

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273  
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2009

REGULAR MEETING  
7:03 P.M.

Edina Community Center  
5701 Normandale Road  
Room 349

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Cathy Cella  
Mr. Brian Hedberg  
Ms. Bert Ledder  
Mr. Randy Meyer  
Mr. Peyton Robb

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Idith Almog  
Mr. Jeff Johnson

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Randy Meyer

7:03 – 8:27 P.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Ric Dressen, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Jay Willemsen, Director of Business Services  
Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Dr. Gwen Jackson, Director of Administrative Planning and Services  
Dr. Michael Burke, Director of Media and Technology Services  
Mr. Doug Johnson, Director of Community Education Services and Community Relations  
Ms. Penny Kodrich, Director of Special Services  
Dr. Thel Kocher, Director of Research and Evaluation

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Mr. Randy Meyer, Chair

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Ms. Bert Ledder, Clerk

(Official Publication)  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DISTRICT 273 EDINA, MINNESOTA  
February 23, 2009

7:03 P.M. Chair Meyer called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education. Members present: Cella, Hedberg, Ledder, Meyer, Robb. Members absent: Almog, Johnson. Staff present: Dressen, Willemsen, Norlin-Weaver, Jackson, Burke, Johnson, Kodrich, Kocher. Member Robb moved and Member Hedberg seconded the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2009, the minutes of the special meeting of January 26, 2009, and the minutes of the special meeting of February 9, 2009. All members voted Aye.

### PRESENTATION

- Big Six Research Skills – Countryside Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students. Teacher Katie Paulson and Media Specialist Laura Mestler

### RECOGNITIONS

- School Finance Award to Edina Board of Education and Business Services Department – Minnesota Department of education and the Division of Program Finance
- Innovation Grant Recipients – Karen Nelson, Director of Edina Education Fund

### REPORTS

- Edina Resource Center/Curriculum Resources & Programs Update – Valerie Burke, Coordinator, Curriculum Resources & Programs
- 2009-2010 Planning – Dr. Ric Dressen, Superintendent

### CONSENT

1. Personnel Recommendations
2. Community Education Services Personnel Recommendations
3. Expenditures Payable on February 9, 2009
4. Expenditures Payable on February 23, 2009
5. Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on February 2, 2009
6. Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on February 18, 2009
7. Commendation of Jay Willemsen, Director of Business Services, and the Business Services Staff
8. Gift from Edina High School Parent Council
9. Gifts from Edina Athletic Booster Club
10. Gift from Edina Friends of Forensics
11. Gift from Edina Girls' Hockey Boosters
12. Gift from Production Engineering Corporation
13. Gift from General Mills
14. Gift from Medtronic

## ACTION ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

1. 2009 Edina Day of Service
2. Revised Policy 404 – Personnel, Employment Background Checks
3. Revised Policy 411 – Personnel, Employment Procedures
4. Revised Policy 418 – Personnel, Alcohol- and Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

## DISCUSSION

1. 2009-2010 Capital Fund Budget
2. Revised Policy 3323 – Business, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations)
3. New 400 Series Policies – Personnel, Phase IV

## LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Superintendent's Report

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Dressen shared that the Edina High School Girls' Alpine Ski Team recently won the state championship and the Girls' Hockey Team will be competing at state. He noted that the Edina High School Concert Choir and the South View Middle School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Band had recently performed at the Minnesota Music Educators' Association convention. Superintendent Dressen stated that the State of the Community, a joint effort between the City of Edina and the school district, was February 18 and a Connecting With Kid's Leadership Breakfast was held on February 20. Superintendent Dressen noted that the district had received the 2009 Siemens' Award for Advanced Placement, an award that celebrates exceptional Advanced Placement (AP) programs and is only granted to one high school per state. Member Ledder noted that she had attended a wonderful POPS concert put on by the Edina High School Concert Band. She also noted that Edina Unplugged 2009 will be March 9. Member Robb noted that he had attended the Minnesota Music Educators Association convention and he and Member Ledder had attended a town hall meeting with legislators.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M. The minutes and resolutions are on file at the district office, 5701 Normandale Road, and are open to public inspection.

Mr. Randy Meyer, Chair

Ms. Bert Ledder, Clerk

## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FEBRUARY 23, 2009

7:03 P.M. Chair Meyer called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education. Members present: Cella, Hedberg, Ledder, Meyer, Robb. Members absent: Almog, Johnson. Staff present: Dressen, Willemsen, Norlin-Weaver, Jackson, Burke, Johnson, Kodrich, Kocher. Member Robb moved and Member Hedberg seconded the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2009, the minutes of the special meeting of January 26, 2009, and the minutes of the special meeting of February 9, 2009. All members voted Aye.

PRESENTATION

Big Six Research Skills – Julie Hatzung, principal, Countryside Elementary School, shared that students in kindergarten through grade 5 have been learning the Big Six Research Skills. On February 24, Countryside will host a celebration of learning for the community that will include student projects and student-led conferences. Laura Mestler, media specialist, shared that the Big Six Research Skills are task definition, information seeking, access of information, use of information, synthesis of information and evaluation. Katie Paulson, grade 5 teacher, introduced four 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who then demonstrated their research skills by role playing as doctors diagnosing diseases that had been assigned to Superintendent Dressen and School Board members. Each student/doctor had prepared a report on their area of expertise.

RECOGNITIONS

School Finance Award – Superintendent Dressen and Chair Meyer recognized Jay Willemsen, director of business services, and his staff for receiving the School Finance Award from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Innovation Grant Recipients – Karen Nelson, director of the Edina Education Fund, introduced the staff members who received innovation grants. Projects included technology use, environmental activities, literacy, art, theater, leadership and transition to kindergarten.

REPORTS

Edina Resource Center/Curriculum Resources & Programs Update – Valerie Burke, coordinator, Curriculum Resources & Programs (CRP), explained that CRP brings speakers with broad areas of expertise into the classrooms to share their knowledge and help students connect what they learn in the classroom to the real world. For many years, CRP has partnered with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and offered the music enrichment program BRAVO. It operated within a consortium model, which suited the needs of all member school districts. Recently, Edina Public Schools decided to operate the program as a stand-alone program. She noted that this past year she was asked to update and trim the CRP program. CRP core programs continue to be

classroom speakers and theme days for concentrated studies and field trips, under the guidance of a smaller staff and several dedicated volunteers. Future plans include focusing on “Excelling in Leadership and Service” by facilitating learning in different ways, cultivating more partnerships beyond the school district, using technology to enhance training, and fine tuning volunteer policies. Ms. Burke also provided an update on the Edina Resource Center (ERC). The goal of the ERC is to connect people with information and resources. She shared when the economy is in decline then ERC services are even more in demand. She shared that the ERC, which is located in the Welcome Center and has served over 3100 people this year, has generated significant interest from other school districts and agencies.

2009-2010 Planning – Superintendent Dressen noted that the initiatives under consideration for the 2009-2010 school year are learning beyond the classroom, aligning K-12 programs and services, enhancing school improvement goals, implementing Excelling in Leadership and Service, completing the district’s policy audit, exploring time and calendar options, defining and piloting personalized learning, and updating the district’s strategic roadmap. He shared that the focus of the budgeting process is balancing the budget by maximizing the district’s financial resources for 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and the future while ensuring successful learning and aligning all resources. The district is well-positioned given the economic challenges facing it. Mr. Willemssen shared that when the district refers to cutting costs, it is the undesignated portion of the general fund that is being discussed. He noted that 75% of the general fund comes from state revenue (much of which is based on weighted student enrollment), 21% from state and local taxes, 2.7% from other local revenue and 2.2% from federal aid. Mr. Willemssen stated that Edina has experienced growth in its student population which provides the district with a positive revenue stream. Eighty-eight percent of the general fund expenditures are for salaries and benefits. Mr. Willemssen noted that the School Board’s goal is to maintain a general fund balance between 6-12%. The general fund balance is estimated to be 8.9% at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. The district expects little or no increase in state aid for 2009-2010, which will necessitate finding revenue elsewhere or reducing expenditures. Superintendent Dressen explained the Budget Reduction, Reallocation and Revenue Generation (BRRRG) process, and noted that budget recommendations will be brought to the Board in May. Member Robb noted that any funding the district might receive from the federal stimulus package is tied to Title I funding, and since the district does not receive much Title I money, it will probably not receive much from the federal stimulus package.

### CONSENT ITEMS BEFORE THE BOARD

It was moved by Member Robb and seconded by Member Cella that the resolutions in Volume 80, Reports 296 through 309, pages 541-561 be approved. All members voted Aye. These reports are:

296 Personnel Recommendations

297 Community Education Services Personnel Recommendations

- 298 Expenditures Payable on February 9, 2009
- 299 Expenditures Payable on February 23, 2009
- 300 Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on February 2, 2009
- 301 Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on February 18, 2009
- 302 Commendation of Jay Willemssen, Director of Business Services, and the Business Services Staff
- 303 Gift from Edina High School Parent Council
- 304 Gifts from Edina Athletic Booster Club
- 305 Gift from Edina Friends of Forensics
- 306 Gift from Edina Girls' Hockey Boosters
- 307 Gift from Production Engineering Corporation
- 308 Gift from General Mills
- 309 Gift from Medtronic

### ACTION ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

2009 Edina Day of Service: It was moved by Member Cella and seconded by Member Ledder that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 310, page 562, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Revised Policy 404 – Personnel, Employment Background Checks: It was moved by Member Hedberg and seconded by Member Robb that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 311, pages 563-568, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Revised Policy 411 – Personnel, Employment Procedure: It was moved by Member Cella and seconded by Member Hedberg that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 312, pages 569-575, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Revised Policy 418 – Personnel, Alcohol- and Drug-Free Workplace/~~Drug-Free School:~~ It was moved by Member Ledder and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 313 pages 576-582, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Comment: Member Ledder noted that this policy applies only to personnel, whereas the current policy also refers to students and the community. Two new policies covering students and the community will be forthcoming.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS BEFORE THE BOARD

2009-2010 Capital Fund Budget – Mr. Willemssen noted that in November, staff members were given the opportunity to indicate their capital needs for the next school year. He shared the requests that were submitted by the buildings and departments which included sidewalk repair, technology, buses and assessments.

Revised Policy 3323 – Business, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations) – Mr. Willemssen shared that the policy changes reflect revised state statutes. He stated that the Board Finance Committee and administration support the policy changes.

New 400 Series Policies – Personnel, Phase IV – Member Ledder noted that some of the personnel policies had been renumbered and minor changes made. Superintendent Dressen shared that the number of personnel polices had been reduced by 20%.

### LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Dressen shared that the district is in the midst of a search for a principal at South View Middle School. Craig Jensen has been the interim principal for 2008-09. A decision is anticipated in early spring.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Dressen shared that the Edina High School Girls' Alpine Ski Team recently won the state championship and the Girls' Hockey Team will be competing at state. He noted that the Edina High School Concert Choir and the South View Middle School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Band had recently performed at the Minnesota Music Educators Association convention. Superintendent Dressen stated that the State of the Community, a joint effort between the City of Edina and the school district, was February 18 and a Connecting With Kid's Leadership Breakfast was held on February 20. The district's Budget Advisory Committee met on February 19 and will meet again on March 2 and 23. Superintendent Dressen noted that the district had received the 2009 Siemens' Award for Advanced Placement, an award that celebrates exceptional Advanced Placement (AP) programs and is only granted to one high school per state. Member Ledder noted that she had attended a wonderful POPS concert put on by the Edina High School Concert Band. She also noted that Edina Unplugged 2009 will be March 9. Member Robb noted that he had attended the Minnesota Music Educators Association convention and he and Member Ledder had attended a town hall meeting with legislators.

At 8:09 P.M., it was moved by Member Hedberg and seconded by Member Cella that the meeting be adjourned. All members voted Aye.