



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

January 27, 2025

- 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, Matt Dymoke at 7:00 p.m. on January 27, 2025, in the Arlene Bush Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 1350 West 106th Street Bloomington, Minnesota.
- Chair Matt Dymoke 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: Matt Dymoke, Chair; Tom Bennett, Vice Chair; Nelly Korman, Clerk; Beth Beebe, Treasurer; Directors Mia Olson, Heather Starks, and Dawn Steigauf.
- Member Absent: None.
- Attorney Present: David Holman.
- Administration Present: Mary Burroughs, Julio Caesar, Jennifer McIntyre, Eric Melbye, Jenna Mitchler, and Rod Zivkovich.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Recited.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- Chair Matt Dymoke states Part A is the consent agenda. It consists of minutes from previous meetings, standard personnel actions, policy approvals, field trips, grants, contract and agreements, and routine financial business. Upon request we are moving one item from the consent agenda to our Part B agenda. That item is number nine, Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) Stronger Connections Grant. Tom Bennett moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. RECOGNITIONS
Black History Month
- Nelly Korman moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the attached (on file) proclamation proclaiming February 2025 as Black History Month in the Bloomington Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.
- Richard Scott, Equity Specialist from the Office of Educational Equity introduces two students from the OEE Leadership program: Leon Deboze-Blackmon from Kennedy High School and Wynter Frost from Oak Grove Middle School. Richard, Leon, and Wynter accepted the Black History Month Proclamation.

Paraprofessional
Recognition

Dawn Steigauf moved, Tom Bennett seconded, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 with the Governor of the State of Minnesota recognizes January 20, through January 26, 2025 as Paraprofessional Recognition Week. Motion carried unanimously.

Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent recognizes all the paraprofessionals in the district and introduces Kim Pawek, Special Education Paraprofessional Mentor and Bill Schwandt, President of Bloomington Federation of Paraprofessionals. Kim and Bill accepted the Paraprofessional Recognition Week Proclamation.

Student
Representatives
Report

Jenny Wen updated the Board with Jefferson events. DECA had 44 students qualify for state. They also hosted a practice ACT on Saturday, January 25th to help Jefferson students prepare for the ACT test in April. Musical tickets are available for the Jefferson Theatre Company's competitive one-act play Dark Road. Jefferson Band held a Bandcake Breakfast with a performance and a silent auction. On February 11th 7-9pm Orchestra will be hosting a winter concert. Earth Corps held a thrift exchange fundraiser raising \$300 for future projects. The National Honor Society is currently coordinating a service project to make first aid kits for a homeless shelter. Jefferson is also preparing for their annual Roses for Red Cross fundraiser. The Science Olympiad did incredible at their tournament on January 18th; regionals will be on February 1st. Parent-teacher conferences happened on Thursday, January 23rd. Changes to parking lot traffic flow have led to more efficient flow and safety. We appreciate the partnership with our SRO Detective VanHall for his input on improving morning drop-off and afternoon pickup routines.

Kenneth Adah updated the Board with Kennedy events. Roosevelt Osana and Emma Skibbie won Kennedy's AAA award. These awards go to two seniors who excel in academics, athletics, and arts. Kennedy will be hosting Bloomington Gold this Saturday, February 1st at Kennedy. Valley View Voices will open the show at 8:30 a.m., and Rhythm in Gold will end the night with a performance at 9:30 p.m. Senior Addison Wednt placed 4th in the state of Minnesota in congressional Debate at the MSHSL state tournament at the University of Minnesota on January 17th & 18th. At last week's parent-teacher conferences, students in Green Club had a table showcasing concept designs for the courtyard renovation project. Also at conferences, Women of the Future held a fundraiser with profits going to the Los Angeles Fire Department to support the ongoing fires in the area. 18 Kennedy students qualified for the Minnesota State DECA tournament. Ruben Java Lara and David Wurst placed 3rd in their franchise business plan partner category and Emma Skibbie placed 1st in sports and entertainment marketing. The students will stay and compete at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis from March 2nd to 4th. Finalists from state will have the opportunity to compete at Internationals in Orlando, Florida in April. The Kennedy/Richfield dance team placed 2nd at the tri metro conference championships this past weekend. Congratulations to Senior Macie Miller who scored her 1,000th point in girls' basketball.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Eric Melbye shares that Bloomington Public Schools is accepting nominations for its annual Senior Achievement Awards program, which recognizes outstanding Jefferson and Kennedy high school seniors. Inviting parents, caregivers, community members, employers, faith leaders and school staff are invited to nominate Jefferson and Kennedy seniors who demonstrate excellence in or make contributions to the school and community in one of four areas: artistic excellence, curricular excellence, leadership and volunteerism. Nominations are accepted up to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. Award winners are guests of honor at the Senior Achievement Awards event on Monday, April 21. Kindergarten Welcome Events are currently going on. This is a great

opportunity to meet the principal, school staff, and discover what the Kindergarten year will look like. Information can be found on our website. Curriculum and instructional materials for English Language Arts for grades K-5 are available for public review later this month. Materials will be available for review on January 28th from 1 - 7pm and January 29th from 9am - 12pm at ESC room 610. Points of pride to Normandale Hills Elementary music teacher Jeff "Mr. Z" Zupfer received an Inclusive Educator Award for his work to foster an inclusive learning environment for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Aaron Swartout, Jefferson assistant football coach, received the 2024 Butch Nash Award.

VI. PART A

1. Board Business Meeting Notes Personnel Actions
 - a. Minutes of the School Board Business Meeting January 6, 2025
 - b. Notes of Listening Session January 13, 2025
 - c. Licensed Personnel: Employments. Classified Personnel: Retirements, Terminations, Resignations, Employments, Change of Status, Transportation 1st Quarter Hour, Averaging.
2. Policy Approval Policy 214
 - a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the revised Policy 214, School Board Out-of-State Travel by Board Members, as attached.
3. Field Trips

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the field trips per the attached list.
4. Grants/Donations Education Foundation Bloomington
 - a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts \$2,386.00 in grants from the Education Foundation of Bloomington to be used for selected educational projects.
5. Contracts/Agreements City of Bloomington
 - a. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves a Service Agreement with the City of Bloomington. This is a SHIP community Partners project running from January 28, 2025 - October 31, 2025.
 - b. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 ("District") approves the 2025 Pay Equity Implementation Report, to be submitted to the Pay Equity Office, Department of Minnesota Management & Budget, by January 31, 2025.
 - c. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the contract for professional development services with Cornelius Minor. This order is effective June 9, 2025.
 - d. RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Agreement for Clinical Experience between St. Catherine University and Independent School District 271 for the University Programs outlined in Exhibit A of the Agreement. The term of the Agreement is effective beginning January 27, 2025, and will renew automatically for succeeding academic years unless either party gives the other written notice on or before August 1 that it will not renew the Agreement for the academic year beginning the following September.

6. Finance

- a. Statements of Revenues and Expenditures November and December 2024
- b. Receipts and Disbursements November and December 2024

Tom Bennett 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
Donations

Beth Beebe moved, Tom Bennett seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts donations, as indicated in the background, in the amount of \$119,680.72. 1. Donation of \$1,843.02 to Poplar Bridge Elementary School from PB PTSA. \$1,125.25 was transportation costs for various field trips, \$308.80 for 1st & 2nd grade science journals and \$408.97 for reimbursement to the school for them Shutterfly-Lifetouch commission for fall pictures. 2. Donation of \$500.00 to Ridgeview Elementary School from Education Foundation of Bloomington for field trip transportation costs. 3. Donation of \$834.52 to Valley View Elementary School from The Works to reimburse for food cost for Family Night at the museum. 4. Donation of \$1,749.00 to Oak Grove Middle School from OGM Musical Booster Club for theater staff stipends. 5. Donation of \$11,224.20 to Jefferson High School from Jefferson Choir Booster Club for director's salaries. 6. Donation of \$500.00 to Jefferson High School from Bloomington Lions Club for the Positive Behavior Intervention Support program. 7. Donation of \$43,114.23 to Jefferson High School from Jefferson Quarterback Club for football coaches salaries and program equipment. 8. Donation of \$1,000.00 to Jefferson High School from Bloomington Kennedy Foundation for the DECA program. 9. Donation of \$3,452.55 to Jefferson High School from Jefferson Cross Country Booster Club for the coaching salary. 10. Donation of \$13,059.39 to Jefferson High School from JHS Volleyball Booster Club for coaches' salaries and program equipment. 11. Donation of \$10,694.58 to Jefferson High School from Jefferson Theater Company to help pay salaries for coaches and directors. 12. Donation of \$3,110.12 to Jefferson High School Band program from JBBC for fundraising for student escrow accounts. 13. Donation of \$3,481.11 to Kennedy High School from Kennedy Baseline Club for over budget items for the 2022-23 boys basketball program, invoiced in 2023-24. 14. Donation of \$3,000.00 to Kennedy High School from Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter for KHS Courtyard updates to include trees, shrubs, grasses, plants & flowers. 15. Donation of \$5,000.00 to the District's EL program for the newcomer EL summer school program to help with curriculum, supplies and field trips. 16. Donation of \$3,500.00 to the District's Volunteer Connection Department from Oak Grove Presbyterian Church for support of the Study Buddy Program. VALUE IN KIND: 17. Donation of coats, boots and snow pants to Westwood Elementary School from CrossPoint Church. An estimated value of \$3,693.00. 18. Donation of Walmart gift cards to Valley View Middle School from Mr. Jack Gale for students and families in need. A value of \$300.00. 19. Donation of Walmart gift card to Valley View Middle School from Ms. Joan Roisum for students and families in need. A value of \$1,000.00. 20. Donation of Cub, Target, Festival Foods and Aldi to Valley View Middle School and Kennedy High School from Nativity of Mary Church, for students and families in need. A value of \$1,400.00. 21. Donation of a 2017 Jeep Compass to Kennedy High School Auto Shop department from Mr. Ricardo Rivera. An estimated value of \$4,950.00. 22. Donation of twenty \$50.00 Target Gift Cards to Kennedy High School's Family & Student Advocate area for students in need, from Oxboro Evangelical Free Church. A value of \$1,000.00. 23. Donation of twelve \$25.00 gift cards and essential hygiene items to Kennedy High School's Pantry, from St. Bonaventure Catholic Community. A total estimated value of \$800.00. 24. Donation of various gift cards to Kennedy High School's Family & Student Advocate area for

students in need, from Bloomington Mamas. A total value of \$475.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Piedmont Global
Language Solutions

Nelly Korman moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves an agreement with Piedmont Global Language Solutions which is a tool for staff to communicate with multilingual families. Piedmont Global Language Solutions is an over-the-phone interpretation service that is replacing Language Banc. Services include interpretation of over 13 languages and rates are billed by single minute increments. Motion carried unanimously.

Bricolage Consulting

Heather Starks moved, Tom Bennett seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves an Agreement for Evaluation with Bricolage Consulting, LLC to conduct an evaluation of our English Language Program. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine the impact of Bloomington Public Schools' English Language Program on learner outcomes and to identify areas for program improvement. In collaboration with the Research, Evaluation, and Assessment Department, the evaluation will consider the program's effectiveness at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, both individually and as a unified system. This evaluation will gather input from key stakeholders, including Multilingual Learners, their families/caregivers, instructional staff, and administrators. Motion carried unanimously.

Third Party
Administrator Change

Heather Starks moved, Tom Bennett seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the contract as attached with Aviben to be our third party administrator for our 403b plans, replacing FuturePlan. We received notice from FuturePlan in September 2024 that they will no longer be our Third Party Administrator for our 403(b). After reviewing the options for 403(b) third party administrators with One Digital and getting recommendations from other Districts, Aviben was selected as the administrator of choice. Aviben, a local family owned and operated business, has over 30 years of experience with public school systems. They will handle all aspects of administration and compliance for our various 403(b) plans. We will have a dedicated team of plan administrators and support staff to assist us and our staff with 403(b) related items. Motion carried unanimously.

Kennedy High
School Girls' Flag
Football

Tom Bennett moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves Girls' Flag Football as a school-sponsored sport, beginning with the 2024-2025 season. Girls' Flag Football is the fastest-growing girls' sport in Minnesota. The NFL and the Minnesota Vikings are actively encouraging high schools to add this sport, with the goal that it will eventually become an official MSHSL activity. The NFL and the Vikings reached out to us about starting a program. To gauge interest, we sent out a survey to all girls at Kennedy and Jefferson high schools, and 140 students responded, expressing their interest to participate. This new team will compete in the Spring, playing a 5-on-5 flag football format. Motion carried unanimously.

Kennedy High
School Girls' Flag
Football Agreement

Tom Bennett moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the agreement and accepts \$20,000.00 from Minnesota Vikings, LLC. The agreement is exclusively designated for the 2025 season of Kennedy's Girls' Flag Football Program. The contribution in this agreement will have a profound impact on the program, directly supporting the success, growth, and development. By ensuring that key resources are available, this donation will enhance the quality of training, provide a safe and supportive environment for athletes, and help foster the skills and teamwork essential to the players' personal and athletic development. The support will also ensure that all logistical and operational needs are met, enabling the program to

thrive and provide students with valuable opportunities both on and off the field. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Activities

Dawn Steigauf moved, Tom Bennett seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 accepts the Hennepin County Youth Activities Grant in the amount of \$9,554.00, to be used for the purchase of sports equipment for physical education at Valley View Elementary. This grant, provided by Hennepin County under the Youth Activities category, will support the purchase of sports equipment for physical education at Valley View Elementary. The grant will conclude on December 31, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

TeamWorks Consulting

Beth Beebe moved, Heather Starks seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the consulting agreement with TeamWorks. The agreement became effective as of January 1, 2025 and will remain in effect until June 30, 2025. Principals and Administrative leaders meet monthly to review their Site Improvement Plans and discuss action steps and any support needed. The meetings in the second half of this school year will focus on leading and managing change. TeamWorks will facilitate the February, March, and May meetings, providing change management frameworks and practical activities for the group to engage with. The total cost outlined in the agreement represents the maximum allowable amount, but the District does not intend to spend the full amount. Motion carried unanimously.

2025 Federal Legislative Priorities

Mia Olson moved, Dawn Steigauf seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the 2025 Federal Legislative Priorities. Motion carried unanimously.

2025-2026 School Board Assignment

Chair Matt Dymoke shares information on the final School Board Assignment that will start in July.

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)

Tom Bennett moved, Heather Starks seconded that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) Stronger Connections Grant through the Minnesota Department of Education. This grant will provide \$166,292.22 to be allocated between January 27, 2025 - September 30, 2025. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) Stronger Connections Grant work will focus on meeting the needs of two historically underserved populations, students of color and students experiencing homelessness. We will work effectively utilize a combination of Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS), Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Restorative Practices (RP). The goal is to make improvements in measures including the PBIS Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI), my SABERS Social Emotional Behavioral screeners, Culture and Climate survey data, RP data, sense of belonging indicators and behavior data. We will also track support provided to our students identified as HHM. On roll call vote, six directors voted yes and one director voted no. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Board Policy Committee Chair, Heather Starks shares the next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 29th. There will be four policies discussed. Board Legislative Committee Chair, Mia Olson shared that the committee hosted a BPS Lunch and Learn with Legislatures on January 10th. Senator Alice Mann, Representative Nathan Coulter, Steve Elkins, and Julie Greene joined 7th grade lunch, toured Oak Grove Elementary, Oak Grove Middle School special education classes, and lastly ended with a powerpoint presentation with updates of funding. Heather Starks discusses plans for the Day at the Capitol Hill in D.C. Board Finance and Facilities Committee Chair, Tom Bennett reports the committee has not met yet; will bring more information in the February meeting.

Board Community Engagement Committee Chair, Matt Dymoke reports upcoming events; State of the Schools, Senior Achievement, and Celebration of Service. There is also discussions of exploring Braver Angels. The committee is also creating a process of welcoming and introducing our BPS Friends. Save the date went out for State of the Schools for April 15th.

IX. BOARD MEMBER

Mia Olson attended the Leveraging Community Education for District Success workshop. Also attending many fun events like the Jets Floor Hockey, Show Choirs, JHS Bandcake Breakfast, and Kennedy's JV girl's basketball game. Dawn Steigauf provides a few highlights from her school visits. There has been a great number of parental turnout. Director Steigauf has been witnessing great work in the Early Childhood Programs. Tom Bennett sent an email to the Board for a 917 update. He is now serving as the Chair for 917. Vice Chair Bennett reads the nomination letter for Mr. Z from Normandale Hills. Beth Beebe reports that Olson Elementary had their school carnival. They had 863 attendees, 85 volunteers, 300 hours of volunteer hours, and 24 games. Chair Dymoke shares that the Board received the MSBA District Award of Distinction. There are two opportunities for Show Choir. Kennedy will host Bloomington Gold where six out of the seven show choirs will perform. Next Tuesday, February 4th will be the 2nd annual Bloomington Show Choir Bash at Jefferson High School, where all seven show choirs will perform.

X. OTHER

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the School Board, Chair Matt Dymoke adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.



Nelly Korman, Clerk