

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

**February 22, 2021**

- I. ROLL CALL
- Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, and there being a quorum present, the virtual School Board meeting of Independent School District 271 was called to order by Chair Nelly Korman at 7:00 p.m. on February 22, 2021.
- Chair Korman announced that the School Board meeting tonight is being conducted remotely via Google Meet; it is being live streamed by BEC TV and will be replayed per the usual BEC TV replay schedule.
- Chair Korman made the following statement: Please consider that while most of us in this meeting or viewing this meeting are not in the same room – all of us, wherever we are in Bloomington or the Metro Area are on the traditional, ancestral and contemporary land of Indigenous people. Bloomington Public Schools rests on Dakota land ceded in the Treaties of 1837 and 1851.
- Members Present on Roll Call: Nelly Korman, Chair; Dawn Steigauf, Vice Chair; Heather Starks, Clerk; Beth Beebe, Treasurer; Directors Tom Bennett, Mia Olson, and Jim Sorum.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Jenna Mitchler, Mary Burroughs, Rick Kaufman, Andy Kubas, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to establish a closed session upon the conclusion of this meeting for the purpose of Superintendent Mid-Year Evaluation. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Nelly Korman moved, Beth Beebe seconded, to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC
- Juma Waganda reported on Jefferson High School activities—winter sports updates, Math Team won the 6AAA award qualifying them for State competition in March, Jefferson Theater Company one-act play of “Radium Girls” will be streamed on February 26-27, and students are excited to return to school.
- Student Board Representative Reports
- Tristan Phay reported on Kennedy High School activities—winter sports updates, student government sponsored another virtual spirit week that included movie night, trivia game night, and a talent show. The Green Club held a virtual event and is planning for more events. Students are excited to return to school, some will continue in distance learning; he encouraged students to do what is best for them and continue to practice COVID-19 mitigation strategies.
- Public
- Chair Korman reviewed the current procedure for recognizing comments from the public.

One comment was shared from William Schwandt, President of the Bloomington Federation of Paraprofessionals (BFP) expressing gratitude for the opportunity to continue contract negotiations with the District with the desire to reach an agreement on a new contract before it expires on June 30th. The BFP extended an invitation to the School Board and Superintendent Fujitake to meet with a select group of Paraprofessionals via Google Meet on March 1st at 5:00 pm to discuss some of the difficulties that Paraprofessionals face each day.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting February 8, 2021.

b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Leave of Absence.

Personnel Actions

Classified Personnel: Retirement, Resignations, Employment, Changes of Status.

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

Minnesota State

Mankato/Nursing

Services Amendment

Pond Clinic

a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement between Minnesota State University, Mankato and Independent School District 271. Effective dates for this Agreement are July 1, 2017-June 30, 2022. The Addendum will be effective starting February 8, 2021.

City of Bloomington/  
BEC TV 2021

b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Agreement between the City of Bloomington and Independent School District 271 to participate in the promotion and development of Educational Access programming (BEC TV) on the Bloomington cable television system.

Joint Powers/NCC  
Math PLUS/KHS

c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Joint Powers Agreement with Normandale Community College to provide Math PLUS instruction at Kennedy High School. The term of the Joint Powers Agreement is March 9, 2021 through June 7, 2021.

3. *Finance*

Finance Reports

a. Statement of Revenues and Statement of Expenditures for January 2021.

Receipts &

Disbursements

b. Receipts and Disbursements for January 2021.

Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to approve Part A items in accordance with all of the written material submitted to the School Board. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

VI. PART B

Donations

Dawn Steigauf moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts donations as indicated in the background in the amount of \$7,000. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, the list of donations is scrolled by BEC TV. MONETARY—Donation of \$4,000.00 to Valley View Elementary School from Hometown Church for students and families in need. Donation of \$500.00 to Jefferson High School from BARR Engineering for the Robotics Club. Donation of \$2,500.00 to ISD #271 from R.E. Purvis & Associates, Inc., for the Food for Thought Program.

Policy Review

Tom Bennett, Chair of the Board Policy Committee, reviewed each of the following policies and invited comments by School Board members.

*Policy 534, Unpaid Meal Charges–Revised [Rod Zivkovich]*

The purpose of the policy is to provide guidance in the handling of unpaid meal charges (student meal debt). The updated policy and regulation language is clearer, less wordy, and more straightforward. A few regulation clarifications were made as part of this year's policy review. This policy was identified by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jenna Mitchler for review as part of the Safe and Supportive Schools Plan.

*Policy 430, Student Teaching–Revised [Andy Kubas]*

The purpose of the policy is to assist in the preparation of future teachers. The District will ensure a process is conducted in a manner that benefits Bloomington students. This policy is identified on the five-year cycle for review. The format has been updated to be consistent with policies recently reviewed. Additional language addresses efforts to involve, encourage, and develop, student teacher candidates who are culturally diverse in order to fulfill the District's mission to create a more culturally diverse staff.

*Policy 506 Student Discipline–No Change [Jenna Mitchler]*

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that the District establish a Code of Student Conduct and disciplinary action options that minimize loss of student instruction time due to misbehavior, and to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the District's Code of Student Conduct. This is one of the policies needing annual review. The last review was January 27, 2020. This policy is identified for review as part of the Safe and Supportive Schools Plan policy review. A minor wording change was offered by Director Olson and was accepted by Dr. Mitchler. It will be reflected in the document presented for final action of the School Board. Director Bennett took the opportunity to explain a policy (Board Governance) versus a regulation (Administrative operations).

*Policy 514 Bullying Prohibition–No Change [Jenna Mitchler]*

The purpose of the policy is to ensure a system is in place to prevent and respond to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, reprisal, retaliation, and other similar disruptive and detrimental behavior. This is one of the policies needing annual review. The last review was January 27, 2020. This policy is identified for review as part of the Safe and Supportive Schools Plan policy review.

*Policy 521, Student Disability Nondiscrimination–Revised [Jenna Mitchler]*

The purpose of this policy is to protect students with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability and to provide for the identification and the evaluation of students who within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need special services, accommodations, or programs, in order that such learners may receive a free appropriate public education. This policy is identified on the five-year cycle for review and as part of the Safe and Supportive Schools Plan policy review. The policy owner has been updated to reflect the Assistant Superintendent as we no longer have a position entitled Executive Director of Learning Supports.

*Policy 510.3 Activities and Other Student Fees—No Change [Les Fujitake]*

The purpose of the policy is to provide direction on how the School Board will govern the District's student activity fee program. The policy owner has been changed from the Assistant Superintendent to the Superintendent; the Superintendent supervises secondary principals. This policy addresses more of the secondary level activities. There is no content change in this policy. Minor edits were made to be consistent with the District's formatting guidelines for policies.

The policies reviewed and discussed will be presented for final action at the next School Board meeting under Part A (Consent Actions).

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Tom Bennett highlighted School Board recognition week expressing appreciation to his Board member colleagues. Beth Beebe reported that MSBA has implemented a program to keep up Board members informed on legislative issues—the Friday chat on education and politics, which also publishes “The Weekly Advocate” providing updates. She encouraged people to contact the leaders of the House and Senate and our local legislators to advocate for summer school funding. The Governor needs to give authority for the release of ESSR and GEAR funds from the federal government to help with learning loss. Director Beebe also suggested supporting our schools and the Jefferson Theater Company production of Radium Girls. Mia Olson reported on the recent MSBA Conference at which the theme was navigating the storm for student success; she provided quotes from the featured speaker.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jenna Mitchler indicated that based on new state guidelines that emphasizes bringing secondary students back to school, we plan to shift to traditional in-person learning rather than the hybrid model as previously communicated to families and staff. All secondary students will continue in distance learning until March 11. Distance learning remains an option for all students who wish to continue with remote at-home learning. Secondary principals and staff are finalizing their traditional schedules that follow learning model guidance and safety protocols outlined in the state's updated Safe Learning Plan. Specific details of the middle and high school schedules will be released this week. A slide with dates for returning to tradition learning was presented that included the following:

Middle School Teacher Prep/Comp Days – March 5, 8-10; non-instructional days for students. On March 11, middle school grades 6-8 transitions to in-school learning. High School—March 2 is ACT day for grade 11 students with finals March 3-5 for all high school grades. High School Teacher Prep Days are March 8-10; non-instructional days for students. On March 11-12, high school grades 9-12 transition to in-school learning.

The Community Engagement Event postponed from last Thursday has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. and is carried live on BEC TV. There will be an opportunity to submit questions prior to and during the meeting.

Congratulations to these Jefferson students who have been selected as National Merit Scholarship Finalists: Alexander Carpenter, Benjamin Carpenter, Joseph Carpenter, Amy Wang and Yanyan Zeng.

Congratulations to all of the Jefferson and Kennedy students who were recognized in this year's Minnesota Scholastic Art competition—names of those students are included in the "Points of Pride" scrolled upon conclusion of this Board meeting.

Congratulations to Jefferson High School Language Arts teacher Nick Hupton who has been selected as one of 75 candidates from across the state for Education Minnesota's Teacher of the Year.

This is School Board Recognition Week. Thank you to our School Board members for their dedication and commitment to all of our learners and our community and especially to their families who share them with us.

Dawn Steigauf moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to establish a Professional Development session of the School Board via Google Meet on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 5:30 pm. Topics include Cultural Proficiency and Achievement and Integration. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Pursuant to M.S. 13D.03 to discuss the District's labor negotiations strategy related to the District's negotiations with bargaining groups, Beth Beebe moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to establish a Closed Session of the School Board via Google Meet on Monday, March 8, 2021, upon conclusion of the regular School Board meeting. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Chair Nelly Korman moved, Beth Beebe seconded, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

A closed session for Superintendent Mid-Year Evaluation followed the meeting.

Heather Starks, Clerk