

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

**April 11, 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 April 11, 2022, in the Arlene Bush Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Eric Melbye, Mary Burroughs, Rick Kaufman, Jennifer McIntyre, Jake Winchell, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Heather Starks moved, Beth Beebe seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITIONS
- JHS/KHS Plays
- Jefferson Theatre Company will be performing “All Shook Up” April 20-30. Actors, accompanied by Gaby Schmit, previewed a song and dance number. Kennedy Theatre Company will be performing “Shrek the Musical” April 21-24. Actors, accompanied by Nikki Jordan, previewed one of the songs from the production.
- Food Drive 2022
- Charlotte Westby, President of the PTSA Council, and Joe McDonald, Chief Executive Officer for VEAP, reported results of the 2022 district-wide food drive. After a two-year pandemic postponement, our district-wide food drive exceeded this year’s goal thanks to schools, sites, and participating business and civic partners. Nearly 12,000 pounds of food and \$10,378 in cash donations were collected. With a goal of 40,000 pounds, this year’s total collection of 49,171 pounds when the cash donations to pounds conversion is applied, will provide nearly 50,000 meals. Each dollar donated accounts for three meals, and each meal is approximately 1.2 pounds. The food drive has collected 588,817 pounds since its inception in 2009. All food and cash were donated to VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People), a non-profit agency serving low-income families and individuals in Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield. VEAP serves 10,000 people a month, more than half of whom are children.

The food drive is a collaborative effort of the District's PTSA Council (Parent Teacher Student Advisory), the School Board and BSAC (Board Student Advisory Council). Director Mia Olson highlighted the food drive promotional efforts of the high school members of BSAC.

Community Education/  
Kids' SAFARI

Jake Winchell, Executive Director of Community Education, recognized the great work of the community education staff. Over the past years of the pandemic and with so many uncertainties and transitions to serve learners, families and the community, staff answered the call. Kids' SAFARI staff, in particular, stepped up. Plans were prepared to accommodate childcare needs for emergency Tier I workers. Staff had plans prepared for all three instructional model options, ready to implement the one determined to be the best at the time. This school year also was a challenge as cases spiked. As other communities were in distance learning, Kids' SAFARI was prepared to provide care for not only our staff, but those in other districts. Julie Kinsella is commended for her leadership of this program. YFC staff coordinate daily childcare; they were ready to provide services to the community as activity leads stepped up to serve and make Bloomington a better place for our families.

Volunteer Appreciation

We are celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Month, where we recognize the importance of volunteerism. The School Board received an update from Jess Anderson regarding the Metro South volunteer program and from Debbie Belfry for the E-12 Volunteer Connection. Metro South is a consortium of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield. The Metro South volunteers work with ESL, GED, Adult Diploma and Career Pathways for students ages 17+. Volunteers serve as lead teachers, classroom assistants, tutors and citizenship teachers. There are also many community partners. So far in 2021-2022, 75 volunteers have contributed 2,980 hours. Using a national average of \$28.54 per hour, the value of these volunteers translates to a total of \$85,043.

Volunteer Connection for E-12 programs has volunteers who serve as classroom and lunchroom assistants, Homework Connection tutors, Personal Growth Plan speakers, PTSAs, Recess Buddies, coaches, summer school, meal distribution, Jumpstart2Schools, America Reads/America Counts tutors and Minnesota Reading Corp. Our community partners include 18 Minnesota colleges and universities, Rotary, VEAP, the City, churches, and the Minnesota Reading Corp. So far in 2021-2022, 1,501 volunteers have contributed 29,215 hours. Using a national average of \$28.54 per hour, the value of these volunteers translates to a total of \$883,796.

Appreciation was expressed to all of our volunteers for the significant contributions they have made by generously donating their time and talents to staff, students and schools.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Superintendent Eric Melbye reported on the following topics: on March 23, School Board members and I attended the State of the City that highlighted the wonderful aspects of living and working in Bloomington. This year's theme, Hope on the Horizon, offered a point of reflection for me and how fortunate we are in Bloomington. Our collaborative work with the city, local business and community groups is unparalleled in the state. The state of our city and school district is strong. Last week, I met with Bloomington's new Police Chief, Dr. Booker Hodges who started with the City on April 4. He is being officially sworn in tonight at the City Council meeting.

The Legislature currently is on recess. There has been education omnibus bills created by the Senate and the House of Representatives. Our School Board has approved its legislative priorities and the Special Education and English Learner cross subsidy supports are still in play. For those in the public who may not be aware, the cross subsidy is the amount of money we have to take from our general fund to pay the shortfall in funding we get to educate our special education and English learner students. With a 9 billion dollar surplus this year, much of it structurally ongoing, it would seem to be the perfect time to address those funding areas. Our legislators appreciate hearing from our families and students and we would appreciate folks taking the time to call or email them.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jenna Mitchler has received a Fullbright Specialist Award from the U.S. Department of State and the Fullbright Foreign Scholarship Board. She will complete a project in Tajikistan that aims to exchange knowledge and establish partnerships benefiting participants, institutions, and communities both in the U.S. and overseas through a variety of education training activities within Education.

VI. PART A

1. *Board Business*  
Minutes

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting March 14, 2022.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Resignations, Employments.  
Administrative Personnel: Resignation, Employment.  
Classified Personnel: Resignations, Employments.

Personnel Actions

2. *Field Trip*

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

3. *Contracts/Agreements*

HTC Heartsaver  
CPR/AED Classes

- 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 Heartsaver CPR/AED and Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED instruction to adult students attending the Personal Care Assistant Course at Metro South ABE. The contract is effective April 22, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

4. *Finance*

Finance Reports  
Receipts &  
Disbursements

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

Mia Olson 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

Mental Health &  
Social Emotional  
Wellbeing Update

Jennifer McIntyre, Director of Special Education, introduced members of the District Mental Health Team who updated the School Board regarding mental health and wellbeing. Presenters included Sarah Kyalo, Lead Social Worker; Kim Lloyd, Lead School Psychologist; and Sara Schnadt, Lead School Counselor.

Also, a part of the team is Carol Nannemann, Homeless Highly Mobile & Foster Care Liaison and Licensed Social Worker. She was unable to be in attendance tonight. The update covered challenges of the pandemic, what students' emotional wellbeing looks like this year, ways to support student behaviors and emotions, staff and student functioning is interconnected and reflections moving forward. Staff are receiving ongoing professional development to incorporate social/emotional/behavioral support into all settings as well as when to seek out additional consultation. A few highlights of what staff is seeing in both students and adults: continued lower capacity due to chronic/compassion fatigue, impact of grief and loss as we enter the third year of pandemic, increased impact of transitions, decreased levels of tolerance, and difficulty independently navigating social demands. Supporting student behaviors and emotions include helping students focus on what they can control, allow for varied activity, continue to take things slow, validate emotions and normalize feelings, create space to listen to student experiences, ask for feedback. Students need to be heard and understood and know they are not alone. Staff noted appreciation for the three asynchronous days allowing time to work on tasks and rest.

*(Chair Tom Bennett called for a five-minute break)*

Computer Science  
Update

John Weisser, Executive Director of Technology and Information Services, introduced presenters Annie Schroeder, Lee Nelson, and Katrina Mezera, to update the School Board on Computer Science (CS). This is the third year of CS immersion for Indian Mounds and Poplar Bridge. Components are focused transferable skills, equity and joy. Another pathway is Computer Science for all. Students will be able to continue with CS at New Code Academy, Olson and Valley View Middle Schools.

The School Board was introduced to "Glitch" and engaged in a hands-on experience in celebration of "Think Like a Computer Scientist Month." Computational thinking skills are like a tool belt for computer scientists. Concepts include logic, evaluation, algorithms, patterns, decomposition and abstraction. Approaches include tinkering, creating, debugging, persevering and collaborating. School Board members were given two challenges for programming with KIBO.

Bid Award/  
Pavement  
Improvements  
OLE/OLMS

Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271, State of Minnesota, accepts the Park Construction Company, Minneapolis, MN bid of \$496,496 to rehabilitate pavement at Olson Elementary School and Olson Middle School and approves the contract with Park Construction Company to accomplish this work. Motion carried unanimously.

This project is identified in our State and School Board approved Alternative Facilities Plan and is funded from the Alternative Facilities Fund.

Authorization for  
Early Purchasing  
2022-2023

Matt Dymoke moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 authorizes Administration to begin purchasing items needed for the 2022-23 school year. These purchases will not exceed 10% of the 2021-22 General, Capital, Capital Projects Levy and Community Services budgets. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2021-22 budgets are: General \$158,165,958, Capital \$4,739,069, Capital Projects Levy \$9,152,321, Community Services \$10,243,859.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER  
REPORTS

Matt Dymoke highlighted a meeting of the Education Foundation of Bloomington and the golf tournament in July. Dawn Steigauf reported that the Board's legislative priorities were shared at a recent meeting of the Bloomington Public Schools Advocacy Council. She also reported on negotiations for Food Service employees and the PTSA Council meeting that included several topics—food drive, officer elections, bylaws, vaccine clinic at Oak Grove Elementary, Minnesota PTA convention, and the year-end gathering on May 25 at 10 am. Nelly Korman reported on the meeting of the Board Legislative Committee noting letters were being sent to legislators, one of which highlights concern for wording of the proposed legislation regarding the student data privacy act. The Legislature is in recess next week. Beth Beebe reported on a meeting of the Insurance Committee.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Chair Tom Bennett adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Nelly Korman, Clerk