

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

REGULAR MEETING
7:02 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

7:02 – 8:28 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. Michael Burke, Director of Media and Technology Services
Dr. Gwen Jackson, Director of Administrative Planning and Services
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
September 22, 2008

7:02 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, Burke, Jackson, Kocher. Member Ledder moved and Member Johnson seconded the approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2008; the minutes of the special meeting of August 25, 2008; and the special meeting of August 26, 2008. All members voted Aye.

PRESENTATION

- Service Projects at South View Middle School – Teacher Claude Sigmund and South View Middle School Students

REPORT

- Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement; and Staff Development Process and Goals, Including Alternative Compensation Site Goals – Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver, Director of Teaching & Learning; and Dr. Thel Kocher, Director of Research & Evaluation

CONSENT ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

1. Personnel Recommendations
2. Community Education Services Personnel Recommendations
3. Expenditures Payable on September 8, 2008
4. Expenditures Payable on September 22, 2008
5. Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on August 18, 2008
6. Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on August 29, 2008
7. Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on September 12, 2008
8. Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on August 18, 2008
9. Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on August 29, 2008
10. Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on September 11, 2008
11. Contract: Personal Financial Literacy Fund
12. Recognizing National Civics Awareness Month
13. Commendation of 2008 National Merit Finalists
14. Commendation of 2008 Edina High School National AP Scholars
15. Commendation of Michael Cherkassky
16. Gifts from Edina Education Fund

ACTION ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

1. Proposed Tax Levy for 2008 Payable 2009
2. Revised Board of Education Committee Appointments, 2008–2009

3. Annual Report on System Accountability: Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement
4. Annual Report on Staff Development Programs
5. School Improvement: Alternative Compensation Site Goals
6. Personnel Policies and Practices Agreement – Independent School District 273 and the Community Education Services Coordinators
7. Employee Insurance Renewal
8. Vehicle Insurance Renewal
9. Edina Public Schools Garage Sale
10. Purchase of HP Laptop Computers for Staff and Students
11. New Series 400 Policies – Personnel, Phase I
12. New Series 500 Policies – Students, Phase VI, appended
13. New Policy 1335 – Community Relations, Equal Access to School Facilities
14. Revised Policy 1330 – Community Relations, Use of School Facilities and Equipment
15. Revised Policy 6201 – Instruction, Community Education Services Governance
16. Revised Policy 6216 – Instruction, Community Education Financial Support

DISCUSSION

New Series 400 Policies – Personnel, Phase II

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Enrollment Update: Dr. Gwen Jackson, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services, shared that current total enrollment is 7,887. She noted that 174 additional students entered the district this fall through open enrollment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Ledder shared that there will be a book event for families with preschool-age children on September 27, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM, at Southdale. Member Robb thanked South View Middle School parents, students and district administrators who volunteered to move and spread mulch on the east campus. Students and others will also be doing this at the west campus. Member Robb noted that having volunteers do this work saved the district approximately \$3,000 per campus.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 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 SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

7:02 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, Burke, Jackson, Kocher. Member Ledder moved and Member Johnson seconded the approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2008; the minutes of the special meeting of August 25, 2008; and the special meeting of August 26, 2008. All members voted Aye.

PRESENTATION

Service Projects at South View Middle School – Principal Craig Jensen, South View Middle School, introduced social studies teachers Claude Sigmund and Erik Lowe. Mr. Sigmund shared that service learning was implemented at South View four years ago as a way to get students involved and impact their community. He noted that South View had recently received an award from the State of Minnesota for the project. Mr. Sigmund stated that all students participate in the program and prepare a 10-12 minute documentary of their project upon completion. Mary Nymark, Kayla Reininger and Greta Melcher shared a short video from their project on work discrimination against people with disabilities. The students noted that they had worked at Fraser School and have continued to volunteer there and elsewhere since completing their project

REPORT

Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement; and Staff Development Process and Goals, Including Alternative Compensation Site Goals – Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver, Director of Teaching and Learning, stated that by statute the district is required to publish an annual report to the community by October 1 every year. This report highlights student achievement goals and measures, as well as staff development alternative compensation goals. Dr. Thel Kocher, Director of Research and Evaluation, reviewed the results of student achievement tests and satisfaction surveys. Dr. Norlin-Weaver noted that all goals are aligned to the district's strategic plan. She shared that the goal for staff development is to personalize staff learning; the teachers work with instructional coaches and new teachers have mentors. The district's Communities of Practice are also a part of this. Dr. Norlin-Weaver noted that the language of the Edina Alternative Compensation Plan aligns with the state's staff development statute and the district's strategic plan. District, site and teacher goals are based on testing data. Superintendent Dressen stated that the district's measures and reporting will continue to expand as it continues to meet state reporting requirements.

CONSENT ITEMS BEFORE THE BOARD

It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Robb that the resolutions in Volume 80, Reports 83 through 98, pages 164-200 be approved. All members voted Aye. These reports are:

- 83 Personnel Recommendations
- 84 Community Education Services Personnel Recommendations
- 85 Expenditures Payable on September 8, 2008
- 86 Expenditures Payable on September 22, 2008
- 87 Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on August 18, 2008
- 88 Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on August 29, 2008
- 89 Bond Fund Expenditures Payable on September 12, 2008
- 90 Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on August 18, 200
- 91 Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on August 29, 2008
- 92 Alternative Facilities Bond Expenditures Payable on September 11, 2008
- 93 Contract: Personal Financial Literacy Fund
- 94 Recognizing National Civics Awareness Month
- 95 Commendation of 2008 National Merit Finalists
- 96 Commendation of 2008 Edina High School National AP Scholars
- 97 Commendation of Michael Cherkassky
- 98 Gifts from Edina Education Fund

Comments: It was noted that the grant connected to the contract for the personal financial literacy fund is for three years. The initial expenditure will be to purchase computers and software. Superintendent Dressen shared that the goals of this program will be imbedded into the curriculum and will be cost-neutral.

ACTION ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

Proposed Tax Levy for 2008 Payable 2009: It was moved by Member Almog and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 99, pages 201-202, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Comments: Jay Willemsen, Director of Business Services, stated that every September, the district is required to go through the levy process. The final levy will be voted on in December. He noted that the total levy represents a 5.95% increase, primarily due to the alternative compensation plan, enrollment increases and inflation. Member Robb noted that there is levy information in the annual report to the community. Superintendent Dressen shared that the district does not automatically levy the full amount they are allowed. The district works to maximize resources and be responsible to taxpayers.

Revised Board of Education Committee Appointments, 2008–2009: It was moved by Member Almog and seconded by Member Johnson that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 100, pages 203-205, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Annual Report on System Accountability: Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Hedberg that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 101, page 206, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Annual Report on Staff Development Programs: It was moved by Member Cella and seconded by Member Ledder that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 102, page 207, be approved. All members voted Aye.

School Improvement: Alternative Compensation Site Goals: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Almog that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 103, pages 208-209, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Personnel Policies and Practices Agreement – Independent School District 273 and the Community Education Services Coordinators: It was moved by Member Almog and seconded by Member Robb that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 104, page 210, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Comment: Superintendent Dressen stated that the agreement was within the parameters set by the Board Human Resources Committee.

Employee Insurance Renewal: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Ledder that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 105, page 211, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Comment: Mr. Willemssen shared that the district's insurance committee spent the last six months reviewing insurance options and bids had been solicited from other vendors. Mr. Willemssen noted that for health insurance, the district will switch from Blue Cross Blue Shield to Health Partners. By doing so, the district was able to lock in the percentage of increase. Health Partners provides a totally open network and the benefits are virtually identical. Mr. Willemssen shared that the district will change to self-insuring for dental insurance. In previous years, the dental insurance premiums had been greater than the claims. This was the recommendation of the district's insurance consultant. Mr. Willemssen stated that there would be no increase in premiums for life and disability insurance.

Vehicle Insurance Renewal: It was moved by Member Robb and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 106, page 212, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Comment: Mr. Willemssen noted that the district will stay with the same vendor they have had for several years. On a per-vehicle basis, the insurance premium is decreasing by .4%.

Edina Public Schools Garage Sale: It was moved by Member Ledder and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 107, page 213, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Purchase of HP Laptop Computers for Staff and Students: It was moved by Member Almog and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 108, page 214, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Comment: Dr. Michael Burke, Director of Media and Technology Services, noted that these computers were in preparation for the “Go Wireless” initiative and the personal finance literacy program at the middle schools.

New Series 400 Policies – Personnel, Phase I: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 109, page 215, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Comment: Member Cella, member of the Board Policy Committee, shared that no changes had been made since these policies were discussed at the August 18 Board meeting. They are based on state statute and district practices.

New Series 500 Policies – Students, Phase VI: : It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Almog that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 110, page 216, be approved. All members voted Aye.

New Policy 1335 – Community Relations, Equal Access to School Facilities: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 111, pages 217-221, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Revised Policy 1330 – Community Relations, Use of School Facilities and Equipment: It was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Ledder that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 112, page 222, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Revised Policy 6201 – Instruction, Community Education Services Governance: It was moved by Member Almog and seconded by Member Cella that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 113, pages 223-225, be approved. All members voted Aye.

Comments: Member Almog noted that she would like to see additional representation on the Community Education Services Board, including representatives from the Edina Education Fund and Connecting With Kids. Superintendent Dressen noted that the Board may wish to consider that when the community education services policies are audited in the near future.

Revised Policy 6216 – Instruction, Community Education Financial Support: It was moved by Member Ledder and seconded by Member Almog that the resolution in Volume 80, Report 114, pages 226-227, be approved. All members voted Aye.

DISCUSSION ITEM BEFORE THE BOARD

New Series 400 Policies – Personnel, Phase II: Member Cella shared that these are personnel policies mandated by state and federal law. Superintendent Dressen noted that there will be one to two additional series of personnel policies that will be reviewed this fall.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Enrollment Update: Dr. Gwen Jackson, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services, shared that current total enrollment is 7,887. She noted that 174 additional students entered the district this fall through open enrollment.

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At 8:28 P.M., it was moved by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Cella that the meeting be adjourned. All members voted Aye.