



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

**October 28, 2024**

- 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, Dawn Steigauf at 7:04 p.m. on October 28, 2024, in the Arlene Bush Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Chair, Dawn Steigauf 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: Dawn Steigauf, Chair; Matt Dymoke, Vice Chair; Beth Beebe, Clerk; Tom Bennett, Treasurer; Directors Nelly Korman, Mia Olson and Heather Starks. Student Representative Jenny Wen, Jefferson and Kenneth Adah, Kennedy.
- Member Absent: None.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Mary Burroughs, Julio Caesar, Rick Kaufman, Andy Kubas, Jennifer McIntyre, Eric Melbye, Jenna Mitchler, John Weisser, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Matt Dymoke moved, Beth Beebe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITION  
Musical Theater Update  
Laura Schmit, musical summer director provided an update from the summer musical. 93 students participated from a range of 6-12th grade from 3 different high schools and 7 middle schools. Many Bloomington alumni students participated and helped as well. Olson Middle School presents, “Blather, Blarney and Balderdash” on November 7th and 8th at 6:30pm. Oak Grove Middle School presents “Finding Nemo” on November 14th and 15th at 7pm and on the 16th at 3pm. Jefferson High School presents, “A Wicked Christmas Carol” on November 30th at 1pm and 7pm; December 1st at 1pm; 6th at 7pm, and December 7th at 1pm and 7pm.
- Student School Board Representative Reports Kenneth Adah updated the Board with Kennedy events. After a lengthy five-years, Kennedy is excited to have their snack shack back open during all three lunches. October is College Knowledge Month in Minnesota; seniors are getting ready for the November 1st early action deadline. All Minnesota state colleges and universities waive their

application fees during October. November 5th from 1-2:30pm Kennedy will be hosting a college fair for Juniors and Seniors in the main gym. Molly Miller became the first tennis player in Kennedy's history to make it to the AAA state tournament at the University of Minnesota. Wishing winter sport teams good luck as they start their seasons this month. They are sad to see the Kennedy boys hockey team begin what will be its 60th and final season as a standalone team before combining with Jefferson next year. Kennedy is working on school wide goals 1) increasing the percentage of students earning As, Bs, and Cs, and 2) reducing unexcused absences.

Jenny Wen shared updates from Jefferson High School. November 1st application approaches, college counselor Becky Wallerick has been helping students with essays, college advice, and applications. Jefferson works on PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) and UDL (Universal Design for Learning). Boy's Cross Country qualified for state and the Girl's Cross Country placed third in sections. The Student Council created a Unity Day paper chain of slips where students signed their names to pledge against school bullying. Earth Corp will make bonfire starters out of recycled materials to use in the November 1st bonfire. The National Honor Society held their induction ceremony and made over 340 cards for veterans on October 24th. The Mindfulness Club had their first meeting on October 23rd. Jefferson's new Coding Club also had their first meeting on October 22nd.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Eric Melbye highlighted that last week was national School Bus Safety Week. Thank you to our school bus drivers for keeping our students safe as they get to and from school. As the daylight hours get shorter, it's especially important to drive with care, heed school bus stop arms and flashing lights, and watch out for students walking. A friendly reminder our next School Board Listening and Study Session will be on Tuesday, November 12th. Not Monday, November 11th due to Veteran's Day. Next Monday, November 4th, the district will host a virtual kindergarten night starting at 6pm. A link to attend the event will be added to the district website on the "Welcome to Kindergarten" page on November 4th. The MN Free School Meals Program is a permanent program where all students can have one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each school day. It is important for families to complete the Application for Educational Benefits. This application can also benefit students with reduced fees for transportation, athletic programs, academic and extracurricular activities and helps our schools qualify for other district funding. The application can be found on our district's web site under the "Food Services" department. Through the development of internship opportunities for students in our Bloomington Transition Center and Work Experience programs we currently have hired or offered 7 positions to current BTC students. The positions have been in our paraprofessional, custodial and food service departments.

VI. PART A

1. Board Business Meeting Notes Personnel Actions
  - a. Minutes of the School Board Business Meeting September 23, 2024
  - b. Notes of Listening Session October 14, 2024
  - c. Licensed Personnel: Resignation, Employments, Change of Status. Independent Personnel: Employments, Change of Status, Reduction in Hours. Classified Personnel: Retirements, Resignations, Employments, Change of Status.
  - d. Pathways Advisory Committee
  - e. Combined Polling Places
  
2. Policy Approval Policy 903 Policy 906
  - a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the changes to Policy 903, Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites, as attached.
  - b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the changes to Policy 906, Volunteers, as attached.

3. Field Trips RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the field trips per the attached list.
4. Contracts/Agreements Amendment SHIP a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Amendment with the City of Bloomington, SHIP Community Partners. The Amendment will extend the grant work from October 31, 2024 until January 31, 2025.
- MSHSL Foundation b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 authorizes the Administration at Kennedy High School and Jefferson High School to submit grant applications to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation requesting financial support for high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts programs paying for safety, leadership training and transportation. The School Board supports the resolution attached to the grant applications to offset student activity fees and support training and transportation.
5. Finance a. Statements of Revenues and Expenditures September 2024  
b. Receipts and Disbursements September 2024

Matt Dymoke 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  
Creighton  
University License  
Agreement

Mia Olson moved, Heather Starks seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Creighton University License Agreement by and between Creighton University and Independent School District 271 for the placement of Occupational Therapist candidates completing internship hours. This agreement creates an innovative solution to increase Occupational Therapist candidates entering the workforce, as well as support candidates with the completion of Creighton University degree and licensing requirements. Candidates will complete the volunteer process, as outlined in Policy 906 prior to placement in ISD 271 buildings. In partnership with Creighton University, ISD 271 will provide supervision from a licensed Occupational Therapist for students enrolled in the clinical education program at Creighton University. ISD 271 will provide Creighton University students with ongoing professional development opportunities through the Student Services department. Currently there is a student in this program who is a community member of Bloomington. Either party may terminate this agreement by written notice to the other party at least 30 days in advance of the proposed termination date. The partnership with Creighton University and ISD 271 will begin on November 1, 2024 and will continue through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Donations

Mia Olson moved, Matt Dymoke seconded that the School Board of Independent District 271 accepts donations, as indicated in the background, in the amount of \$57,905.09. 1. Donation of \$500.00 to Hillcrest Elementary School from Education Foundation of Bloomington for school-wide field trip to Orchestra Hall. 2. Donation of \$1,000.00 to Valley View Elementary School from Kopp Family Foundation for students in need. 3. Donation of \$1,700.00 to Oak Grove Middle School from Bloomington Lions Club for the Unified Physical Education program. 4. Donation of \$585.74 to Olson Middle School from OMS PTSA for 23-24 Student Council T-shirts. 5. Donation of \$1,670.00 to Olson Middle School from OMS PTSA for FY23-24 7 th & 8th Grade end of year field trips. 6. Donation of \$600.00 to Olson Middle School from OMS PTSA for the teacher luncheon held on August 27, 2024.

7. Donation of \$750.00 to Valley View Elementary and Middle schools from Bloomington Lion's Club to help support students. \$400.00 to VVM for student hygiene products, \$350.00 to VVE for student support snacks. 8. Donation of \$3,500.00 to Jefferson High School from Kopp Family Foundation for the Random Acts of Kindness program, for students in need. 9. Donation of \$2,000.00 to Jefferson High School from Education Foundation of Bloomington for Jag Den, which supports for students in need. 10. Donation of \$3,000.00 to Kennedy High School from Kopp Family Foundation for the Random Acts of Kindness program for students in need. 11. Donation of \$8,278.66 to Kennedy High School from Minneapolis Foundation for the Rhythm and Gold Choir and other show choir programs. 12. Donation of 9,000.00 to Kennedy High School from JFK Swimming & Diving Booster Club for final balance on the pool scoreboard at OGM. 13. Donation of \$9,101.69 to Kennedy High School from Kennedy Girls Softball Boosters coaches' salaries and program equipment. 14. Donation of \$1,670.00 to the District's Learning Support Department from Bloomington Noon Rotary and \$500.00 from Bell Bank, both for the purchase of school supplies to distribute across the District. 15. Donation of \$5,000.00 to Community Education's Youth Enrichment program from the Education Foundation of Bloomington to support students in need to enroll in Enrichment classes. 16. Donation of \$8,000.00 to the District's Health Services Department from the Bloomington Lions Club for PK-12 vision screening and glasses. VALUE IN KIND: 17. Donation of various school supplies to the District's Learning Support Department to distribute across the District from ChiroZone. A value of \$750.00. 18. Donation of a TiLite Twist pediatric manual wheelchair to the District's Health Services Department from Ms. Victoria Linton. To be used by handicapped students. A value of \$799.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratify Sale of  
2024A Bonds

Mia Olson moved, Tom Bennett seconded that the School Board of Independent Sale District 271 approve the attached resolution ratifying the award of the sale, determining the form and details, authorizing the execution, delivery and registration, and providing for the payment of \$34,695,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance and Capital Facilities Bonds, Series 2024A. This resolution ratifies the award of the sale of General Obligation Facilities Maintenance and Capital Facilities Bonds, Series 2024A, authorized at the September 23, 2024 School Board meeting. A portion of the proceeds, approximately \$27,100,000 will be used to finance various deferred facilities maintenance projects at District facilities. The remaining portion of the Bonds, approximately \$7,595,000 will be used to finance certain improvements at the District's outdoor athletic facilities. This resolution authorizes Ehlers and Associates, our financial consultant, to begin the process to sell these bonds. Motion carried unanimously.

Guiding Change  
Document for  
2025-26

Nelly Korman moved, Matt Dymoke seconded that the School Board of Independent District 271 approves the Guiding Change Document for 2025-26 Right Sizing the Budget. The School Board reaffirmed the Guiding Change Document for the process of 2025-26 Right Sizing the Budget at the School Board Study Session on October 14, 2024. The document outlines why right sizing the budget is needed, results expected from the process and a list of unacceptable means to accomplish right sizing of the budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Guiding Change  
Document for  
Long-term Financial  
and Facility Planning

Nelly Korman moved, Matt Dymoke seconded that the School Board of Independent District 271 approves the Guiding Change Document for Long-term Financial and Facility Planning. The School Board affirmed the Guiding Change Document for Long-term Financial and Facility Planning at the School Board Study Session on October 14, 2024. The document outlines why Long-term Financial and Facility Planning is needed, results expected from the process and a list of unacceptable means to

accomplish financial sustainability and efficient usage of facilities. Motion carried unanimously.

RSB 2025-26

Rod Zivkovich, Executive Director of Finance and Support Services and Superintendent Dr. Eric Melbye presents Right Sizing the Budget 2025-25 slide show.

Closure of Pond  
Center Schoolhouse

Tom Bennett moved, Beth Beebe seconded WHEREAS, the School Board approved a \$5 million budget reduction to help cover the budget shortfalls anticipated for the 2025-26 school year created in part by decreasing enrollment and inflationary challenges, and directed the Administration to provide suggested reductions on September 23, 2024; and WHEREAS, one of the suggestions made by the Administration to meet the \$5 million reduction was to close Pond Center Schoolhouse and create a centralized and unified early childhood programming center at Washburn Elementary School; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 123B.51 a public hearing was held on October 7, 2024 after due notice and publication on the proposed closing of the Pond Center Schoolhouse at which members of the public gave their input; NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the closing of Pond Center Schoolhouse, 9600 3rd Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420 at the end of the 2024-2025 school year as part of its approved "Right Sizing the Budget" reductions of \$5 million. Bloomington Public Schools and school districts across Minnesota are facing challenging fiscal environments due to a number of factors, including decreasing enrollment and inflationary challenges. BPS has and will continue to face budget shortfalls for the 2025-26 school year and the foreseeable future. Based on these anticipated shortfalls, the School Board approved a \$5 million RSB amount for 2025-26 school year in September 2024. An early childhood design team was convened in September and December of 2022 to study early childhood programming options and create recommendations. Closing Pond and creating a centralized and unified early childhood programming center was a preferred option. Closing Pond helps meet our \$5 million RSB amount for 2025-2026 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

Closure of Southwood  
Center Schoolhouse

Tom Bennett moved, Beth Beebe seconded that the School Board of Independent Dr. Eric Melbye presents Right Sizing the Budget 2025-25 slide show. WHEREAS, the School Board approved a \$5 million budget reduction to help cover the budget shortfalls anticipated for the 2025-26 school year created in part by decreasing enrollment and inflationary challenges, and directed the Administration to provide suggested reductions on September 23, 2024; and WHEREAS, one of the suggestions made by the Administration to meet the \$5 million reduction was to close Southwood Center Schoolhouse and create a centralized and unified early childhood programming center at Washburn Elementary School; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 123B.51 a public hearing was held on October 7, 2024 after due notice and publication on the proposed closing of the Southwood Center Schoolhouse at which members of the public gave their input; NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the closing of Southwood Center Schoolhouse, 4901 West 112th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437 at the end of the 2024-2025 school year as part of its approved "Right Sizing the Budget" reductions of \$5 million. Bloomington Public Schools and school districts across Minnesota are facing challenging fiscal environments due to a number of factors, including decreasing enrollment and inflationary challenges. BPS has and will continue to face budget shortfalls for the 2025-26 school year and the foreseeable future. Based on these anticipated shortfalls, the School Board approved a \$5 million RSB amount for 2025-26 school year in September 2024. An early childhood design team was convened in September and December of 2022 to study early childhood programming options and create recommendations. Closing Southwood and creating a

centralized and unified early childhood programming center was a preferred option. Closing Southwood helps meet our \$5 million RSB amount for 2025-2026 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

Repurposing  
Washburn Elementary

Tom Bennett moved, Matt Dymoke seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Right Sizing the Budget List Item: Repurposing Washburn Elementary to the Districts Early Childhood Center in the 2025-26 school year and directs administration to develop final plans to accomplish this move. Bloomington Public Schools and school districts across Minnesota are facing challenging fiscal environments due to a number of factors, including decreasing enrollment and inflationary challenges. BPS has and will continue to face budget shortfalls for the 2025-26 school year and the foreseeable future. Based on these anticipated shortfalls, in September 2024 the School Board approved \$5 million in RSB reductions for 2025-26 school year. The above resolution accounts for \$900K of that \$5 million budget adjustment for next school year. The remaining reduction items will be submitted to the School Board over the next couple of months. This multi-year Right Sizing the Budget (RSB) process includes multiple meetings with staff, the School Board, public and district administration. Cabinet is recommending a \$4.57 million adjustment for the 2025-26 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Steigauf called for a three-minute recess (8:29-8:32 pm)

Bid Award OLM  
Mechanical  
Improvements

Matt Dymoke moved, Heather Starks seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the following bids for mechanical improvements at Olson Middle School which includes additional long term facilities maintenance projects at Valley View Middle School: 1. Lloyds Construction Services, Inc., Shakopee, MN, bid of \$974,839.00. 2. Maertens Brenny Construction, Minneapolis, MN, bid of \$809,000.00. 3. Top Lines Steel Corporation, Mound, MN, bid of \$120,600.00. 4. Kellington Construction, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, bid of \$922,031.00. 5. McPhillips Roofing, Co., N. St. Paul, MN, bid of \$315,200.00. 6. Bredemus Hardware Company, St. Paul, MN, bid of \$316,875.00. 7. Val Pro Windows, LLC, St. Paul, MN, bid of \$1,676,620.00. 8. RTL Construction, Inc., Shakopee, MN, bid of \$644,939.00. 9. Gulf Coast Tile and Marble, Inc., Port Charlotte, FL, bid of \$629,453.00. 10. Sonus Interiors, Inc., Golden Valley, MN, bid of \$700,155.00. 11. Floors To Go, Shakopee, MN, bid of \$456,003.00. 12. Grazzini Brothers & Company, Eagan, MN, bid of \$291,500.00. 13. Wasche Commercial Finishes, Inc., East Bethel, MN, bid of \$478,870.00. 14. Elite Storage Products, LLC, Collierville, TN, bid of \$489,555.00. 15. South Town, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, bid of \$710,462.20. 16. Woodside Industries, Inc., Cavalier, ND, bid of \$157,537.34. 17. H&B Specialized Products Inc., Eden Prairie, MN, bid of \$201,250.00. 18. Horizon Commercial Pools, Arden Hills, MN, bid of \$179,782.00. 19. Breth-Zenzen Fire Protection, LLC, St. Joseph, MN, bid of \$576,100.00. 20. Thelen Heating and Roofing, Inc., Brainerd, MN, bid of \$15,320,000.00. 21. HumeraTech, Inc., Rogers, MN, bid of \$892,591.00. 22. Bloomington Electric Company, Bloomington, MN, bid of \$6,913,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

2025-2026  
District Calendar

Matt Dymoke moved, Tom Bennett seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. The calendar for the 2025-2026 school year was developed through the District Calendar Committee. The committee consists of representatives from the bargaining units, as well as, parents, administration and the Office of Educational Equity. A Guiding Change Document was created and approved by the School Board on October 23rd, 2023. This document provided guidance to the Calendar Committee for the development of the 2025-2026

calendar. The calendar reflects both a start date after Labor Day and the elementary assessment days, held at the start of the school year. The elementary teachers will have a full day of professional development on September 2, 2025 and April 24, 2026 in exchange for the early assessment days held during back-to-school week. This calendar has been vetted with multiple stakeholder groups. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-2027  
District Calendar

Matt Dymoke moved, Tom Bennett seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. The calendar for the 2026-2027 school year was developed through the District Calendar Committee. The committee consists of representatives from the bargaining units, as well as, parents, administration and the Office of Educational Equity. A Guiding Change Document was created and approved by the School Board on October 23rd, 2023. This document provided guidance to the Calendar Committee for the development of the 2026-2027 calendar. The calendar reflects both a start date after Labor Day and the elementary assessment days, held at the start of the school year. The elementary teachers will have a full day of professional development on August 31, 2026 and April 30, 2027 in exchange for the early assessment days held during back-to-school week. This calendar has been vetted with multiple stakeholder groups. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 606.5  
Library Materials

Heather Starks moved, Matt Dymoke seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the adoption of Policy 606.5, Library Materials. The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and to delegate responsibility for selection and reconsideration of library materials. Legislation passed in spring 2024 added requirements for school districts regarding library materials (Minn. Stat. § 134.51 Access to Library Materials and Rights Protected). Changes to this policy follow recommendations from the Minnesota School Board Association to incorporate the new requirements into policy and regulation. Review of policy: March 18, 2024 - Board Business meeting (adoption of policy 606.5); August 28, 2024 - Board Policy Committee (review draft); and Sept 23, 2024 - Board Study Session (review draft). Motion carried unanimously.

Policy Review

Heather Starks, Chair of the Board Policy Committee, provided an overview of two policies reviewed by the committee on October 10, 2024 and are being brought to the Board for information and discussion.

Policy 524

Policy 524, Computer System and Internet Acceptable Use - John Weisser

*Recommendation: REVISED*

This Policy was last reviewed in March, 2024. Modifications are to bring it into alignment with state law requiring language about student cell phone possession and use in schools by March 2025. Language changes come from updated MSBA model policy language and consultation with building principal representatives. More information: June 2024 Newsletter: 2024 Legislative Session Model Policy Updates. Administration also recommends that the title of the Policy be updated. Legal counsel has reviewed.

Policy 550

Policy 550, Student Handbooks - Jenna Mitchler

*Recommendation: REVISED*

This Policy was last reviewed in September, 2023. The district has added Policy 540, Student Gender Inclusion and community members have requested that this new Policy be communicated widely. Therefore, it is being added to the handbook (among other means of communication). The title of Policy 524 has also been updated to reflect the changes suggested. Legal counsel has reviewed.

School Board Goals  
2024-2025

Beth Beebe moved, Matt Dymoke seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves its Goals for the 2024-2025 school year. At the August 8, 2024 retreat, the School Board discussed and drafted goals for this school year. Attached is the document setting forth School Board Goals for 2024-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Goals  
2024-2025

Beth Beebe moved, Nelly Korman seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Superintendent Goals for the 2024-2025 school year. At the August 8, 2024 retreat, the School Board discussed superintendent goals for 2024-2025 to align Dr. Melbye's work with that of the Board's. Attached is the document setting forth Superintendent Goals for 2024-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER  
REPORT


Matt Dymoke reports that the Board Community Engagement Committee met over MEA. They are planning to update the Community Engagement Plan and bringing it for approval in the next December board meeting. The committee is also implementing a new School Board sponsored event, "State of the Schools" on April 15th, 2025. Dawn Steigauf shares her attendance tomorrow to the MSBA student training with Vice Chair Dymoke, Superintendent Dr. Melbye, and the two student representatives, Jenny Wen and Kenneth Adah.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Chair Dawn Steigauf adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

  
Beth Beebe, Clerk