

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

March 8, 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 March 8, 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: Les Fujitake, Jenna Mitchler, Mary Burroughs, Rick Kaufman, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/STAFF/PUBLIC
- Kingsley Holman Remembrance
- Superintendent Les Fujitake remembered Mr. Kingsley David Holman, Esq. as a friend, a mentor and one of the smartest people he has met. Kingsley served as the District’s legal counsel for 61 years; something that never will be equaled. He was an extraordinary human being and icon to the Bloomington community. Over those many years, Kingsley provided wise and strategically valuable opinions and advice to many School Board members and Superintendents on a variety of topics always keeping the District in strict compliance with the law. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School and proceeded to open his law practice in Bloomington, the Holman Law Office. He and his firm are recognized as a Friend of the Bloomington Schools. To many, Kingsley was a hero. He was a WW II veteran serving in Europe in the 15th Armored Division. He also is a hero because he inspired with his love of Bloomington and the community. His commitment and dedication to the school community was role model to me. His wit and wisdom were unforgettable. Kingsley passed away at 99 years of age; he will be greatly missed. In recognition and in honor of his legacy with the Bloomington Public Schools, a plaque will be displayed permanently near the Superintendent’s office.

Our sincere condolences to the Holman family, especially his wife Elaine, his life partner. Kingsley and Elaine celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary last October. Kingsley, Elaine and their youngest son David worked together at the law firm. David, is the current legal counsel for the District who to date has served the District for 40 plus years. Together, father and son have served our school community for over 100 years. Kingsley Holman's legacy will be long remembered.

Chair Korman commented that tonight we begin our meeting with heavy hearts over the recent passing of Mr. Kingsley Holman, our Board and District legal counsel, who served us with professional and compassionate advice for 61 years. Mr. Holman was an extremely intelligent and skilled attorney, who ensured we were in compliance with the law. His knowledge and advice spanned decades of ever-changing school and administrative laws. Yet, this humble man never wavered in his passion and devotion to Bloomington Public Schools and the dozens of School Board members he served. Everyone respected Mr. Holman and his advice. While we may be hard-pressed to find anyone more knowledgeable in school law, we are thankful that his legacy lives on in the handling of our legal matters with his son, David Holman, who to date has been serving the District for 40-plus years. We extend our sincere condolences to Kingsley's family, including his wife of 71 years, Elaine, and to his sons, David, Craig and Dirk, and their families.

Support Services Employees

Tonight, we recognized the dedication and commitment of our support services employees. Tim Rybak, Director of Operations, introduced Dave Kusinski, Assistant Director of Building and Grounds, who has served the district for 30 years. Mr. Kusinski highlighted the excellent work of the 100+ custodial and maintenance staff. He praised the staff who have readily adapted and performed a variety of additional procedures to keep our buildings and sites safe for students and staff as we navigate through the pandemic. A few examples cited included procuring of new products and developing a distribution plan--making classroom kits for each school, implementing new sanitizing practices and developing a new cleaning plan as well, training on new equipment and procedures, assisting in food distribution and working on deferred maintenance projects. This year the department received grant money from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for eliminating gas-powered grounds equipment and changing to battery operated electric equipment. The department also received an award from Center Point Energy for the energy conservation program.

Lisa Foust, Director of Transportation, who started with the District in late September, shared that there are 135 professionals in the department including bus drivers, bus aides, stand-by drivers, routers, dispatchers, clerical, shop personnel and managers who safely transport 8,000 students daily. Bus routes are prepared in the summer and are updated throughout the year. In this unprecedented year, routers modified and updated routes four times in September alone. This high functioning group of professionals are dedicated to the safety of students. Their ability to pivot and do what was needed was demonstrated with the new procedures regarding bus sanitization and daily interactions with students as well as providing assistance with food distribution to students and families. Great teamwork.

Rynetta Renford, Food Services Director, provided highlights of the exemplary work of the food service staff who, since March 2020, have been preparing, packing and distributing meals to students and families. During this pandemic, food service has provided 1.6 million meals that included breakfast, lunch, snack, and supper. She expressed appreciation to the food service staff and all those who helped to make this community better and stronger.

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). He shared that during the Board meeting on February 22, an invitation was extended to the Superintendent and School Board to meet with a small group of paraprofessionals for a listening session. Listening sessions were done with the Health Associates during protracted negotiations in 2012 and with the Teachers in 2016. To their disappointment, an email from Board Chair Korman declined the invitation. Mr. Schwandt noted that paraprofessionals are respected for their work but not respected enough to receive the same treatment as two other labor groups during their protracted negotiations. He further stated that during the recent negotiations sessions, the BFP presented out of the box thinking for wage packages while the District only rearranged the deck chairs on the Titanic. It has been repeatedly stated that the Board sets the parameters and the District's negotiating team cannot do anything more without Board approval. This has led to no movement toward ending this process and coming to an agreement on a new contract. He suggested that as the Board meets in closed session tonight, they are encouraged to have a meaningful discussion about the value of paraprofessionals in this District.

V. PART A

1. *Board Business*

Minutes

- a. Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting February 22, 2021.
- b. Licensed Personnel: Retirements, Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Employments. Classified Personnel: Retirement, Corrections to Retirements, Resignations, Employments.

Personnel Actions

2. *Contracts/Agreements*

HTC CPR & First Aid/

Metro South ABE

- 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 CPR and First Aid instruction to adult students attending the Personal Care Assistant Course at Metro South. The contract is effective April 16, 2021 through April 23, 2021.

PICA/Transition to

Kindergarten

Pond Center

- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Parents in Community Action, Inc. (PICA) and Independent School District 271 to help children transition to kindergarten from PICA Head Start and to track the progress of Head Start children throughout their elementary education. The Memorandum is effective until June 30, 2021.

PICA/Special
Education
Southwood Center

- c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Parents in Community Action, Inc. (PICA) and Independent School District 271 to help facilitate the recruitment, enrollment and inclusion of children with special education needs into Early Head Start and Head Start programs at Southwood. The Memorandum is effective until June 30, 2021.

3. *Policy Review*
Policy 430

- a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 430, Student Teaching.

Policy 506

- b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves no change to Policy 506, Student Discipline.

Policy 514

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

Policy 521

- d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 521, Student Disability Nondiscrimination.

Policy 534

- e. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves revised Policy 534, Unpaid Meal Charges.

Policy 510.3

- f. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves no change to Policy 510.3, Activities and Other Student Fees.

Nelly Korman moved, Beth Beebe 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
A&I Plan Budget
2021-2022

Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Achievement and Integration Plan budget for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of \$2,140,316.43. In the event of a decrease or increase in funding from the Minnesota Department of Education, the budget will be adjusted accordingly. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

In accordance with Minnesota Statute, Minnesota's Achievement and Integration program was established to help close Minnesota's academic achievement gap and increase integration opportunities for protected class students. The Achievement and Integration Plan budget must be submitted annually for approval by the Minnesota Department of Education. This budget conforms to all state requirements and supports District efforts to reduce the achievement gap and increase integration opportunities.

Dr. Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent, and Dinna Wade-Ardley, Director of the Office of Educational Equity, shared an overview of the plan's budget for 2021-2022 that includes direct services to students, professional development for staff, and administrative/indirect costs.

Adjusted Parking
Fee 2020-2021

Dawn Steigauf moved, Beth Beebe seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Student Parking Fees for Kennedy High School and Jefferson High School at a rate of \$45 for the third trimester of the 2020-2021 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

Student Parking Fees 2020-2021 for Kennedy High School and Jefferson High School were approved by the School Board at its meeting on February 24, 2020. Rates approved were \$270 per year (\$90 per trimester); the same rate as for the 2019-2020 school year. With students attending school in person for only one trimester this year, the high school principals recommended changing the parking fee to \$45 for the third trimester.

Graduation Fee
2021

Tom Bennett moved, Dawn Steigauf 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 2020-2021 school year. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye.

District administration, in consultation with high school administration, recommended no increase to the graduation fee for students who will graduate in June 2021. The fee remains at \$60.00 per student. Per MN Statute 123B.37, graduation fees are not charged for graduation caps, gowns and diplomas.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Chair Korman reported that the School Board of Independent School District 271 met in closed session on February 22, 2021, to discuss results of the Superintendent evaluation for mid-year 2020-2021. This evaluation covered six performance standards and twenty-five leadership traits. The Board's summary of the results is as follows: The Superintendent met or exceeded expectations in the areas of (1) strategic planning, (2) sound financial and resource management, (3) Instructional leadership, and (4) establishing/maintaining good relationships with agencies and organizations outside the District. The Board commends the Superintendent for his strong leadership during the 2020-2021 school year as he demonstrated a combination of calm, competence, and confidence, and as he provided guidance and support to this, and other school districts, during the uncertain times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chair Korman indicated that with the recent announcement from the Superintendent that he will not be seeking renewal of his contract, she will provide the leadership for a Board Superintendent Search Committee and appoints Vice Chair Dawn Steigauf and Director Tom Bennett as members of the committee. The committee will meet on Friday (March 12 at 4 pm) to discuss next steps in how to proceed with a superintendent search and bring a recommendation to the School Board on March 22.

Heather Starks expressed appreciation to the Support Services staff members for all of their behind-the-scenes work during this pandemic. Beth Beebe highlighted the upcoming MSBA Advocacy session series of meetings and discussions regarding legislative bills. She shared that there are 70 bills related to education and encouraged contacting legislators. Mia Olson gave a legislative session update indicating that spring break for legislators begins March 26 and there are bills that need to be passed before that date; funding for summer school and mental health supports. Dawn Steigauf reported on the recent Pathways Advisory Committee at which Science standards were discussed along with a review of how standards are developed at the state level.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Les Fujitake shared that registration for Bloomington Public Schools' preschool and early learning programs for the 2021-22 school year opened today. The four-star Parent-Aware rated programs are designed for children birth to age 4 to ensure our youngest learners are kindergarten-ready. Programs include preschool for three and four-year olds, before and after school care and early childhood family education (ECFE) for parents with children from birth to age 4. Programs are available at eight elementary schools and two early learning centers, Pond and Southwood. Families have the option to register for in-person classes or in the distance learning (online) format.

IX. OTHER

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Chair Nelly Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call vote, all directors voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

A closed session for negotiations followed the meeting.

Heather Starks, Clerk