

## **Official School Board Minutes Regular Meeting of the School Board September 25, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 270 was conducted on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 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, and Chris LaTondresse  
School Board member absent: Director Dave Larson

Student Board reps present: Joe Ramlet (grade 11)  
Student Board reps absent: Anna Anderson (grade 12)

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

### **Open Agenda:**

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

### **Reports:**

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

Superintendent: Superintendent Mhiripiri-Reed noted that the District welcomed 131 new employees to the District for the 2018-19 school year, followed by an overview of the Great to World Class (G2WC) Strategic Vision through a slide presentation. The Superintendent also recognized that two District students had recently died unexpectedly. She stated that the District is working to support those two families, as well as students and staff. In closing, she invited the public to Community Conversations with the School Board from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on September 26 at Valley Park in Hopkins; October 2 at Cottageville Park in Hopkins; and October 9 at Brookview Park in Golden Valley.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

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

### **Consent Calendar:**

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

- √ Approval of Minutes — Special Meeting & Organizational Meeting, Conducted on August 28, 2018
- √ Appointments — Temporary

- ✓ Appointments — Probationary
- ✓ Appointments — Classified
- ✓ Appointments — Extracurricular
- ✓ Requests for Leave of Absence
- ✓ Resignations
- ✓ Retirements
- ✓ Terminations
- ✓ International Field Trip — Shanghai, China (XinXing Grade 8)
- ✓ International Field Trip — Shanghai, China (XinXing Grade 4)
- ✓ Tax Levy Hearing Date, 2018
- ✓ Ronald Davis Center Agreement
- ✓ Revised Budget, 2017-18
- ✓ American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) and District Compliance Carried. Exhibit "A"

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Treasurer Adams reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, noting that it had been since mid-June that the Board reviewed a check run. He reviewed some transactions of interest including \$750,000 to Mainline Transportation for bus service December-May; \$7,600 in revenue for baseball and softball play-off games hosted by the District; and payments of \$26,000 to TIES for bus school route scheduling; \$62,000 for a 10-passenger bus; \$750,000 for 1,700 iPads and 170 Apple TVs, and the final payment of \$128,648 to TIES. With that, Adams moved, LaTondresse seconded, to approve disbursements in the amount of \$25,629,551.82 for the period of June 13, 2018 through September 17, 2018. Carried. Exhibit "B"

**School Opening**

Nik Lightfoot, Assistant Superintendent, and Katie Williams, Director of Community Education, Communications & Marketing, were joined by Sara Chovan—Early Childhood Coordinator, Lisa Walker—Supervisor Youth Development, and Barb Mechura—Supervisor of School Nutrition, to share highlights focused on various aspects of starting a new school year. Lightfoot referenced some of the new initiatives this year in response to a Board goal focused on new ways to engage students and families, including parent-teacher conference and open houses to “transform how families interact with schools.” At the elementary level, teachers called their families to introduce themselves prior to open houses being conducted; as a result, principals reported attendance at their open houses as “exemplary.” At the secondary schools, the focus was on building connections with students in grades 7 and 10; students reported a different feeling than that of the usual frenetic feeling of walking into a new space on the first day, trying to figure everything out. Lightfoot also shared the latest information surrounding staffing ratios/class sizes, and hiring.

**Policies in First Reading**

- Policy 204: *School Board Meeting Minutes***
- Policy 210: *Conflict of Interest — School Board Members***
- Policy 214: *Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members***
- Policy 456: *Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest***
- Policy 806: *Crisis Management Plan***
- Policy 859: *Electronic Data Security Measures***
- Policy 952: *Community Use of Facilities — Leases***

Newcomer introduced the item, noting that these seven policies are required to be reviewed annually by the Board and are presented in First Reading. Lightfoot reviewed each of the policies — noting no revisions — and responded to questions.

Newcomer moved, Bouchard seconded to approve the seven policies (as noted above) in First Reading; further, the Board directs the Administration to prepare the policies for approval in Second Reading at the next meeting (as part of the Consent Calendar). Carried.

In closing, Newcomer explained that as the Monitoring Committee and School Board move forward, policy revisions will be aligned with the “equity lens.” This work correlates with a Board goal to ensure a focus on equitable outcomes and equity-oriented leadership.

### **Proposed Tax Levy — Payable 2019**

Toop reviewed the initial proposed property tax levy, noting that it is scheduled to increase by 1.96% (\$1,013,073.70) from last year’s levy. (The total initial proposed amount is \$52,805,549.16; last year’s levy amount was \$48,399,345.65). He stated that MDE usually does multiple revisions of the property tax levy to ensure everything is correct; the one presented is the **sixth** run done for Hopkins — Toop stated that he does not anticipate any changes prior to the final approval in December.

Toop then explained that the General Fund comprises the majority of the increase (3.40%). Within that increase, the following items were noted:

- ✓ Market Value Referendum and Local Option levy is increasing by \$802,227 due to student count adjustments from previous years (FY17 and FY19), an inflation increase per student, and a lower projected student count for FY20.
- ✓ Capital Projects levy is increasing by \$446,705 due to an increase in Net Tax Capacity.
- ✓ Other General Fund levy components are decreasing by a net total of \$133,132, with the largest adjustment occurring in the lease levy due to the payoff of the Tanglen gym lease last April.

Additionally, he noted that:

- ✓ The Community Education portion of the levy is decreasing by 13.45%, most of which comes from an adjustment from FY17 for school-aged care.
- ✓ The Debt Service Fund levy is increasing by \$115,981 (.67%).
- ✓ A request was made and granted by MDE to retain \$501,038 of Debt Excess, which will be used to make the District’s first payment on the 2017A LTFM bonds. This retention of debt excess is reflected in the proposed debt service levy.

Toop explained that the Board can either certify this proposed property tax levy at a specified dollar amount or at the maximum, thus retaining flexibility if there are subsequent levy changes beyond the District’s control between now and the final levy certification. In closing, Toop announced that the Truth-in-Taxation hearing is scheduled at 6 p.m. on December 18, 2018, prior to the regular School Board meeting to allow for citizen comments and input. The levy will subsequently be approved at the regular School Board meeting that same evening.

Adams moved, Newcomer seconded, to certify the proposed property tax levy at the maximum for the 2018 PAY 2019 levy cycle. Carried.

### **Board Member Reports:**

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

**Incidental Reports:**

Newcomer moved, Adams seconded, to accept the Incidental Reports:

- Discipline Report, 2017-18
  - Substitute Usage, 2017-18
  - Athletics/Intramural Update
  - Summer Programming, 2018
- Carried.

Newcomer moved, Bouchard seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Carried.

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John Toop, Clerk