

Official School Board Minutes Regular Meeting of the School Board February 19, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 270 was conducted on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, in the Boardroom of the Eisenhower Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

School Board members present: Chair Wendy Donovan, Vice Chair Kris Newcomer, Treasurer Steve Adams, Directors Fartun Ahmed, Jen Bouchard, Dave Larson, and Chris LaTondresse
School Board members absent: None

Student Board reps present: Alyia Brown (grade 10), Joe Ramlet (grade 11), and Aisha Dem (grade 12)
Student Board reps absent: None

Staff members present: Superintendent Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed,
Director of Business Services/Board Clerk John Toop
Staff members absent: None

Recognition:

Superintendent Mhiripiri-Reed explained that it is School Board Recognition Week throughout the State of Minnesota. She — along with Cabinet members — recognized individual Board members, thanking them for being “student-centered, service-oriented, and very dedicated to our vision 2031 going from great to world class.”

Open Agenda:

Kate Wilinski, Community Engagement Officer for the local ICA Foodshelf, shared information about the Empty Bowls event on March 12, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Wilinski noted that this is the 21st anniversary of Empty Bowls, and invited Board members to attend.

There were no additional requests to address the Board during the Open Agenda portion of the meeting.

Reports:

Student Board Representatives: Dem, Brown, and Ramlet updated Board members on events/activities taking place at Hopkins High School.

Superintendent: Superintendent Mhiripiri-Reed reflected on the recent Professional Development Day, as well as some of the sessions offered. She then shared a video surrounding Lia Harel, a student at Hopkins High School, who Mhiripiri-Reed described as a “blossoming leader.”

Approval of Agenda:

LaTondresse moved, Adams seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Consent Calendar:

Newcomer moved, LaTondresse seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented:

- ✓ Approval of Minutes — Regular Meeting Conducted on January 8, 2019
- ✓ Human Resources — Personnel Updates
- ✓ Resolution Directing the Administration to Make Staffing Recommendations
- ✓ Mid-Year Budget Adjustments, Including Community Education
- ✓ Seniority Lists – Hopkins Education Association (HEA)
- ✓ Seniority Lists – Classified (Clerical, Paraprofessionals, and Kids & Company/Stepping Stones)
- ✓ Bids – Flex Learning Addition at Hopkins West Junior High School
- ✓ Bids – Building Envelop Improvements Projects at Hopkins High School
- ✓ Polling Places, 2019 – Revised
- ✓ Employee Agreement – School Nutrition
- ✓ Family-Guided Routines Based Intervention (FGRBI) Grant Application to MDE
- ✓ Achievement & Integration Budget
- ✓ Field Trip — Boys Varsity Golf (San Antonio, Texas)
- ✓ Fiscal Analyst Consultant Contract — Amendment 14

Carried. Exhibit "A"

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Adams provided an enrollment update, noting that the District is down 20 students from October 1 — largest class is grade 12 (566 students), and the smallest is grade 6 (479 students). He then reviewed the Treasurer's Report, explaining that the District is 58% into the fiscal year with 49% of the budget expended, and highlighted expenses of interest. With that, Adams moved, LaTondresse seconded, to approve disbursements in the amount of \$8,269,119.66 for the period of December 28, 2018 through February 8, 2019. Carried. Exhibit "B"

Aligning Science and Career & Technical Education to Vision 2031 — Phase I:

The curriculum review cycle has traditionally been a four-year process.

- In Phase I, specific areas of study are identified by District constituents.
- In Phase II, recommendations are presented to the Board.
- In Phase III, the curriculum is piloted, along with staff development to prepare for delivery.
- In Phase IV, the curriculum is purchased and implemented.

These two departments are in the process of beginning the comprehensive curriculum review cycle (Phase I) for their respective departments — Science, and Business, Career & Technical Education. During the 2019-20 school year, each department will be forwarding recommendations in five areas as defined by the report — 1) Content Standards; 2) Assessments; 3) Instructional Strategies; 4) Staff Development; and 5) Research Findings.

Toni Schwartz, Curriculum Coordinator for Science, followed by Tim Amlie, Curriculum Coordinator for Business, Career & Technical Education, each presented information surrounding how the review process is being used to align District content work to Vision 2031. Additional information was also shared focused on the status of their respective department plans, seeking input from the Board. To help identify key issues, Board members were asked to respond to the following question, "Given the information presented, what issues would you like to see addressed in the Business, Career, and Tech Education/Science curriculum review process?"

Board members shared comments and questions—related to the Science Review—surrounding the transformation of “breaking down silos” between science and technology; experiential learning at both elementary and secondary levels; textbooks with equity focus; and time needed to complete the review process. Comments and questions—related to the Career & Technical Education Review—focused on computer science courses at Hopkins High School; gender gap in computer science industry; how to increase participation of students of color in ProPEL, looking at other programs (PTech), coding courses, and the possibility of requiring CTE courses (besides Financial Literacy).

Sale of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Bonds Program (LTFMP), Series 2019A

In June 2018, the Board approved issuance of bonds for the next phase (Phase VII) of the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Program (LTFMP). The LTFMP is entering Phase VII, with the majority of work taking place at Harley Hopkins, HHS and WJH over the summers of 2019 and 2020, at an approximate cost of \$18 million.

The bond sale was conducted on the morning of February 19, 2019. Jeff Seeley, representing Ehlers & Association, the District’s financial advisor, reviewed the bond sales results received earlier in the day from 10 vendors — 1) Citigroup Global Markets, Inc.; 2) Baird; 3) RBC Capital Markets, LLC; 4) Jefferies; 5) Piper Jaffray; 6) Mesriow Financial, Inc.; 7) Morgan Stanley & Co., LLC; 8) Bank of America Merrill Lynch; 9) Northland Securities, Inc.; and 10) J.P. Morgan Securities, LLC. — on the sale of \$17,149,025.20 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2019A. He noted that these rates have come down since January so timing was good, adding that, “the District did well and we are happy with the results.” Seeley then reviewed the estimated sources and uses of funds; the debt service schedule; and the updated long-term financing plan—five facilities maintenance bond issues. Seeley recommended that the bid be awarded to Citigroup Global Markets, Inc., who came in with the lowest bid.

In closing, Seeley reviewed the credit report issued by Moody’s, which was the result of a phone conversation on February 14, 2019, regarding the District’s credit rating. Seeley noted that the rating remains at Aa2 as well as the reasons thereof. In closing, he responded to Board member questions and comments surrounding the bids, as well as the most recent credit opinion by Moody’s.

LaTondresse moved, Bouchard seconded, to approve the resolution awarding the sale, determining the form and details, authorizing the execution, delivery, and registration, and providing for the payment of General Obligation Facility Maintenance Bonds, Series 2019A, to Citigroup Global Markets. Carried.

Community Education 2017-18 Program Report and 2019-20 Proposed Budget:

Katie Williams, Director of Community Education, along with Community Ed Coordinators — Sara Chovan-Early Childhood, Lisa Walker-Youth Development & Enrichment, Andrea Sjogren-Adult & Youth Enrichment, Holly Magdanz-One Voice, Susan Easton-Facilities, and Carrie Gerard-Marketing — highlighted the each of the various departments within Community Education, along with their respective accomplishments throughout the 2017-18 school year.

Williams then highlighted the proposed Community Education budget for the 2019-20 school year, noting that this is the first time she has not presented a balanced budget to the Board, but rather one where the Community Ed fund balance will need to be accessed as expenditures are anticipated to be higher than revenue. She explained that over two years ago, a long-term financial commitment was made — knowing that revenue would not match expenditures — specifically toward investment in: 1) Expansion of preschool programming (Kaleidoscope) and childcare; 2) Community engagement; 3) Marketing efforts primarily focused on early childhood programs/enrollment; and 4) SMARTS and Camp

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Royal combined programming. Additional requests by District Administration were made to help cover costs related to the Communications and Marketing Office, and OPEB/Severance/Workers Comp. Williams shared a “big picture” of the proposed 2019-20 budget through a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting revenue and expense details.

Board members shared comments and questions surrounding the impact of rebranding summer *school* to summer *camp*, vaping/use of e-cigarettes, size of the Community Ed budget and programs/services covered, Governor’s commitment to preschool services, and that Community Education is “doing a great job with limited resources.”

Capital Projects Levy, Including Technology:

District voters approved combining the November 2010 and November 2013 Capital Projects Levies in November 2017, and extending the levies for another 10-year term. The Capital Projects Levy is a vital resource used to purchase curriculum, instructional materials, and textbooks; fund the library media program; procure, upgrade and replace technology equipment and infrastructure; provide technology support and staffing; and support teachers with the tools, materials, coaching, and expertise required for high-quality teaching.

Ivar Nelson, Director of Technology, Media, and Information Services, along with Karen Terhaar and John Toop, reviewed the adopted Capital Projects Levy expenditure budget for the 2018-19 school year. Nelson highlighted the “Impact of the Investment” for the 2018-19 school year, including:

- ✓ Instructional Support;
- ✓ Technology infrastructure and Support;
- ✓ Elementary Classroom Technology/Ecosystem (*how technology, personalized learning and customization work together to create a better learning environment*);
- ✓ One-to-One Devices for K-12 Students;
- ✓ Digital Tools; and
- ✓ Flexible Classrooms.

He reviewed the Capital Projects Levy revenue and proposed expenditures for the 2019-20 school year noting that the levy budget remains the same next year as it was this year — \$8,463,839, plus \$200,000 in miscellaneous revenue; however, Nelson believes there may be a \$1 million fund balance that “will depend on timing.” During the upcoming school year, the District will see comprehensive technology upgrades that support instruction in all K-6 regular education classrooms — as well as most specialist and Special Education classrooms, a new World Language curriculum for grades 7-12, and classroom furniture and fixtures that support student-centered learning, and flexible classroom configurations.

Nelson, Terhaar, and Toop responded to questions and comments from Board members, surrounding a new website, and the foresight of previous administration and Board members to include staffing in the levy to ensure students are supported.

Policies in First Reading:

- Policy 516: *Administering Medication to Students*
- Policy 520: *Student Surveys*
- Policy 526: *Hazing Prohibition*
- Policy 602: *District Calendar*
- Policy 605: *Alternative Learning Centers*
- Policy 802: *Disposition of Equipment and Materials*

Newcomer introduced the item, noting that the policies had been reviewed by the Monitoring Committee “with few changes.” Lightfoot reviewed each of the six policies in First Reading and responded to questions.

Newcomer moved, Adams seconded, to approve policies 516: *Administering Medication to Students*; 520: *Student Surveys*; 526: *Hazing Prohibition*; 602: *District Calendar*; 605: *Alternative Learning Centers*; and 802: *Disposition of Equipment and Materials* in First Reading; further, the Board directs the Administration to prepare the policies (with suggested revisions) for approval in Second Reading at the next meeting (as part of the Consent Calendar). Carried.

Board Member Reports:

Board members reported on recent educational activities/events in which they have participated.

LaTondresse moved, Larson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Carried.

John Toop, Clerk