

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2008

REGULAR MEETING
7:04 P.M.

Edina Community Center
5701 Normandale Road
Room 349

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Idith Almog
Ms. Cathy Cella
Mr. Brian Hedberg
Mr. Jeff Johnson
Ms. Bert Ledder
Mr. Randy Meyer
Mr. Peyton Robb

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Randy Meyer

7:04 – 9:46 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
Ms. Penny Kodrich, Director of Special Services
Mr. Doug Johnson, Director of Community Education Services and Community Relations
Dr. Thel Kocher, Director of Research and Evaluation

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Mr. Randy Meyer, Chair

Ms. Bert Ledder, Clerk

(Official Publication)
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT 273 EDINA, MINNESOTA
October 20, 2008

7:04 P.M. Chair Meyer called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education. Members present: Almog, Cella, Hedberg, Johnson, Ledder, Meyer, Robb. Staff present: Dressen, Willemsen, Norlin-Weaver, Jackson, Kodrich, Johnson, Kocher. Member Cella moved and Member Ledder seconded the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of September 22, 2008; the minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2008; and the special meeting of October 6, 2008. All members voted Aye.

PRESENTATION

- Service Learning at Highlands Elementary School – Continuous Progress Teacher Michael Seaman and Highlands Elementary School Students

COMMENDATION

- National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Achievement Awards in Writing – Abbi Butterfield, Grade 12, Edina High School

HEARING FROM MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE

- Request for Bus Service – George Rerat

REPORTS

- K-12 Curriculum Cycle Review – Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver, Director of Teaching & Learning; Isabelle Punchard, K-5 Teaching & Learning Coordinator; Mark Laven, 6-12 Teaching & Learning Coordinator; and Scott Woelber, K-12 Math Coordinator
- Financial Audit – Ken Malloy, CPA, of Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich, & Co., P.A.
- Community Survey Results – Dr. William Morris, Decision Resources, Ltd.
- 2008-2009 Enrollment, Projections, Class Size and Facility Information Report – Jay Willemsen, Director of Business Services; Dr. Gwen Jackson, Director of Human Resources & Administrative Services; and Mary Manderfeld, Assistant Director of Administrative Services

CONSENT

1. Personnel Recommendations
2. Community Education Services Personnel Recommendations
3. Expenditures Payable on October 6, 2008
4. Expenditures Payable on October 20, 2008
5. Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on September 23, 2008
6. Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on October 7, 2008
7. Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on September 24, 2008

8. Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on October 7, 2008
9. Transfer of Funds to Curriculum Resources and Programs
10. Transfer of Funds to Edina Resource Center
11. Revised Classic Lake Conference Constitution
12. Commendation of Abbi Butterfield, Grade 12, Edina High School
13. Gift from Concord Elementary School PTO
14. Gift from Deborah Schlichting and Charles Blomme
15. Gifts from Target
16. Gift from Edina Athletic Boosters
17. Gift from South View Middle School Parent Council

ACTION ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

1. Acceptance of Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008
2. 2008-2009 Enrollment, Projections, Class Size and Facility Information Report
3. Salary Compensation for Members of the Superintendent's Advisory Council 2008-2010
4. Salary and Benefit Recommendations for the Position of Controller for 2008-2010
5. "Extreme Green Zero-Waste Classroom" Service Agreement with Hennepin County
6. New Series 400 Policies – Personnel, Phase II
7. Purchase of HP Laptop Computers for South View Middle School
8. Purchase of Service Contract for Voice/Video/Data Network Hardware
9. High School Electrical Repairs

ACTION ITEM AMENDED AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

Employment Agreement for Superintendent of Schools 2009-2012

ACTION ITEM TABLED BY MAJORITY VOTE

Purchase of Upgrade to Winnebago Library Circulation Software

DISCUSSION

1. Rescind Series 5000 Policies – Students
2. New Policy 3520 – Business and Noninstructional Operations, Emergency School Closing
3. Revised Policy 205 – School Board, Open Meetings and Closed Meetings
4. Revised Policy 3518.1 – Business and Noninstructional Operations, Crisis Emergency Management

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

1. Edina Alternative Compensation Plan
2. Board Meeting with Edina High School Student Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Robb noted the article in the *Edina Magazine* about Chris Holden, principal at Cornelia Elementary School. He also noted that he and Superintendent Dressen had attended the Alliance for Student Achievement Summit, at which Dr. Bill Morris of Decision Resources presented.

Member Ledder stated that this is “National School Bus Week,” and asked community members to commend their bus drivers. She shared that “Thoroughly Modern Millie” will be presented in November at the high school, and that a new adult initiative breakfast will take place at the Edina Country Club. People can contact Marsha Buchok if they want more information.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 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 OCTOBER 20, 2008

7:04 P.M. Chair Meyer called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education. Members present: Almog, Cella, Hedberg, Johnson, Ledder, Meyer, Robb. Staff present: Dressen, Willemsen, Norlin-Weaver, Jackson, Kodrich, Johnson, Kocher. Member Cella moved and Member Ledder seconded the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of September 22, 2008; the minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2008; and the special meeting of October 6, 2008. All members voted Aye.

PRESENTATION

Service Learning at Highlands Elementary School – Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 shared information about their service learning projects related to organic trash and food waste recycling, reducing electrical use, an overall energy management plan and the of an alternative source of energy. The students shared how they tracked electricity use in 2008 at Highlands and compared it to use in 2007. They noted significantly lower usage in March, April and May 2008. Member Robb inquired as to what specific actions had been taken to result in lower usage. The students shared that they turned off lights that were not needed and used more efficient bulbs. Member Ledder inquired as to whether the students were using some of the energy saving ideas at home. The students responded that they were making an effort to turn off lights in rooms that were not being used, especially their bedrooms.

COMMENDATION

National Council of English Teachers (NCTE) Achievement Awards in Writing – Chair Meyer presented Abbi Butterfield, grade 12 student, Edina High School with a writing certificate.

HEARING FROM MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE

Bus Service – George Rerat, a parent of Our Lady of Grace students, requested bus service for his children.

REPORTS

K-12 Curriculum Cycle Review – Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver, Director of Teaching and Learning, shared that the review cycle for 2008-2009 was suspended as the core is being reviewed. Isabelle Punchard, K-5 Teaching and Learning Coordinator, noted a 2007 survey that affirmed the importance of studying a language. She shared that overall there is satisfaction with the program. She explained that the course sequence in French, German and Latin was modified to mirror the Spanish program course sequence. She stated that the district will continue to provide a strong K-12 language program. Mark Laven, 6-12 Teaching and Learning Coordinator, shared that math teachers have been meeting since August to discuss national and international research, district testing data, student course selection and success, technology, textbooks and teaching philosophies. Scott Woelber, K-12 Math Coordinator, shared

the guiding principles that were developed for the math curriculum review process. He noted that two new curriculums are being considered. Member Almog inquired as to how long the current curriculum has been in use. Mr. Woelber stated that the district has been using Chicago Math at the secondary level since before 1990. Member Ledder inquired about math program changes at the elementary level. Mr. Woelber noted that this is the second year of using the 3rd edition of Everyday Math and the district is very happy with it. Chair Meyer inquired as to the implementation timeline for secondary program changes. Mr. Woelber stated that a decision would be made in November. Dr. Norlin-Weaver shared that a phased-in implementation will take place beginning in fall 2009. Member Robb inquired as to which of the curriculums would best support the state graduation standards. Mr. Woelber shared that both would do so.

Financial Audit – Ken Malloy, CPA, of Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich, & Co., P.A., shared that it takes approximately 40 hours to complete Edina's audit. He noted that new auditing standards for procedures were used. There were no findings in the audit. He shared that his firm completed 33-34 school district audits per year, and very seldom do they see a district with no findings. He noted that overall, the district has a stable general fund, revenues and expenditures are very close to the budgeted amount, and the food service budget is consistently healthy.

Community Survey Results – Dr. William Morris, Decision Resources, Ltd., shared that 400 randomly-selected households in the district had been surveyed and that the sample demographics matched the demographics of the census data. Dr. Morris noted that 80% of the respondents rated the quality of education in Edina Public Schools as excellent, the highest level in 25 years in metropolitan districts. He also noted that only 8% disagreed with the statement that the district spends the taxpayers' money effectively and efficiently, down from 19% in 2007. He shared that this is also a level never seen before in metropolitan districts. Dr. Morris stated that in general, the residents are very satisfied with the school district. They are well-informed and feel there is good communication. Dr. Morris noted that 20% of the community participates in community education activities, which is 5% higher than the state average. Member Almog requested information about how Edina Public Schools compares to other high-ranking school districts outside of Minnesota which Dr. Morris said he will be able to provide. Chair Meyer inquired about issues to keep in mind going forward. Dr. Morris recommended that the district continue to stress the themes used during the referendum such as spending taxpayers' dollars efficiently and effectively, especially in difficult economic times.

2008-2009 Enrollment, Projections, Class Size and Facility Information Report – Dr. Gwen Jackson, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services, stated that total enrollment had increased by 173 students, with the largest increase at the middle school level. Mr. Jay Willemsen, Director of Business Services, stated that this increase included more resident students than projected and, as a result, fewer open enrollment students. He shared that this is the first year there has been a decrease in open enrollment students. He noted that the increase in resident students is, in part, the result of resident students returning to the district from nonpublic schools. Ms. Mary Manderfeld, Assistant Director of Administrative Services, noted that over the next five years, elementary enrollment is projected to decline by 1.4% and secondary enrollment

is expected to grow by 9.7%. Superintendent Dressen shared that the district has a system in place to control the number of open enrollment positions available.

CONSENT ITEMS BEFORE THE BOARD

It was moved by Member Hedberg and seconded by Member Robb that the resolutions in Volume 80, Reports 122 through 138, pages 244-268 be approved. Six members voted Aye. Member Ledder abstained. These reports are:

- 122 Personnel Recommendations
- 123 Community Education Services Personnel Recommendations
- 124 Expenditures Payable on October 6, 2008
- 125 Expenditures Payable on October 20, 2008
- 126 Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on September 23, 2008
- 127 Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on October 7, 2008
- 128 Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on September 24, 2008
- 129 Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on October 7, 2008
- 130 Transfer of Funds to Curriculum Resources and Programs
- 131 Transfer of Funds to Edina Resource Center
- 132 Revised Classic Lake Conference Constitution
- 133 Commendation of Abbi Butterfield, Grade 12, Edina High School
- 134 Gift from Concord Elementary School PTO
- 135 Gift from Deborah Schlichting and Charles Blomme
- 136 Gifts from Target
- 137 Gift from Edina Athletic Boosters
- 138 Gift from South View Middle School Parent Council

Comment: Member Ledder noted that parent/teacher organizations are reviewing their gift giving process. She expressed appreciation for their donations. She recommended that the Board consider reviewing how donated funds from Target are used, since these funds represent a significant amount of money for the schools. Mr. Willemssen noted that when the district began receiving these donations eight years ago, the decision was made to allow the spending decisions to be site-based. He shared that the process could be reviewed. Superintendent Dressen noted that fundraising policies will be reviewed when the community policy series is reviewed later this year.

ACTION ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

Acceptance of Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 139, page 269, be approved. All members voted Aye.

2008-2009 Enrollment, Projections, Class Size and Facility Information Report: It was moved by Member Cella and seconded by Member Robb that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 140, page 270, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Salary Compensation for Members of the Superintendent's Advisory Council 2008-2010: It was moved by Member Almog and seconded by Member Johnson that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 141, page 271, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Salary and Benefit Recommendations for the Position of Controller for 2008-2010: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 142, page 272, be approved. All members voted Aye.

"Extreme Green Zero-Waste Classroom" Service Agreement with Hennepin County: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 144, page 274, be approved. All members voted Aye.

New Series 400 Policies – Personnel, Phase II: It was moved by Member Almog and seconded by Member Hedberg that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 145, page 275, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Purchase of HP Laptop Computers for South View Middle School: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Almog that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 146, page 276, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Purchase of Service Contract for Voice/Video/Data Network Hardware: It was moved by Member Robb and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 147, page 277, be approved. All members voted Aye.

High School Electrical Repairs: It was moved by Member Hedberg and seconded by Member Robb that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 149, page 279, be approved. All members voted Aye.

ACTION ITEM AMENDED AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

Employment Agreement for Superintendent of Schools 2009-2012: It was moved by Member Hedberg and seconded by Member Ledder to amend the resolution in Volume 80, Report 143, page 273 as follows:

In Section X, Incentive Pay, change references to Human Resources Committee and committee to School Board in three places.

All members voted Aye to amend the resolution.

It was moved by Member Almog and seconded by Member Cella to approve the amended resolution. All members voted Aye to the amended resolution.

ACTION ITEM TABLED BY MAJORITY VOTE

Purchase of Upgrade to Winnebago Library Circulation Software: It was moved by Member Robb and seconded by Member Ledder to table the resolution in Volume 80, Report 148, page 278. Six members voted Aye. Member Cella voted Nay.

Comment: Several members noted that they would like additional information because of the size of the purchase (Dr. Michael Burke, Director of District Media & Technology, was not available at the meeting for questions).

DISCUSSION ITEMS BEFORE THE BOARD

Rescind Series 5000 Policies – Students: Superintendent Dressen stated that the Board Policy Committee had concluded its work on the Series 5000 policies. These policies have been replaced by the Series 500 policies.

New Policy 3520 – Business and Noninstructional Operations, Emergency School Closing: Member Ledder noted that she would like to see more of current Policy 3541.35 language incorporated into new Policy 3520. This would result in all the emergency closing information in one policy.

Revised Policy 205 – School Board, Open Meetings and Closed Meetings: Superintendent Dressen noted the revision was due to changes by the Minnesota School Boards Association in the model policy.

Revised Policy 3518.1 – Business and Noninstructional Operations, Crisis Emergency Management

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Edina Alternative Compensation Plan: Superintendent Dressen shared that there will be a district celebration on October 21, 4:30 pm, Edina High School Community Room, at which time Commissioner Alice Seagren will present the district with a check for over \$2 million for implementing the Edina Alternative Compensation Plan for teachers.

Board Meeting with Edina High School Student Council: Superintendent Dressen shared that the Board is planning on meeting with the Edina High School Student Council in November.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Robb noted the article in the *Edina Magazine* about Chris Holden, principal at Cornelia Elementary School. He also noted that he and Superintendent Dressen had attended the Alliance for Student Achievement Summit, at which Dr. Bill Morris of Decision Resources presented.

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At 9:46 P.M., Chair Meyer adjourned the meeting.