are the backbone and face of our school district providing a positive, supportive community for students, staff, visitors, vendors. Especially during the challenges of this pandemic year, their flexibility, positivity and support they have given to all of us throughout this year; it is noticed and very much appreciated.
- Community Education
- Jake Winchell, Executive Director of Community Education, expressed appreciation to community education staff members noting that every aspect of community education has been seriously affected this past year by the pandemic with all the challenges and staff have stepped up to meet those challenges; planning for distance learning, school closure, emergency childcare, constant changing of community guidance, to name a few. The staff manages to move forward, innovate, and raise their own expectations. They take pride in the community and want nothing but the best for the people they serve. Mr. Winchell recently completed his first year in the District and expressed gratefulness for his team.

Volunteers

Debbie Belfry, Volunteer Connection Coordinator PreK-12, expressed appreciation to the 196 volunteers who despite this challenging year contributed over 19,000 hours. Volunteers come to us from a variety of sources: Minnesota Reading Corps members, college students through virtual mentoring programs, coaches, volunteer coaches, community and non-profit organizations etc. She highlighted the food distribution program that is managed through the Learning Supports Department--73 volunteers contributed 5,848 hours. Programs that changed this year: Normandale Community College, Hennepin Technical College and Noon Rotary have provided help to our Jefferson and Kennedy students needing to complete FAFSA applications; that program became virtual this year. The STRIVE mentoring program that includes Jefferson and Kennedy students was held virtually. New this year was the addition of virtual Future Leaders supported by our community business partners. JumpStart to School is a collaborative effort with Upworks, faith communities, VEAP, City of Bloomington, Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story), and many district staff members. Fifty-nine (59) volunteers contributed 177 hours to pack and distribute school supplies collected through VEAP. In a new drive through model, 900 backpacks were distributed. Jump Start to school was recognized this year with an Education Foundation of Bloomington Prodigy Award. Students from nine (9) colleges and universities worked with us a virtual experiential learning or internship. Volunteers contributed 19,163 hours to Bloomington Public Schools students and support staff. A national evaluation of a volunteer hour has been calculated at \$27.20/hour representing a total of \$520,961.

On behalf of Jess Anderson, Metro South Volunteer Coordinator, Jake Winchell highlighted the hard work and dedication of the volunteers in the Adult Basic Education program that serves Bloomington, Edina, Eden Prairie and Richfield. The 129 volunteers provided 4,961 hours of service. As we moved from in-person to online learning, volunteers were trained in google meet and best practices for instruction; 53 volunteers are teaching virtually. Volunteers are an integral part of adult education programming, especially at our collaborative sites. Five volunteer teachers create their own lessons and teach classes at the virtual collaborative sites—Community Education Campus and Hennepin Technical College. Volunteers at the two main campuses tutoring virtually one on one in reading or by assisting teachers in virtual classes. Lots of changes and unknowns this past year; however, our volunteers are resilient, patient and kind. Metro South ABE could not run the program without volunteers.

Public

Chair Korman reviewed the current procedure for recognizing comments from the public. Two submissions were shared. Kris Pierskalla expressed concern for the decline in students participating in music programs and advocated for equitable access for music programs in the district. Chad Huset inquired as to COVID cases at Kennedy High School and the number of days (14) related to quarantine.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting March 22, 2021; the Special Meeting March 29, 2021; the Special Meeting April 1, 2021; and the Special Meeting April 7, 2021.

Personnel Actions

b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Leaves of Absence, Employment, Change of Status. Independent Personnel: Resignation, Changes in Status. Classified Personnel: Retirement, Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status, Transportation 2nd Quarter Hourly Averaging.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Project SEARCH

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 Approves Amendment No. 1 to the Project SEARCH Consulting Services and License Agreement by and between Children’s Hospital Medical Center and Independent School District 271 for the Adult Employment or High School Transition Program at Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport by Hilton Minneapolis Airport in Bloomington. Amendment No. 1 is in effect through June 30, 2022.

Student Teaching
Univ of Northern Iowa

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with the University of Northern Iowa. The Agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

Student Teaching
Montana State Univ

c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with Montana State University. The Agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

HTC/PSEO/BCCA
Amendment No. 1

d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Amendment FY21-A4 to the PSEO income contract with the State of Minnesota acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Hennepin Technical College to provide PSEO instruction at the Bloomington Career and College Academy effective March 18, 2021, through June 30, 2021.

MOA/Prom 2021

e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Group Event Contract with Mall of America for Prom 2021 for Jefferson and Kennedy on May 14, 2021, and authorizes administration to sign said contract.

3. *Finance*

Early Expenditures
2021-2022
Authorization

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 authorizes Administration to begin purchasing items needed for the 2021-22 school year. These purchases will not exceed 10% of the 2020-21 General, Capital, Capital Projects Levy and Community Services budgets.

Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf 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

Science Curriculum
Grades K-8

Mia Olson moved, Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 adopts the prioritized Science standards for Grades K-8 effective with the 2021-2022 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Over the past year, the K-8 Science Curriculum Review Team has examined and reprioritized the District's K-12 Science standards and benchmarks, the foundation of the District's Science curriculum. These prioritized standards and benchmarks have been reviewed and are supported by the District's Pathways Advisory Committee, District Diversity Advisory Committee and the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee and are recommended for adoption by the District's K-8 Science Curriculum Team and K-8 principals.

Andy Kubas, Executive Director of Learning and Teaching, along with Beth Flottmeier, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented an overview of the K-8 Science review as provided for in Policy 603, Curriculum Development.

The presentation informed the School Board about recent state-mandated changes in academic standards and presented recommended curriculum modifications for approval. The review cycle and timeline were reviewed specific to Science—Grades K-5 are in Phase 3 and Grades 6-12 are in Phase 2. Courses are aligned to statewide expectations for student achievement and career and college readiness. Elementary (K-5) and Middle School (6-8) teams review outcomes included research-based practices review and purpose statement, course descriptions, alignment of prioritized benchmarks to courses, materials audit and units of study and assessment. Implementation for Grades 6 and 8 have switched courses—Earth Science now is in Grade 6; Physical Science now is in Grade 8. Horizontal course alignments were made at the middle and high school levels. Next Steps—the Curriculum and Instruction team will support Science teachers in developing standards-aligned assessments, proficiency scales, and units of study as well as ongoing professional development related to evidence-based best practices.

Self-Funded Group
Insurance Rates
2021-22/2022-23

Tom Bennett moved, Heather Starks seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 sets the monthly premium rates recommended by the District insurance consultant for the District self-funded group insurance programs for the 12-month period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, and for the District self-funded group health insurance program for the 12-month period for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, per the attached (on file) Memo #1.

1. For 2021-22, increase health insurance premiums by 0%. For 2022-23, increase health insurance premiums by an additional 1%.
2. Increase the out-of-pocket maximum for out-of-network only and minimum deductible amounts to the limits allowed by IRS regulations.
3. No change in dental insurance premiums for 2021-22 or 2022-23.

On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

The attached Memo #1 provides the specifics of the recommended action, as well as significant background information.

Student Athletic
Fees 2021-2022

Heather Starks moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Student Athletic Fees for the 2021-2022 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

The Jefferson and Kennedy Activity Directors and Administration have reviewed student athletic fees and recommend no change for the 2021-2022 school year. Student and family maximum fees were eliminated effective with the 2020-2021 school year.

Student Activity
Fees 2021-2022

Heather Starks moved, Ma Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student Activity Fees for the 2021-2022 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

The Jefferson and Kennedy Activity Directors and Administration have reviewed student activity fees and recommend no increase for the 2021-2022 school year. Student and family maximum fees were eliminated effective with the 2020-2021 school year.

VII. BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS

Jim Sorum reported on meetings of the PTSA Council at which he announced the Superintendent Search Survey was coming out and encouraged participation. Nelly Korman shared that the survey is open April 12-19 and is available in English, Spanish and Somali. Mr. Sorum reported that the District Insurance Committee met to review information; the District has good insurance coverage with minimum premium increases over the last few years. Mia Olson reported that there are five weeks left in the 2021 legislative session; advocacy is needed on proposals to stabilize funding—tying the budget to the inflation rate and funding for mental health services. She indicated legislators want to hear directly from teachers of color on proposed legislation. Beth Beebe highlighted the MSBA Leadership Report that features the proposed bills; the concern is that some bills have mandates with no funding. She encouraged responses to the Omnibus Bill in both the Senate and House. MSBA Friday Chats provides legislative summaries each week. Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief funds, part two, are being released; that will help with learning loss through summer programming. Community Education has many summer opportunities offered in the new catalog just distributed. The AMSD meeting featured a survey report by Morris Leatherman related to COVID-19 and how people are feeling--stress levels and politically. Dawn Steigauf announced the Education Foundation of Bloomington Chip in for Schools golf tournament date—July 27 at the Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake. Volunteers are needed. Proceeds from this tournament provide funding for our students.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake shared that Bloomington Online School is mentioned throughout an article in the New York Times. The Superintendent invited Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations and Emergency Management, and one of the COVID-19 Coordinators, to give an update. Case counts are on the rise as the variant is now present. We are experiencing in-school transmissions particularly in secondary schools. He explained that the MDH recommends that school districts continue quarantine for close contacts for 14 days, which differs from the 10-day quarantine identified by the CDC. Typically, transmissions take place 5-7 days after exposure. With the variant, positive cases are showing up 12-15 days past initial exposure. Bloomington Public Schools will continue to use the 14-day quarantine period.

Mia Olson shared a personal COVID-19 experience emphasizing the seriousness of the affects and the need to continue mitigation strategies to stop the spread.

IX. OTHER

Chair Nelly Korman commented on the challenges everyone is experiencing during this school year—the pandemic and the challenges of social unrest in our community. It affects all of us in different ways and especially the BIPOC community. We need to take care of each other and be mindful of the social and academic needs of our students. She encouraged students to reach out to adults in their school for support, if needed.

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 8:20 p.m.

Heather Starks, Clerk