

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

August 23, 2021

- I. ROLL CALL
- Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the School Board meeting of Independent School District 271 was called to order by Chair Nelly Korman at 7:00 p.m. on August 23, 2021, in the Arlene Bush Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Chair Korman stated: We acknowledge that Bloomington Public Schools rests on the traditional, ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota. The name of our state is Mni Sota Makoce, Land where the waters reflect the skies or clouds. Mni means water; Sota means clear, but not perfectly so, cloudy. Makoce means a place, land, or country. Recognizing the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on and a way of honoring the Indigenous people.
- Members Present: Nelly Korman, Chair; Dawn Steigauf, Vice Chair; Heather Starks, Clerk; Beth Beebe, Treasurer; Mia Olson and Jim Sorum.
- Member Absent: Tom Bennett.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Eric Melbye, Jenna Mitchler, Rick Kaufman, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITIONS
- None.
- V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
- Dr. Eric Melbye reported that the 2021-2022 school year for students begins on September 8 for grades 6-12, September 9 for grades K-5; and September 10 for early childhood and preschool. The Community Engagement Live Virtual Event is August 25 from 7:00-8:30 pm—tune in to BEC TV. New teacher induction begins tomorrow followed by workshop week beginning August 30. Work continues toward closing gaps and raising achievement for each and every student through building a Safe and Supportive School system. One of the foundations of this work is the framework and tools of Cultural Proficiency. Our second cohort of leaders began their engagement and learning with Cultural Proficiency, which will continue throughout this school year. Teams are working on plans to support students and teachers if/when inclement weather forces us to have an electronic learning day. The plan this year is that if/when we have inclement weather, we can have an electronic day instead of a traditional “snow day”. While that still means that students will be home and not in our physical classrooms, we will be able to provide instruction on those days.

Olson Middle School students Franki Meany and Owen Woods were named 2021 state champions in the Minnesota on the Map competition. Their interactive map explores the causes and effects of air pollution in Minnesota. Dr. Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent, has been elected to the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) Board of Directors, representing the metro central region; Mr. Bryan Blessing, Oak Grove Middle School Music Teacher, completed National Board Certification. The process is designed to collect standards-based evidence of accomplished practice and allows teachers to reflect on how their teaching practices support student learning. Out and About—Bloomington Chamber Board meeting, Normandale Community College kick-off for their Black Men in Teaching Program, Jefferson boys football and girls soccer practices, Kennedy Connect and the JumpStart2School event was held at St. Bonaventure where school supplies were distributed to Bloomington families. This is a collaborative effort with some of our partners involved with the donations and distribution, again this year—
St. Bonaventure Catholic Community, City of Bloomington, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Good in the Hood, VEAP, Every Meal, and the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. School supplies were distributed to 710 families. Thank you to Debbie Belfry and Molly Coyne for their coordination of this annual event along with all of the many staff and volunteers.

VI. PART A

1. *Board Business*
Minutes

Personnel Actions

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting August 9, 2021,
- b. Licensed Personnel: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.
Independent Personnel: Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.
Classified Personnel: Leaves of Absence, Retirements, Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status, Position Elimination.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Student Teaching
St. Ben/St. John
2021-2024

Student Teaching
UMD
2021-2024

Mpls Community &
Tech College NOW
2021-2022

UofM Amendment No.4
Graduate Research
Assistant 2021-2022

T-Mobile Cell Tower
Lease Updated Second
Amendment/KHS

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University. The agreement will be in effect July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024.
- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Student Teaching Agreement with the University of Minnesota Duluth. The agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024.
- c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Memorandum of Agreement with Minneapolis Community and Technology College for the College NOW Concurrent Enrollment Program at Kennedy High School for the 2021-2022 school year.
- d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Amendment No. 4 to the Services Agreement dated November 11, 2019, with the Regents of the University of Minnesota, and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the Amendment. The Amendment is in effect through August 28, 2022.
- e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the second amendment to the lease agreement with T-Mobile for maintenance and upgrades at the Kennedy High School cell tower.

3. *Finance*

Receipts &
Disbursements

Receipts and Disbursements for July 2021.

Nelly Korman moved, Beth Beebe seconded, to approve Part A items in accordance with all of the written material submitted to the School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. PART B

Superintendent
Granted Authority

Beth Beebe moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, the following resolution: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement different health and safety measures for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of different health and safety measures 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 health and safety measures 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 different health and safety measures. Motion carried unanimously.

The resolution gives authorization to the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board Chair and School Board, to make timely decisions relating to implementing different health and safety measure decisions related to other COVID-19 pandemic matters should conditions warrant immediate attention.

Reconnect & Refocus
2021 Update

The School Board received an update on the Reconnect and Refocus 2021 back-to-school plan. Rick Kaufman and Hannah Hatch, the District's COVID-19 Coordinators reviewed factors in decision-making with the primary goal of having students return to in-person learning. Guidance from the CDC, Minnesota Department of Health and Bloomington Public Health emphasized layered prevention strategies. The District's Pandemic Response Team exercised due diligence in developing mitigation and layered strategies that make up the Reconnect & Refocus 2021 Plan. They relied on data (Hennepin County and Bloomington), available science on the Delta variant, feedback from parents, caregivers, and staff. They were purposeful in establishing recommendations to start the school year without having to pivot a week or two after going public. Layered prevention includes the use of multiple mitigation strategies—vaccination, masks, physical distance, ventilation, handwashing/use of sanitizer and stay home when sick. Case data and vaccination rates were reviewed. Health and Safety: Masks - students under age 12 are required to wear masks inside all school buildings. Exemptions for students will occur through the IEP process and medically required exemptions. Students age 12 and older are strongly encouraged, not required. Children under age 2 are not required in any situation. Staff strongly encouraged, especially for those unvaccinated (BFT and Principals will collaborate to share mask-wearing expectations for ALL teachers, staff (regardless of vaccine status) when working with students in close proximity or high-occupancy areas).

Parents are asked to perform daily self-health screening for each child before going to school. All staff is required to do the same. The update also included plans for physical distancing and cohorts; isolations, quarantines, and contact tracing; and testing and vaccination information; and protocols for volunteers and visitors. The back-to-school plan will be updated such conditions warrant a change.

Donations

Heather Starks moved, Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts donations, as indicated in the background, in the amount of \$30,938.50. Motion carried unanimously.

MONETARY—Donation of \$813.18 to Kennedy High School from Ms. Stacey Forrester for choir fee scholarships. Donation of \$7,875.32 to Olson Elementary school from the Joan Bond Estate, to use at the school's discretion. Donation of \$17,000.00 to Community Education Center and ESC Food Service Department from Education Foundation of Bloomington. \$5,000.00 for scholarships toward after-school enrichment classes or aquatic lessons and \$12,000.00 for negative meal account balances. Donation of \$1,000.00 to ESC Special Education department from Earl C. Hill Bloomington American Legion Post #550 for the PAES program. VALUE IN KIND—Donation of two DJI M100 drones to Jefferson High School Media department from Sentera. One working drone estimated a value of \$1,500.00. The second, not working, will be used for parts with an estimated value of \$750.00. Total estimated value is \$2,250.00. Donation of a cello to Kennedy High School Orchestra department from Mr. & Mrs. Eric Berg. An estimated value of \$2,000.00.

Reserve Teacher
Wage Increase

Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271, authorize the full-day beginning wage rate for reserve teachers to be \$155.00 per day for the first 40 days and to be \$160.00 per day after 40 accumulated workdays, and \$170.00 per day for Bloomington School retirees effective September 8, 2021. A \$15.00 incentive will continue for reserve teachers who work on Fridays. Motion carried 5-0-1; Mia Olson abstained.

This increase is necessary to retain the core of quality reserve teachers we employ, to attract high-quality new reserve teachers, to respond to a steady decrease of reserve teachers available for employment and to continue rewarding reserve teachers for working on our hardest to fill day of the week. Mia Olson abstained from voting in that she is a reserve teacher in the District.

Policy Review

Jim Sorum and Heather Starks, members of the Board Policy Committee, provided an overview of the two policies reviewed by the committee and now are being brought to the Board for discussion. Both policies have been reviewed and approved by legal counsel David Holman.

Policy 503: Student Attendance – Dr. Jenna Mitchler/Dr. Molly Coyne

Recommendation: Revise.

The MSBA model was used as a template for our current Policy. Suggested edits reflect an emphasis on increased support for students and families. and include changes in language to ensure common practices and responsibilities for school staff and administrators across sites. Also included are revised or added definitions for “partial day absence,” “tardiness,” “educational neglect,” and “continuing truant.”

Policy 203: School Board Meetings – Dr. Eric Melbye

Recommendation: Revise.

The last review of this Policy was in 2018; it is not an MSBA mandatory policy. The proposed revision to the current Policy is the elimination of the section entitled *Recognition of the Public* that occurs during regular School Board meetings and the addition of a new section entitled *Listening Sessions*. The proposed change is to enhance opportunities for district stakeholders to provide input and feedback to School Board members while also improving the efficiency of regular School Board meetings.

The policies will be presented for final approval at the September 13 meeting as part of the consent agenda.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Heather Starks highlighted the Minnesota Teacher of the Year recipient from Rochester Public Schools. Dawn Steigauf shared that the Education Foundation of Bloomington golf tournament raised \$50,000, 136 golfers participated, Walser donated a 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee that was won by one of the golfers, and a Bloomington couple has donated \$20,000 for the *Food for Thought* program. She also highlighted the JumpStart2School event and thanked the many organizations, staff and volunteers who participated in this event in support of our Bloomington families.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Chair Nelly Korman adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Heather Starks, Clerk