

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

November 22, 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 November 8, 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, and Andy Kubas.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Nelly Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITIONS
- Student School Board Representatives reports were given. Mya Marube highlighted activities for Kennedy High School including upcoming dance competition, teacher appreciation cards, clothing drive, candy grams and the dodgeball tournament for charity. Janie Andersen highlighted activities for Jefferson High School including preparing for end of trimester finals—Pathfinders helping freshman through first high school finals, various sporting events and accomplishments, national speech and debate qualification, and JHS theater production.
- V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
- Dr. Eric Melbye gave a reminder; there is no school November 24-26 for Thanksgiving break. We in Bloomington have a lot to be thankful for. This is most certainly not a “normal” school year and our staff and students are rising to the challenges it is presenting. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving break.
- Administrators and teacher leaders continue to work together to find ways to attempt to cut back on staff stress. A few examples include a pause on many district weekly/monthly meetings, allowing teacher collaboration time (less PD) at building staff meetings, pausing all trainings that require subs, pausing classroom walkthroughs, etc. I speak weekly with the BFT President to collaborate on efforts to help combat high stress levels.

Met with Joe McDonald, CEO of VEAP, for an introduction and a tour. VEAP is another example of what makes Bloomington a very special place. The services they provide and the connections to our schools unique and provide a level of service that you don't always find in other school districts. We will continue to seek ways to partner to support our students and families. Last week's AMSD superintendents meeting had guest speakers from MDE and MDH discussing the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) otherwise known as the vaccine mandate for employers with over 100 employees. While the ETS is going through some court challenges, we are operating under the assumption we will need to execute and enforce the order in the very near future. It was announced last week that Minnesota had the worst seven-day COVID-19 infection rate in the country last week. Bloomington city and school numbers are reflecting that spike. We are reminding our administrators and teachers to be vigilant and reinforce our mitigation strategies at the sites, in particular, the proper wearing of masks. Highlights of school visits included the TJ Coffee House at Jefferson and creating a pottery bowl with the help of Nobel students at Valley View Middle. I was around when the TJ Coffee House started as a tiny operation out of a classroom. It now takes over the Jefferson cafeteria and provides invaluable work experience for some of our special education students.

School meals will be free for the 2021-22 school year; it is still important to fill out the Application for Educational Benefits form as this one form benefits all Bloomington Public Schools through additional school funding, athletics and activities fee assistance, discounts on college application fees and Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program. All parents are encouraged to complete the application or actively opt out before December 10.

Administration requested the establishment of a School Board Retreat on Monday, December 6, at 4:15 pm to discuss safe and supportive schools technology and safety levy. The retreat will be at Civic Plaza. So moved by Beth Beebe and seconded by Dawn Steigauf. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PART A

1. *Board Business*
Minutes

Personnel Actions

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting November 8, 2021.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Resignation, Employments.
Classified Personnel: Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.

2. *Policy Approval*
Policy 524
Policy 458

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 524, Computer System and Internet Acceptance Use.
- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 458, Employee Use of Social Media.

3. *Field Trips*

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the field trips per the attached list (on file).

4. *Grant/Grant Application*
HSSC/SAFARI
Summer Childcare

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts a \$2,000 grant from Hennepin South Services Collaborative to Independent School District 271 Summit SAFARI Summer childcare program.

MSHSL Foundation
Grant Application
2021-2022

- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 authorizes the Administration at Kennedy High School and Jefferson High School to submit a grant application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation requesting financial support for high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts programs. The School Board supports the resolution attached to the grant application to offset student activity fees.

5. *Contracts/Agreements*

HTC Nursing Assistant
Home Health Aide
Metro South

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Customized Training Income Contract between the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Hennepin Technical College and Independent School District 271 to provide Nursing Assistant Home Health Aide instruction to adult students attending Metro South. The contract is effective December 7, 2021 through March 30, 2022.

6. Finance Reports
Receipts &
Disbursements

- a. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for October 2021.
- b. Receipts and Disbursements for October 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
Donations

Heather Starks moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of School District 271 accepts donations, as indicated in the background, in the amount of \$16,565.36. Motion carried unanimously.

MONETARY—Donation of \$10,500.00 to Kennedy High School from Education Foundation of Bloomington. \$500.00 dedicated to the Media Center for purchasing novels. \$5,000.00 to the Math Department for calculators and \$5,000.00 to Kennedy Community Alliance for student needs. Donation of \$1,000.00 to Kennedy High School from Earl C. Hill Bloomington American Legion Post #550 for Kennedy Community Alliance's Pantry. Donation of \$250.00 to Kennedy High School from Msgr. Thomas F. Meagher Assembly #1637 for Kennedy Community Alliance. Donation of \$465.36 to Metro South Adult Basic Education from Education Foundation of Bloomington on behalf of Mr. Jason Larson to be used for Metro South ABE programs. Donation of \$850.00 to Pond, Volunteer Connection, from the Rotary Club of Bloomington to be used for school supplies for Valley View Middle School and Indian Mounds Elementary School. School supply orders will be processed by the Volunteer Connection office. Donation of \$500.00 to ISD #271 from Fidelity Charitable on behalf of Ms. Susan Woolard to use at the District's discretion. Donation of \$2,000.00 to ISD #271 from Benevity Community Impact Fund on behalf of Mr. Alex Nelson and his employer, Voya Financial. \$1,000.00 is from Mr. Nelson, with an equal amount donated from Voya Financial. The donation will go to Food for Thought. VALUE IN KIND—Donation of ten \$100.00 Target gift cards to Kennedy High School from Mr. & Mrs. Blake Bonjean, for the KCA program, to help struggling student families. A value of \$1,000.00.

Wrestling Coop
JHS/Hopkins

Dawn Steigauf moved Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Wrestling Cooperative Sponsorship between Jefferson High School and Hopkins High School effective with the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Jefferson High School may have from 1-4 students interested in wrestling this year. Our high school principals and activities directors wish to allow Jefferson to enter into a cooperative wrestling sponsorship with Hopkins High School, which will provide an opportunity for Jefferson students while keeping Kennedy High School in its current section for schools of comparable size and not pushing them to a section of schools with larger enrollment.

Safe & Supportive
Schools Update

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jenna Mitchler provides the leadership for Safe and Supportive Schools. Components include Tailored Instruction, Climate of Care and Meaningful Engagement. With focus on those components plans are to ensure all staff engage in professional learning around cultural proficiency; recruit and retain a diverse workforce, grow a culture of restorative practices, equip students and staff to develop social and emotional wellbeing and empower leaders to use the Design Thinking Process, provide teachers with monthly professional development opportunities focused on Safe and Supportive Schools, review and revise curriculum to ensure it includes “windows and mirrors,” develop Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) each with a specific Safe and Supportive Schools goal and action plan, and provide reports to the School Board for accountability.

Dr. Mitchler reported that for Cultural Proficiency—Cohort 1 is in Implementation, Cohort 2 is in Training, Cohort 3 is starting in 2022-2023, and the School Board is receiving training. Restorative Practices—10 sites have engaged in training, site leaders engaging in professional development around discipline processes and there is focus on the PAUSE Program. Diverse Workforce—Grow Your Own Grant (Adult & Student Pathway) applied for, staff of color affinity group and strategies to support high quality staff with ongoing employment. Social and Emotional Wellbeing—increased on-site social workers and therapists and access to agencies for more intensive services, student and staff surveys to support services and connect people to resources, emphasis on relationships and school climate. Site Improvement Plans—All sites must have a measurable goal related to Safe and Supportive Schools, Building Leadership Teams (BLTs) develop action plans, support and coaching provided. Dr. Julio Caesar reported on school climate ratings for the various Pathways Milestones—Preschool Ready, Kindergarten Ready, On Course for Elementary Success, Middle School Ready, High School Read and Career and College Ready. Survey response rate was high and results favorable. Students value relationships. Overwhelmingly, staff survey responses were very favorable for “Express Care” with the lowest scores in the area of staff wellbeing.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS

Jim Sorum commented that in addition to PreK to grade twelve programming, the District offers alternative schools—Beacon and Choice Academy. He highlighted the vaccination clinic for 5-11 year olds offered at Valley View Middle School. Beth Beebe reported on MSBA activities—Hot Topics, Coffee and Conversation and the upcoming Delegate Assembly. Heather Starks reported on the middle school BSAC meeting that featured Dr. Jenna Mitchler and Dr. Molly Coyne who presented on Safe and Support Schools and tonight’s high school BSAC meeting with Dr. Molly Coyne discussing Social Emotional Learning.

Dawn Steigauf reported on MSBA training and school visits and the Jefferson Theater production. Tom Bennett has signed on as a reserve teacher and encourages others to do so. Help is needed in all areas—teachers, paraprofessionals, food service, transportation, etc. Mia Olson reported on the AMSD Annual Conference and shared that plans are being made for “Roll & Stroll,” a disability awareness walk at Normandale Lake in May.

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. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Heather Starks, Clerk