

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

September 13, 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 September 13, 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; Tom Bennett, Mia Olson and Jim Sorum.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Eric Melbye, Jenna Mitchler, Mary Burroughs, Dave Heistad, Rick Kaufman and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- Closed Session
- Pursuant to M.S. 13D.03 to discuss the District's labor negotiations strategy related to the District's negotiations with bargaining groups, Dawn Steigauf moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to establish a Closed Session of the School Board upon conclusion of tonight's School Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Nelly Korman moved, Mia Olson seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITIONS
- A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and our hometown hero, Tom Burnett.
- V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
- Dr. Eric Melbye reported that Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds are intended to help schools return to and maintain safe in-person learning for all students, including: educational and social emotional services and supports to address student learning gaps; PPE (personal protective equipment), equipment and supplies to support a healthy environment for students and staff; Pandemic enrollment loss aid due to students enrolling in non-public schools during the 2020-2021 school year. This is a one-time increase in declining revenue aid for fiscal year 2021. Reserve funding for educational and financial needs to maintain a consistent learning environment for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. We are currently working on our ESSER III application and will be engaging with BFT leadership as part of that work.

Dr. Melbye met with Dr. Heistad and Dr. Caesar to discuss REA support and ideas for measuring employee engagement and job satisfaction. A plan will be shared with the School Board and public. We are excited to improve our measurement of employee engagement and better understand how we can improve over time.

Dr. Melbye and Dr. Mitchler visited schools on the first days of the new school year. Observations and anecdotal reports from teachers and administrators indicate that it has been a great start—students are excited to be in school as captured through a video tour of those visits. Dr. Melbye extended a special thanks to our bus drivers and district Transportation Department staff; our bus routes were covered.

VI. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

Personnel Actions

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting August 23, 2021,
- b. Licensed Personnel: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Employments, Partial Recall from Unrequested Leave of Absence, Rescission of Non-Renewal of Licensed Teacher. Independent Personnel: Resignation, Employments. Classified Personnel: Leave of Absence, Retirement, Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.

2. *Policy Approval*
Policy 203

Policy 503

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 203, School Board Meetings.
- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 503, Student Attendance.

3. *Contracts/Agreements*

HTC Use of Facilities
2021-2022

Headway Emotional
Health Services
2021-2022

Headway District
Facilities & Ancillary
Support 2021-2022

Fraser Child and
Family Center
2021-2022

Every Meal Food
Program 2021-2022

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Facilities Use Agreement between the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Hennepin Technical College and Independent School District 271. The Facilities Use Agreement is in effect from August 30, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the contract with Headway Emotional Health Services to provide family community support and mental health services to students enrolled in special education identified as seriously emotionally disturbed and their families as defined in MS 245.4871, subdivision 6. This contract is for the period of August 30, 2021 through June 10, 2022.
- c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the contract for Headway Emotional Health Services to provide facilities, ancillary support and collaboration services to Bloomington Public Schools. This contract is for the period August 30, 2021 through June 10, 2022.
- d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Collaboration Agreement with Fraser Child and Family Center to provide autism day treatment/mental health services to enrolled students in the early childhood special education program identified needing supports in the areas of autism. This Collaboration Agreement is for the period of September 1, 2021 through June 3, 2022.
- e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Every Meal Food Program Working Agreement. The arrangement will be in effect from September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

AmeriCorps Site Agreement Reading & Math 2021-2022

f. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the AmeriCorps Site Agreement with Reading & Math, Inc. and Independent School District 271 for the 2021-2022 program year.

3. *Finance*
Tuition Rates
2021-2022

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 authorizes non-resident tuition rates to be charged for the 2021-22 school year as follows: Kindergarten–Grade 6 per student \$16,387; Grades 7–12 per student \$19,665.

Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf 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
Paraprofessional
Negotiations
Update

Mary Burroughs, Executive Director of Human Resources, updated the School Board on Paraprofessionals negotiations. Since the last meeting of the School Board, there have been two negotiations sessions.

Reconnect & Refocus
2021 Update

The School Board received an update on the Reconnect and Refocus 2021 back-to-school plan. The primary goal is to have students and staff safely returning to in-person instruction activities and sports; reduce the likelihood of quarantines. Rick Kaufman and Hannah Hatch, the District's COVID-19 Coordinators, provided updates on the current local COVID case rates, vaccination status among eligible student populations, and the District's mitigation strategies. CDC layered prevention includes the use of multiple mitigation strategies—vaccination, ventilation, masks, stay home when sick, testing, physical distance, and handwashing/use of sanitizer. Masks significantly protects the person wearing the mask and others around them by providing source control and protects against other viruses. Minnesota health officials are reporting viruses that typically are not seen circulating at this time of year, specifically RSV. Influenza season is getting close; masks are effective in preventing the spread of these viruses as well. Since the start of school there have been approximately 19 positive cases reported. All cases could be traced back to transmission outside of school. We have been successful in maintaining our students in classrooms and minimizing exposure by excluding positive and symptomatic individuals immediately. We will continue to assess our process and provide communication with anyone who has been exposed to a positive case. Parents and caregivers must notify school when a child is symptomatic OR tests positive. Symptomatic students are sent home, along with any unvaccinated siblings as a precaution. If the symptomatic student tests positive, household members must quarantine away from the symptomatic individual for at least 7 days with a negative test result between 5-7 days. Vaccinated siblings and others exposed to a positive case are not required to quarantine, but must monitor for symptoms and get tested 3-5 days from exposure.

REA Annual Report
2021-2022

The 2020-2021 Annual Report with Impacts of COVID-19 was presented to the School Board by Dr. Dave Heistad, Executive Director, and Dr. Julio Caesar, Director, of the Research Evaluation and Assessment (REA) department. The report included progress on annual goals, MAP and MCAII assessment results.

A few report highlights: *Goal 1: All students are ready for school.* Beginning Kindergarten students are more proficient in Numeracy (55.4%) than Literacy (43.6%). *Goal 2: All third graders reading at grade level.* Spring 2021 MCAIII results indicate a drop since 2019—MCAIII tests were not given in 2020. *Goal 3: Bloomington Public Schools aims to close achievement gaps in Reading and Math.* Reading proficiency on MCAIII and MTAS tests showed a decline from 2018-2019; only 61.1% of students were tested in 2021. Math proficiency on MCAIII tests showed a decline from 2018-2019; only 60.3% of students were tested in 2021. *Goal 4: Bloomington Public Schools graduation rates.* Graduation rate by group from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 shows an increase from 84.2% to 88.8% for all students. *Goal 5: Increase career and college readiness using SLEDS data.* The percent of graduates who have earned a diploma or certificate 6 years after graduating holds steady at 55%. Districtwide MAP Reading and Math growth by grade (1 & 2), have dropped. During the two years prior to COVID-19, first and second grade students made about 9 months of growth in Reading and about 10 months of growth in Math over the 9-month school year. During the pandemic, first and second grade students made 5-6 months of growth in Reading and about 6-7 months of growth in Math over the 9-month school year. Statistics for middle and high school students hitting predicted targets for MCAIII Reading and Math by grade were presented. MCAIII Reading Achievement in middle school was quite strong and exceeded predictions in both grades 6 and 8. COVID-19 impacts were greatest in Math where MCAIII scores were significantly lower than expectation based on prior years achievement. For 10th grade MCAIII Reading, 56.9% of students were predicted to be proficient or exceeds; 58.6 were actually proficient or exceeds. School climate and SEL skills also were highlighted for this report comparing Fall 2020 to Spring 2021. Plans are in place to provide extra support for students as they return to a more normal learning environment and deal with the impacts of COVID-19 and focus on accelerated learning.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

All School Board members reported on visiting schools, attending open houses and various activities during workshop week and the first week of school. Tom Bennett reported that Intermediate District 917 has started teacher contract negotiations. Mr. Bennett is on the Personnel Committee. Beth Beebe attended paraprofessional negotiations meetings. Heather Starks highlighted the district back-to-school celebration that included staff years of service awards. Mia Olson, Tom Bennett and Nelly Korman attended the AMSD meeting. Mia Olson, Heather Starks and Nelly Korman attended the MSBA advocacy tour. Mia Olson, Heather Starks, Beth Beebe and Nelly Korman are MSBA Delegate Assembly members. Legislative resolutions are due to MSBA at the end of the month. Nelly Korman is part of the MSBA Leading for the Future cohort that is looking at what education will look like ten/twenty years from now.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Chair Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. A closed session followed the meeting.

Heather Starks, Clerk