

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

**December 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 December 13, 2021, in the Arlene Bush Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Chair Korman acknowledged 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; Directors Tom Bennett, Mia Olson, and Jim Sorum, and Heather Starks; Student Representatives Janie Andersen and Mya Marube.
- Attorney Present:                   David Holman.
- Administration Present:           Eric Melbye, Jenna Mitchler, Mary Burroughs, Rick Kaufman, Andy Kubas, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- Closed Session
- Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to establish a closed session upon the conclusion of tonight’s school board meeting. The meeting will be closed as permitted by section 13D.03 to discuss the District’s labor negotiation strategy related to the District’s negotiations with all bargaining groups. Motion carried unanimously.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITIONS
- Student School Board Representative Reports
- Mya Marube reported on Kennedy High School activities including sporting events, clothing drive, candy grams, ugly sweater day, dodgeball tournament, choir and band concerts, winter break.
- Janie Andersen reported on Jefferson High school activities—new trimester under way, winter spirit week activities, sporting events, band and choir concerts, theater production, congressional debate tournament, and MSHSL academics/athletics and excel award winners.

Jim Sorum

Superintendent Dr. Eric Melbye did the honors recognizing Jim Sorum who has served on the Bloomington School Board for 29 years. This is his last School Board meeting. With his term ending, he will be the 3rd longest serving Board member with F. Wilson Pond (40) and Arlene Bush (31) ahead of him. Mr. Sorum has worked with five superintendents—Leila Anderson (the first female superintendent in the twin cities metro area), Tim Connors, Gary Prest, Les Fujitake, and now Eric Melbye; noting that he was part of the hiring process for four of them. He has worked with 27 board members, held Board Offices of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Clerk (some more than once) and served on numerous committees. He has been the ambassador to all of our schools/sites--some more than once. He has been through school start times, boundary changes strategic planning, referendums, budget cuts, COVID-19 and much, much more. He has been the voice of BEC TV announcing many athletic events, a speaker at several SHAPE/Metro South/Choice graduations, and an enthusiastic and unwavering supporter/vocal advocate for our community education programming.

Jim Sorum has brought his unique and powerful voice to the School Board for 29 years. His professional and life experiences have enriched our district. He is a strong advocate for public education, but has never hesitated to ask difficult questions and help school leaders see all sides of a question or decision to be made. His regular visits to schools and leaders at the district office were (and will continue to be) welcomed and his humor is often just what is needed when he comes for a visit. I came and left Bloomington a number of times and Jim was always here when I returned; you can count on Jim. He is a rock and man of his word. The district has been enriched by his service and leadership over the years and he will be missed on the School Board. Experience and stability matter and Jim has certainly provided that to the Bloomington Public Schools. Professional public decorum and civility matter and Jim has modeled that for 29 years.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Eric Melbye reported that he was invited and accepted the opportunity to serve on the City of Bloomington core strategic planning team. It was a great opportunity to spend three full and intense days with other leaders from various sectors of the city to draft core values, a mission statement and strategic priorities for the city. He is excited to be an active participant and witness the next steps in the process, which include action team meetings in January. It was also good to experience this process as we will be engaging in school district strategic planning in the new year.

Bloomington Noon Rotary Strive Career Day luncheon—a great event that brings together Bloomington students and career mentors. The purpose of the Strive Program is to motivate eligible Kennedy and Jefferson seniors to discover their strengths and talents and provides the opportunity to earn post-secondary scholarships. The keynote speaker for the luncheon was Monica Williams, a Kennedy graduate who now works with the Bloomington Police Department.

Last week, the Bloomington Federation of Paraprofessionals leadership, along with Rod Zivkovich, Mary Burroughs, Jennifer McIntrye and the Superintendent took part in a Bureau of Mediation Services Labor Management Committee training. The first official labor management committee meeting will be in January.

Congratulations to Kennedy students Candice Luu and Candice Fetsch for making it to and participating in the state swimming and diving championships and to Kennedy student Addison Wendt and Jefferson students Darrian Whittet and Joseph Shetaye for making it to the state debate tournament which will take place at the University of Minnesota in January.

Dr. Melbye will be attending upcoming meetings of Comunidad and the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee.

Dr. Melbye and Dr. Mitchler will be holding structured conversations with students from Kennedy and Jefferson this week. Dr. Melbye will be participating in the Empty Bowls event at Valley View Middle School this week; a great event for a great cause—battling hunger in our community. If you happened to see the Melbye Monthly for December you saw him create his own bowl for the event.

There is no school for students December 22-January 3. School resumes on Tuesday, January 4.

Administration requested a motion to cancel the School Board meeting scheduled for December 27, which falls during winter break. So moved by Tom Bennett and seconded by Dawn Steigauf. Motion carried unanimously.

Administration requested a motion to establish a School Board study session on Tuesday, January 4, at 6 pm to discuss organizational matters for 2022. So moved by Beth Beebe and seconded by Mia Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PART A

1. *Board Business*  
Minutes

Personnel Actions

- a. Minutes of the World's Best Workforce Annual Public Meeting held November 22, 2021.
- b. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held November 22, 2021.
- c. Licensed Personnel: Employments, Change of Status. Independent Personnel: Employment, Change of Status. Classified Personnel: Retirement, Resignations, Employments, Changes of Status.

2. *Field Trips*

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

3. *Grants*  
LCTS Grants from  
Hennepin South  
Services Collaborative

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts LCTS grants totaling \$72,000 from the Hennepin South Services Collaborative (HSSC) to fund two school district programs during the 2022 calendar year and approves the accompanying memorandums of understanding for the grants.

4. *Contracts/Agreements*

AVID Membership  
VVMS & KHS  
2022-2023

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the AVID Center Quote/Order that includes Terms and Conditions for the program membership agreement for Valley View Middle School and Kennedy High School effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The agreement cost for the two AVID program memberships is \$9,023.00.

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| MNSCU MOA<br>Mn State University<br>Mankato/Social Work<br>Internship Program<br>2022-2027 | b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, on behalf of Minnesota State University, Mankato and Independent School District 271 for a social work internship program. The term of the Memorandum of Agreement is from January 2, 2022 through January 1, 2027. |
| Third Amendment<br>Research Agreement<br>Bloomington Public Health                         | c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Third Amendment to the existing Research Agreement with the City of Bloomington, acting through the Public Health Division, effective through December 31, 2023.   |
| Amendment A+ Driving<br>School Agreement   | d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves an Amendment to the Agreement between A+ Driving School and Independent School District 271 to increase fees to provide classroom and behind-the-wheel driving instruction. The Amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 until the end of the original Agreement date of June 30, 2023.   |
| Supplemental Student<br>Transportation<br>Coherent Bus Company                             | e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts and approves the proposed supplemental student transportation services as follows: Special Student Transportation Routes to Coherent Bus Company, St. Anthony, MN at \$300.00 per day. Supplemental Student Transportation to Coherent Bus Company, St. Anthony, MN at \$450.00 per day.  |

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

WBWF Annual  
Report 2020-2021

Dawn Steigauf moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the World's Best Workforce Annual Report for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota's World's Best Workforce (WBWF) law requires school districts to report annually to the public results and progress made on the District's Strategic Plan during the previous school year, which includes components that address the WBWF as well as Achievement and Integration report information. The annual public meeting was held November 22, 2021. The Pathways Advisory Committee and District Diversity Advisory Committee have reviewed and approved the curriculum content that appears in the report that will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education by December 15 as required. A link to the report will be provided on the District website.

Committed Funds

Mia Olson moved, Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves committed funds in the areas specified as follows:

Committed Funds:

1. \$107,805 for Wellness Dollars
2. \$115,775 for Band Uniform and Instrument Replacement
3. \$572,885 for Athletics and Activities
4. \$442,529 for Staff Development
5. \$1,029,520 for Site Department Carry Over Funds
6. \$257,448 Donations

Motion carried unanimously.

Committed Funds:

1. **Wellness**-These committed funds are provided by our health insurance provider to develop district wellness programs.
2. **Uniform and Instrument Replacement**-The District established a committed fund balance for high school uniforms and instrument replacement. These funds are generated through fees. The net of fees and expenditures results in an adjustment to the designation.
3. **Athletics and Activities**-These committed funds are unspent athletic and activity funds at secondary schools. This tracks success of program revenue less expenditures and helps programs determine fees charged and programs added or deleted.
4. **Staff Development**-This is a commitment to set aside unspent Staff Development funds.
5. **Site Department Carry-Over Funds**-This commitment is funds for site-controlled fees and/or donations.
6. **Donations Carry-Over Funds**-This commitment is funds donated to the District.

Assigned Funds

Jim Sorum moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves assigned funds in the area specified as follows: Assigned Funds: \$3,000.00 Q-Comp Collaborative and \$120,000.00 Property Insurance. Motion carried unanimously.

Assigned Funds: Q-Comp Collaborative-Collaborative of Q-Comp Districts to accumulate funds to hold conferences. **Property Insurance**-Set aside funds to help with increased costs.

Operating Transfers/  
Community Service

Tom Bennett moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the operating transfers of \$324,279 from the General Fund to certain programs in the Community Service Fund for fiscal year 2020-2021. Motion carried unanimously.

The annual process of financially closing a school year requires District Administration to make recommendations to the School Board to transfer resources between our District's accounting funds. The transfer to Community Service Fund was to provide revenue to offset General Fund cost associated with Pond and Southwood programs.

Audit Report  
2020-2021

Beth Beebe moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Auditor's Reports from BerganKDV, Ltd., which includes Audited Financial Statements and accompanying Communication Letters for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

BerganKDV, Ltd. has completed a general financial audit for 2020-2021 conforming to State and Federal guidelines. Andrew Grice, BerganKDV Audit Partner, presented highlights of the independent audit report indicating an unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion that can be provided. This means that the District's financial statements are fairly presented and materially accurate giving a true picture of the District's operations and its financial health. There were no findings for the Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit. There was one material weakness for Internal Control; a prior period adjustment due to a timing error, which has been corrected. A single audit was completed—two major programs (Special Education Cluster and Coronavirus Relief Fund)—No compliance findings, no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses.

Mr. Grice reviewed, in detail, General Fund budget and actuals, resident student ADMS, average daily membership and pupil units, sources of revenue and expenditures stating approximately 68% of the General Fund budget is expended for classroom instruction, 4% for administration, 3% for district support services, 8% for pupil support services, 7% for instructional support services and 10% for sites/buildings/equipment and other. He also highlighted the General Fund operation and the financial position, unrestricted fund balance as a percentage of unrestricted expenditures, long-term debt, tax levies, tax capacity rate, referendum tax rate and referendum market value, the Food Service fund and the Community Service fund.

2021-2022 Mid-Year  
Budget Adjustments

Heather Starks moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves adjusting the 2021-2022 budget for all funds by increasing revenues by \$3,288,351 and increasing expenditures by \$2,230,698. Motion carried unanimously.

Annually, Administration proposes adjustments to update our current year budgets. The four major budget adjustment categories are: Prior year carry over, Updated information, Grants/Donations/Revenue and Other. A worksheet (on file) reflects revised budgets by fund.

Property Tax  
Levy Certification  
Final 2021  
Payable 2022/  
Public Comment

Beth Beebe moved, Heather Starks seconded, that the School Board Independent School District 271 approves the proposed final property tax levy for the 2021 payable 2022 levy of \$63,262,900. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event of any changes to levy amounts by the Minnesota Department of Education, it is the intent of the School Board of Independent School District 271 to levy the appropriate amount as allowed by law.

Rod Zivkovich, Executive Director of Finance and Support Services, reviewed the levy process and timeline. He then provided an overview of the 2021-2022 adopted budget including revenues by source and expenditures by program for all funds.

PROPOSED 2021 PAYABLE 2022 LEVIES

Referendum	\$19,198,958
Referendum Other	8,313,496
Community Services	1,932,716
Debt Services	12,381,762
Other	<u>21,435,969</u>
Proposed Certified Levy	<u>\$63,262,900</u>

Chair Nelly Korman opened the floor for public comment regarding the proposed property tax levy. No one from the public appeared to address the School Board. Chair Nelly Korman declared public comment closed.

Chair Nelly Korman called for the vote on the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Tonight's board action completes the levy process, which included:

- Submission of levy data and calculations of formulas that produced the preliminary levy certification document in September 2021.
- Mailing by the county auditor of Truth-in-Taxation statements in November 2021.
- Presentation of Fiscal 2021-2022 Budget and Proposed 2021 Payable 2022 Levy.

The final levy certification will be submitted to the home county auditor by the deadline of December 28, 2021.

Bid Award/Hillcrest Improvements

Heather Starks moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the following bids for mechanical improvements at Hillcrest Community School:

1. Maertens-Brenny Construction Company, Minneapolis, MN, bid of \$280,000
2. Amerect, Newport, MN, bid of \$13,950
3. Kellington Construction, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, bid of \$519,350.
4. Midwest Millwork & Casework, LaCrosse, WI, bid of \$ 79,051.
5. Central Roofing, Minneapolis, MN, bid of \$99,550.
6. Twin City Hardware, Oakdale, MN, bid of \$ 108,850.
7. Capital City Glass, Blaine, MN, bid of \$349,950
8. Custom Drywall, St. Paul, MN, bid of \$172,375.
9. Superior Painting & Decorating, Circle Pines, MN, bid of \$95,046.
10. Horizon Equipment, Eagan, MN, bid of \$249,875.
11. Weidner, St. Cloud, MN, bid of \$3,665,000
12. Uhl Company, Maple Grove, MN, bid of \$334,334.
13. Bloomington Electric Co., Bloomington, MN, bid of \$1,025,000.
14. Olympic Communications, Spring Lake Park, MN, bid of \$179,000.
15. G Urban Companies, Vadnais Heights, MN, bid of \$162,000

Motion carried unanimously.

This project is identified in our 2021-22 Alternative Facilities Plan and consists of updates, repairs and replacements including: concrete, structural steel erection, carpentry, architectural millwork materials, roofing, doors, frames and hardware, exterior glazing, drywall, paint and wall coverings, food service equipment, combined mechanical, integrated automation, electrical, low voltage, and earthwork at Hillcrest Community School and total \$7,333,331.

COVID-19 Update

A COVID-19 update was presented to the School Board by COVID-19 Coordinators Hannah Hatch and Rick Kaufman. The update included the latest Dashboard of cases, trends and vaccination rates among school-age students, and provided insights to the most frequently asked pandemic-related questions received from students, parents and staff. Bloomington Public Health and Bloomington Public Schools hosted a two-day first dose clinic for students 5-11 years old (November 21-22). Dates of second doses for those recipients are December 12-13. Bloomington Public health is seeking additional availability for vaccine clinics in early 2022 targeting this age range. The District will continue to monitor/evaluate the case trends following winter break.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

None.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m. A closed session followed.

Heather Starks, Clerk