

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 271  
Bloomington, Minnesota**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
December 20, 2010**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 271, was called to order by Chair Jim Sorum at 6:04 p.m. on Monday, December 20, 2010, at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, Minnesota. Chair Sorum announced that due to the weather, the start of the meeting would be delayed a few minutes awaiting arrival of the last two School Board members. The meeting commenced at 6:10 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members Present: Jim Sorum, Chair; Maureen Bartolotta, Vice Chair; Chuck Walter, Clerk; Arlene Bush, Treasurer (6:25 p.m. arrival); Tim Culver (6:20 p.m. arrival), Mark Hibbs and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund. School Attorney Present: David Holman. Administration Present: Les Fujitake, Nancy Allen-Mastro, Rod Zivkovich, Eric Melbye, Bruce Pappas, Tom Holton and Rick Kaufman.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Recited.

**Agenda Approval**

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Chuck Walter seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Acceptance of Grant from Minnesota Department of Education—Even Start Family Literacy**

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Melissa Halvorson Wiklund seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the \$178,334 grant from the Minnesota Department of Education to be used to support Family School programs. Motion carried unanimously.

The Even Start Family Literacy grant is a Federal grant awarded through the Minnesota Department of Education. The amount awarded is \$178,334 for one year and opportunity for renewal for an additional two years. The Bloomington/Richfield Family School is a collaborative effort between Bloomington and Richfield schools, South Hennepin Adult Programs in Education (SHAPE) and the Bloomington Division of Public Health. Family School is an integrated, research-based, literacy-focused adult and early childhood education model. The grant will be used to expand the current Family School program.

**Second Reading of Revised Policy 503.2, Student Assignments/Transfers**

Chuck Walter moved, Maureen Bartolotta seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the second reading of Policy/Regulation 503.2 Student Assignments/Transfers.

*Tim Culver arrived at 6:20 p.m.*

The purpose of revising the District's transfer policy is to manage the transition of students to new attendance areas in the fall of 2011 and set a long-term strategy for effectively managing student movement in the District. Changes recommended to the policy will also assist in managing movement in a changing demographic landscape in Bloomington. Revisions to the transfer policy have been developed with the following considerations in mind: a) choice is important to families and should be made possible in the context of the transfer policy; and b) schools and families want a transfer policy that is fair and evenly applied across the District.

With those considerations in mind, the transfer policy reflects the following goals:

1. Provide a family-friendly approach to managing existing and future intra-district transfer and reassignment requests while also fulfilling the goals and outcomes of the boundary reorganization.
2. Consider the needs and interests of families with children who participate in District programs.
3. Consider the needs and interests of families who open enroll into Bloomington Public Schools.
4. Consider transportation costs and logistics.
5. Create employee-friendly choice provisions.

*Arlene Bush arrived at 6:25 p.m.*

Dr. Nancy Allen-Mastro and Rick Kaufman reviewed the process in bringing this policy to final reading. The School Board started reviewing the policy and regulation in September and have had seven study sessions on the policy and regulation. Since the first reading on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the regulation has been reorganized to put all information relating to the transition year, 2011-2012, in one section should a revised elementary attendance area map be approved by the Board in January. The intent of the policy is to provide a short-term transition and long-term transition strategy for working with student transfers and assignments.

In addition to clarification of transportation costs, Mr. Walter had questions relative to route redundancy occurrences, labor issues and student safety issues. Administration indicated that the cost of transportation will be \$150,000 for transporting fifth grade students, only, for one year. Mr. Walter also addressed the question of parent choice—are there recurring themes as to why parents choose certain schools rather than their neighborhood school. Dr. Allen-Mastro indicated that there is more follow up being done in this regard. Mr. Culver and Mr. Hibbs emphasized fairness for all students and families regarding educational choice and transfers. Board discussion continued. Mr. Hibbs offered a motion for the Board's consideration.

Mark Hibbs moved, Melissa Halvorson Wiklund seconded, to strike Section H. item 7. (relating to Hillcrest Community School).

Mr. Culver indicated his support for accommodating the choice for as many parents as possible to have children remain in their current school. Board members discussed the issue of fairness to all students and families including the concept of program versus building and capacities of the buildings for accommodating enrollment due to new boundaries and transfer requests. Board members stated their reasons for support or non-support of the motion offered.

Chair Sorum called for the vote on the motion to strike Section H. 7. On roll call vote, Tim Culver, Chuck Walter, Mark Hibbs and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund voted aye. Maureen Bartolotta, Jim Sorum and Arlene Bush voted nay. Motion carried 4-3.

Tim Culver moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, to strike the parenthetical phrase in Section H. 3. in d. and e. (excluding Hillcrest Community School). During discussion by Board members, Mr. Culver concluded that striking the phrase brought confusion to the process. Superintendent Les Fujitake agreed. The motion to strike the parenthetical phrase was withdrawn.

Tim Culver made a motion, seconded by Melissa Halvorson Wiklund, to remove the word "current" in Section H. 3. d. and e. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Sorum opened the floor for public comment. A few parents addressed the School Board regarding the Board's action on the final reading of the student transfer policy and regulation and/or the proposed boundary maps.

Tim Culver moved, Mark Hibbs seconded, to replace Section H. 3. a. through e. with the following wording: All current intra-district transfers and those students who are placed in a new school by the boundary shall have the right to return to their school of 2010-2011. Hillcrest students currently enrolled shall have the right to return in 2011-2012 to the school where they are currently enrolled.

There was discussion by Board members.

Board Chair Jim Sorum called for the question on the proposed rewording of Section H. 3. On roll call vote Tim Culver voted aye. Chuck Walter, Maureen Bartolotta, Jim Sorum, Arlene Bush, Mark Hibbs and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund voted nay. Motion failed 1-6.

Board Chair Jim Sorum called for the question on the resolution to approve Policy and Regulation 503.2 Student Transfers/Assignments, as amended. On roll call vote, Tim Culver, Chuck Walter, Jim Sorum, Arlene Bush, Mark Hibbs and Melissa Halvorson Wiklund voted aye. Maureen Bartolotta voted nay. Motion carried 6-1.

### **Second Reading of Revised Policy 509, Enrollment of Resident and Nonresident Students**

Maureen Bartolotta moved, Arlene Bush seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the second reading of Policy/Regulation 509 Enrollment of Resident and Nonresident Students. Motion carried unanimously.

The purpose of revising the enrollment policy is to update current language and provide guidance in how to manage enrollment of students from outside the District.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the School Board, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chuck Walter, Clerk