

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

February 28, 2022

- 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 Tom Bennett at 7:00 p.m. on February 28, 2022, in the Arlene Bush Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Chair Bennett 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: Tom Bennett, Chair; Heather Starks, Vice Chair; Nelly Korman, Clerk; Mia Olson, Treasurer; Beth Beebe, Matt Dymoke, and Dawn Steigauf. Student Representatives: Mya Marube and Janie Andersen.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Eric Melbye, Jenna Mitchler, Mary Burroughs, Rick Kaufman, and Jennifer McIntyre
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Beth Beebe moved, Matt Dymoke seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITIONS
- Student School Board Representative Reports were given. Mya Marube for Kennedy—Recent winter sports activities: boys and girls basketball, boys hockey, and wrestling; spring sports starting in March; Student Government hosted spirit week including Kennedy’s Got Talent; Kolleens and Rhythm and Gold participated in competitions; RIG annual show coming in March; Women of the Future and Black History month events.
- Janie Andersen reported on the BSAC meeting before tonight’s School Board meeting at which the district food drive was the topic with guest speakers from VEAP and the PTSA Council. She highlighted for Jefferson—Black History month event, athletics-swim and basketball; spring sports about to begin; JIVE and Connection competitions; Teri Roder nominated for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Today was the first day the mask mandate was lifted; students are being respectful of people’s choice.
- V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
- Dr. Eric Melbye extended congratulations to the Jefferson CHEER Team for once again being national champions—6 times of which 3 have been consecutive. The team will be recognized at the March 14 board meeting. The virtual School Board’s legislative forum with our Bloomington legislators was held last Thursday. The forum can be viewed on BEC TV.

Minnesota's budget and economic outlook remains positive. A forecast improvement of \$1.507 billion for the current biennium leads to a revised projected general fund surplus of \$9.253 billion for FY 2022-23. A higher income, consumer spending, and corporate profit forecast results in an improved revenue projection while spending is slightly lower in E-12 education and Health and Human Services. The revenue and spending forecast changes are mostly one-time and the structural balance in the FY 2024-25 planning estimates remains positive and largely unchanged from November. Uncertainty due to inflation and geopolitical conflict pose risk to the budget and economic outlook.

Friday, March 4 is the last of three asynchronous student learning/staff planning days. As of today, masks are not required for students and staff in K-adult programming. Rick Kaufman, one of our COVID-19 coordinators, will be giving a more detailed update later in the meeting. Dr. Melbye highlighted recent school visits, the Night in Black History event at Jefferson organized by the Jefferson Black Student Union and their advisor, Yvonne Johnson; and continuing work with the City of Bloomington core planning team. A virtual professional development session of the School Board is to be scheduled for March 7 at 5:30 pm. The topic is cultural proficiency. So moved by Matt Dymoke 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 February 14, 2022.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Resignations. Administrative Personnel: Retirement, Resignation. Classified Personnel: Resignations, Termination, Employments, Changes of Status.

2. *Grants/Contract*
Hennepin County
Sports Program/KHS

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Hennepin County Youth Sports Program Grant Reauthorization effective from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Grant funds have been awarded to Kennedy High School for equipment in the amount of \$1,522.

3. *Contracts/Agreements*
Student Teaching
University of Minnesota
2022-2027

Metropolitan State
University MOA
2022-2027

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Student Teaching Agreement with the University of Minnesota. The agreement will be in effect February 28, 2022 to February 28, 2027.
- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Minnesota acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Metropolitan State University and Independent School District 271. The term of the Memorandum of Agreement is from January 10, 2022, through January 9, 2027.

4. *Finance*
Finance Reports
Receipts &
Disbursements

- a. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for January 2022.
- b. Receipts and Disbursements for January 2022.

5. *Policy Approval*

Policy 503.3

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves no change to Policy 503.3, Early Admissions.

Policy 501

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 501, Weapon-Free Schools.

Policy 502

c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves no change to Policy 502, Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student Person.

Policy 514

d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves no change to Policy 514, Bullying Prohibition.

Heather Starks moved, Matt Dymoke 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

Boys Lacrosse
Coop Sponsorship
Kennedy/Burnsville

Mia Olson moved, Heather Starks seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Boys Lacrosse Cooperative Sponsorship between Kennedy High School and Burnsville High School effective with the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Burnsville does not have enough players for a team this season. They reached out to Kennedy asking for consideration to co-op. Burnsville has stated they only have 9 returning athletes who have expressed interest in playing again. Kennedy has only 24 returning athletes, which is barely enough to support a Varsity and Junior Varsity team. Adding the players from Burnsville, and with any new Kennedy players that may be added this season, this will solidify our numbers and will help to ensure Kennedy has a program for the future. This co-op also may prevent having to combine Kennedy and Jefferson teams in the future. The application will be submitted to the Minnesota State High School League for approval.

AIPAC Resolution
of Non-Concurrence
2021-2022 Report

Dr. Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent, presented information regarding the determination of non-concurrence for this year in accordance with State Statute 124D.78. Gina Aulwes, AIPAC Chair; and Jennifer Tangness, AIPAC Committee Member; shared the concerns of parents that adequate progress is being made and presented recommendations for continuous improvement.

We, the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC), voted to submit a resolution of non-concurrence on February 3, 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year. AIPAC has presented the School Board concerns about the lack of achievement and engagement of our Native students for many years dating back to 2011. We acknowledge the leadership Dr. Mitchler has brought to our 2020-2021 recommendations; however, we still have concerns as we have not seen adequate progress. A significant number of our Native students continue to struggle and the Achievement Gap has widened. The American Indian Education Program has a staff of two to work with more than 200 students spread across 15 school buildings—this is not nearly enough support to meet the needs of our children and to provide teachers with cultural resources.

Recommendations:

1. Identify students earlier that are not meeting academic standards and those at risk for not graduating. Develop and implement personalized plans for success.
2. Ensure that AIPAC is provided the opportunity to contribute guidance and input for the Achievement and Integration Plan so that funding can be allocated to help meet the unique needs of Native students.
3. Provide a year-round school option.

Dr. Mitchler shared the next steps that include: Collaboration with district departments to plan next steps with regard to each recommendation, response from the School Board and district within sixty (60) days, and data collection and progress monitoring throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

Community Survey Report

Rick Kaufman, Executive Director of Community Relations, introduced Peter Leatherman of The Morris-Leatherman Company. Mr. Leatherman shared results of the community survey conducted January 31 to February 11, 2022; a 400 random sample of Bloomington households. The report included various demographics such as age, education and ethnicity. Respondents were asked questions related to what they liked most about Bloomington Public Schools, quality of education, handling of the pandemic, most serious issues facing the district, quality compared to three years ago and neighboring districts, specific perceptions, School Board and Administration, job performance, financial management, adequate funding, overall property tax climate, school tax climate, technology, safety and security, predisposition toward tax increase, safety and technology levy renewal, arguments for and against the levy, principal source of information, and most effective source of information.

A few survey highlights indicate the most serious issue is lack of funding followed by lack of discipline. Teachers and good education are the things most liked about the District; viewed the quality of education as good/excellent (64%/20%). Job performance was ranked high for Teachers, Administration and School Board. Technology was determined as essential/very important (52%/38%) with the District rating good/excellent (54%/18%). Safety and security rated good/excellent (50%/15%). The main source of information identified is the District Newsletter; the most effective source of information identified is print newsletter. As the District considers a referendum renewal for safety and technology, 55% were in support and 23% strongly support.

COVID-19 Update

Rick Kaufman, COVID-19 Coordinator, shared an update with the School Board on the current state of COVID-19 in Bloomington Public Schools and the modifications to mitigation strategies. He shared trends in case rates and positivity rates, Bloomington Public Schools positive cases, Bloomington vaccination rates by age group. (1) Effective today, students and staff were no longer required to wear a mask in school and district facilities. We strongly recommend persons wear a mask until case counts reach moderate to low transmission. We are currently in the "High Transmission" category.

(2) We require masks for students and staff in our preschool and early Childhood school sites and programs. Parents are also required if attending a program with their PreK or EC child. (3) New CDC guidance no longer requires masks on school buses as long as COVID transmissibility is low in our area. We are maintaining the mask requirement at this time until we can assess transmission rates with the weekly SitRep on Thursday.

Principals Contract
2021-2023

Matt Dymoke moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves and ratifies the 2021-2023 Master Contract between Independent School District 271 – Bloomington, Minnesota, and the Bloomington Principals' Association. Motion carried unanimously.

The Bloomington Principals Association ratified the tentative agreement for the 2021-2023 Master Contract on February 15, 2022. The tentative agreement includes salary schedule improvements of 2.2% to the PEG (base) salary for 2021-2022 and 2.25% to the PEG (base) salary for 2022-2023. In addition, the tentative agreement includes the following:

- Deductible/out-of-pocket in-network maximum (7.2.1.b) = per IRS
- Out-of-pocket/out-of-network maximum (7.2.1.d) = per IRS
- District contribution to HSA (7.3.1) = per IRS & contract
- Modification of District Approved Leave Language (8.3)
- Addition of two personal days per year beginning July 1, 2022 (8.4)
- Increase to 403b match to 4% for those working more than 18 years (10.1)
- Market adjustment
- "Housekeeping"

The tentative agreement is within the allocations for contract settlements approved by the Board.

Community Education
Salaried Employees
Salary & Benefit Plan
2021-2023

Beth Beebe moved, Nelly Korman seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Salary & Benefit Plan for Community Education Salaried Employees. Motion carried unanimously.

This resolution updates the Community Education Salaried Plan for the 2021-2023 school years. The proposed plan includes salary schedule improvements of 2.2% to the PEG (base) salary for 2021-2022 and 2.25% to the PEG (base) salary for 2022-2023. In addition, the tentative agreement includes the following:

- Deductible/out-of-pocket in-network maximum = per IRS
- Out-of-pocket/out-of-network maximum = per IRS
- District contribution to health insurance = per LMC recommendation and Board approval
- District contribution to HSA = per IRS & contract
- Modifications to the District Approved Leave Language (8.4)
- Addition of two personal days or vacations days per year beginning July 1, 2022 (8.5/8.6)
- Increase to 403b by 1% after 18 years of service (10.1)
- Market adjustment
- "Housekeeping"

The proposed plan is within the allocations for contract settlements approved by the Board.

Independent
Employees
Salary & Benefit
Plan 2021-2023

Dawn Steigauf moved, Mia Olson seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the 2021-2023 Salary & Benefit Plan for Independent Employees. Motion carried unanimously.

This resolution updates the Independent Employees Plan for the 2021-2023 school years. The proposed plan includes salary schedule improvements of 2.2% to the PEG (base) salary for 2021-2022 and 2.25% to the PEG (base) salary for 2022-2023. In addition, the tentative agreement includes the following:

- Deductible/out-of-pocket/in-network maximum = per IRS
- Out-of-pocket/out-of-network maximum = per IRS
- District contribution to health insurance = per LMC recommendation and Board approval
- District contribution to HSA = per IRS & contract
- Modifications to District Approved Leave Language (8.4)
- Addition of two personal days or vacation days per year beginning July 1, 2022 (8.5/8.6)
- Increase to 403b match by 1% after 18 years (10.1)
- Market adjustment
- "Housekeeping"

The proposed plan is within the allocations for contract settlements approved by the Board.

Donations

Nelly Korman moved, Matt Dymoke seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts donations as indicated in the background in the amount of \$3,956.94. Motion carried unanimously.

MONETARY—Donation of \$2,000.00 to Kennedy High School from Janet Pladson for Show Choir students. Donation of \$1,175.00 to Hillcrest Community School from Hillcrest United Methodist Church for new keyboards and accessories for the Music Department. Donation of \$400.00 to Oak Grove Elementary School from Lisa Johnson for books from the Scholastic Book Fair, for classrooms and students. Donation of \$381.94 to Metro South from Jason Larson to support the program, to be used at their discretion.

Graduation Fee
2022

Heather Starks moved, Matt Dymoke seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the graduation fee of \$60.00 per student for Kennedy High School and Jefferson High School for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

District administration, in consultation with high school administration, recommends no increase to the graduation fee for students who will graduate in June 2022. The fee remains at \$60.00 per student. Per MN Statute 123B.37, graduation fees are not charged for caps, gowns and diplomas.

Student Parking
Fees 2022-2023

Dawn Steigauf moved, Matt Dymoke seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student Parking Fees for Kennedy High School and Jefferson High School at the rate of \$270 per year (\$90 per trimester) for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Bloomington high school students are charged a trimester fee of \$90.00 to park their vehicles on school parking lots, or a total of \$270 per year. Administration recommended that the parking fee remain unchanged for the 2022-2023 school year for the following reasons: (1) Since students often pay this fee, there is a large elasticity of demand. As price increases participation decreases. Therefore, there is often a zero sum gain when increasing these prices. (2) More students are taking PSEO and Career & College Courses and there will be more internship opportunities. Often students need to use cars to participate in these programs. Increasing parking fees will counter our encouragement of students to participate in these programs. (3) The fees help to pay for the cost of the parking lot attendant and maintenance. (4) Student financial hardships are considered on an individual basis.

Student Instrument
User Fees 2022-2023

Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student Instrument Rental User Fees for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Activities have a strong correlation to academic success. When students are engaged in activities, they have a more positive attitude toward school. Administration recommended that the current Instrument User Fees remain the same for the 2022-2023 school year. Fees are used for high school uniforms and instrument replacement.

Student Athletic
Fees 2022-2023

Beth Beebe moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Student Athletic Fees for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

The Jefferson and Kennedy Activity Directors and Administration have reviewed student athletic fees and recommend no change 2022-2023 school year. Student and family maximum fees were eliminated effective with the 2020-2021 school year.

Student Activity
Fees 2022-2023

Matt Dymoke moved, Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student Activity Fees for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

The Jefferson and Kennedy Activity Directors and Administration have reviewed student athletic fees and recommend no change 2022-2023 school year. Student and family maximum fees were eliminated effective with the 2020-2021 school year.

Student/Adult
Admission Fees
for Activities
2022-2023

Heather Starks moved, Nelly Korman seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student/Adult Admission Fees for Activities for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Administration recommends increasing the Middle School Musical fee \$1.00, from \$7.00 to \$8.00. All other Student/Adult Admission Fees for Activities remain the same for the 2022-2023 school year.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS

Mia Olson reported on tonight's high school BSAC meeting discussion that focused on the upcoming district food drive March 21-25 featuring two guest speakers—VEAP and PTSA Council.

She highlighted the American Indian Winter Story Telling event and the Early Learning Parent Advisory Council trip to the Children's Museum. Nelly Korman and Beth Beebe highlighted the February 24th virtual legislative forum and expressed appreciation to our legislators who could participate. Dawn Steigauf reported on the BPS Advocacy Council meeting of February 16 at which Nelly Korman shared the School Board's legislative priorities, and the group reviewed the mission statement, bylaws, plans for seeking additional members and plans for keeping in communication during the legislative session.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Nelly Korman, Clerk