

MINNETONKA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #276
District Service Center
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, Minnesota

Minutes of May 6, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021 in the Community Room at the District Service Center, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka, Minnesota. Chairperson Chris Vitale presided. Other Board members present were: Mark Ambrosen, Katie Becker, John Holcomb, Christine Ritchie, Lisa Wagner and Superintendent Dennis Peterson, ex officio. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel. Absent: Mike LeSage.

Prior to the meeting, Board members recognized, via a video, the following groups and individuals: Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Award Honorees: Math Team State Qualifiers; State and International Science and Engineering Fair Qualifiers (High School and Middle School); Wrestling State Qualifiers; Girls Hockey State Qualifiers; and DSC Honored Artists from the Elementary Schools.

Chairperson Vitale then called the meeting to order and asked that everyone stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

1. AGENDA

Wagner moved, Ambrosen seconded, that the School Board approve the agenda, as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

2. SCHOOL REPORT: CLEAR SPRINGS

Clear Springs Elementary School Principal Curt Carpenter and TOSA David Wicklund presented on the work the school has done in the area of building empathy. They spoke about flexibility, mindfulness, grit and achievement. School Board members thanked Principal Carpenter and his staff for their outstanding work throughout this challenging school year.

3. PREVIEW OF CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Executive Director of Communications JacQui Getty provided an update to the board. The annual event will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The event honors adults who represent the many excellent child-centered employees and volunteers serving our children every day.

Some of the awards will be given "live" on stage and other segments will be recorded in advance. The public is invited to join the event via livestream. The link will be shared on the district website, social media channels and through emails to families and staff. In addition

to years of service and employee awards, the evening includes announcements of the Charlie Parnell Award for Excellence in Elementary Education, the Brad Board Award for Excellence in Elementary Education and the Joyce Gustafson Memorial Award. The event will conclude with the District's selection of an elementary teacher and a secondary teacher who will serve as Minnetonka Schools' nominees for MN Teacher of the Year.

Board member Becker thanked the community for all of the nominations to help make the event a success, and she thanked the District's communications team, in particular videographer Andy Smith, for his hard work in putting the event together. Chairperson Vitale echoed Board member Becker's remarks.

4. **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Chairperson Vitale noted that this opportunity for comment was available to community members who wished to address the Board on any item on that night's agenda. No one responded to this invitation to speak.

5. **APPROVAL OF FULL FUNDING RESOLUTION**

Dr. Peterson noted that many organizations throughout the state are considering adoption of a resolution to present to the Legislature and Governor Walz to fully fund all aspects of Minnesota's public schools. Board member Wagner noted that the District has a great partnership with the Minnetonka Teachers Association, and she thanked the association for bringing this resolution forward to the Board.

Wagner moved, Becker seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution:

PARTNERSHIP PLAN FOR FULL FUNDING

Whereas, most Minnesotans want similar things for our children, including safe and supportive public schools where all students—no matter what they look like or where they come from—can thrive and succeed; and

Whereas, in 2003, the state made significant changes in how Minnesota funds schools so that total real per-pupil state aid is \$503 less per student now than it was in 2003, costing the Minnetonka School District nearly \$6.1 million in the 2020-21 school year; and

Whereas, public schools in Minnesota have faced decades of chronic underfunding; and

Whereas, unfunded legislation is negatively impacting funds available for students, staff, and programs, and

Whereas, all Minnesota students are in desperate need of more school social workers, nurses, counselors, psychologists, and other support staff; and

Whereas, too many students are trying to learn in overcrowded and aging classrooms and buildings; and

Whereas, we need enriched opportunities for professional development for teachers to be able to have culturally responsible schools and meet the needs of all students; and

Whereas, all educators and support personnel working with our students deserve more respect for the contribution to the care and education of our children including better pay, affordable health care, and safe working conditions;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Minnetonka School Board, in partnership with the Minnetonka Teachers Association, calls on the Governor and Minnesota's Legislature to either remove or fund any and all unfunded mandates and find the courage to fully fund all aspects of Minnesota's public schools so all students can receive the opportunities and supports they deserve.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORT ON E-LEARNING INTEREST

In April, the School Board approved the District's proposed future K-12 e-learning program option, contingent upon the level of interest expressed through enrollment. The District applied for and has since been approved by the State of Minnesota to go from being a Grades 7-12 supplemental online provider (through Tonka Online) to being a K-12 comprehensive and supplemental online provider. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Amy LaDue provided an update to the Board on the interest the District has seen thus far from families who are currently enrolled in the District for the 2021-22 school year. As Ms. LaDue explained, the numbers for the future e-learning program are smaller than anticipated. She spoke about the next steps, which will be to ask families about interest in committing to e-learning for the first semester, for those who continue to have some concerns about COVID. When numbers firm up for the e-learning option, the District will then consider its next options with promoting the program to other districts and families outside of the district.

Board member Ritchie asked whether school districts in Minnesota will be required to offer e-learning in the fall, due to COVID, as they were this year. Ms. LaDue said districts have not been given that directive at this time. Board member Becker asked whether the District would combine some grade levels if the e-learning enrollment numbers are low for some grades. Ms. LaDue said the District is exploring those options, and that it may work in some of the younger grades but as students advance in grades that becomes more difficult, as state standards are very specific by grade level.

7. SECOND READING AND/OR ADOPTION OF POLICY #103: COMPLAINTS

Dr. Peterson noted that the Board had reviewed the MSBA Model Policy on complaints at its last study session, to consider adding it to the District's policies. He said the Board could review the policy further this evening, or vote to adopt it as it currently stands.

Wagner moved, Becker seconded, that the Board adopt the policy as presented.

In the discussion that followed, Board member Ritchie said she thought this would be discussed further at a future study session. Chairperson Vitale said his understanding from the last study session was that the majority of the Board had discussed approving the policy at this meeting as a starting point so there is a policy in place, that the administration would then put structure in place to support the policy, and that the Board could revisit it in the future if there were things to update or change. Board member Wagner concurred, stating this was to show the community that it was clear that complaints were welcomed and that the District has a process. Vice Chair Ambrosen agreed this was the right thing to do, to get a policy in place and to have the District develop procedures. Chairperson Vitale said that he and Vice Chair Ambrosen had looked at the complaints policy for several districts and that many had the MSBA policy in place as their complaints policy.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously, and the policy was adopted.

8. **SECOND READING AND/OR ADOPTION OF POLICY #426: SHARED POSITIONS AUTHORIZATION AND CONDITIONS**

Dr. Peterson noted that this policy had also been reviewed at the Board's last study session, and the Board could either review the policy further this evening, or vote to adopt it as it currently stands.

Ritchie moved, Ambrosen seconded, that the Board adopt the policy as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

9. **APPROVAL OF APPLE IPAD LEASE PURCHASE**

Executive Director of Technology Mike Dronen presented an overview of the District's Apple iPad Lease Purchase Agreement. He explained the value to the District and how the rolling three-year rotation of iPads is working. This coming fall, after they have been collected and catalogued, the District will sell approximately 8,500 retiring iPads in a reverse auction to bring in revenue to partially offset a significant amount of the purchase price of the new tranche of iPads. As Mr. Dronen explained, past reverse auctions have brought in sales revenue of more than \$100 per unit. Any sales proceeds are deposited back into the Capital Projects fund. Mr. Dronen asked for the Board to approve the lease purchase of 8,500 new iPads and support equipment and to approve the Master Lease Purchase Agreement.

Wagner moved, Becker seconded, that the Board approve the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 does hereby approve the lease purchase of 8,500 iPads and support equipment in the amount of \$2,855,770, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School

District 276 does hereby approve the Master Lease Purchase Agreement, Exhibit 1, and Exhibits A-G and authorizes Administration to execute the necessary lease-purchase contract documents to complete the acquisition of the iPads and support equipment in time for deployment of the equipment for the start of the Fiscal Year 2022 School Year on September 8, 2021.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

10. **ADOPTION OF TEN YEAR LONG TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PLAN**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented the updated Ten-Year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan to the Board. He walked the Board through the Plan, explaining the maintenance history and projection for long-term projects for District facilities.

Ritchie moved, Wagner seconded, that the Board approve the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 does hereby approve the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan for FY2022 through FY2031 including projects estimated at a total cost of \$60,980,000.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

11. **REPORT ON TEACHERS ACHIEVING CONTINUING CONTRACT STATUS**

Executive Director of Human Resources Mike Cyrus presented this item to the Board. He explained that each year, the Administration presents to the Board the names of those teachers and administrators who have completed their probationary period, and whom the District is recommending receive continuing contract status.

To be eligible for this status, a teacher or administrator must have served a three-year probationary period in the Minnetonka Public Schools, or in cases where the teacher or administrator previously served three or more continuous years in a public Minnesota school district, the teacher or administrator would serve a one-year probationary period in Minnetonka.

Both Minnesota law and District policies require thorough and regular performance evaluations of all probationary teachers and administrators, and the District provides support for them through mentoring and regular staff development training. Mr. Cyrus explained that no official action was required by the Board on this item, and the list presented was for informational purposes.

**STAFF ELIGIBLE FOR
CONTINUING CONTRACT STATUS IN 2021-22**

First Name	Last Name	Subject	Building
Jessica	Anderson	Speech Language	Clear Springs
Michael	Barger	Social Studies	MMW
Andrea	Becker	Special Education	MME
Demi	Berg	Grade 6/Social Studies	MMW
Caitlyn	Brice	Special Education	Minnewashta
Jonathan	Broehl	French-Spanish World Language	MHS
Christina	Bruggman	Special Education	MME
Hannah	Camrud	Early Childhood Special Ed	MCEC
Rachel	Chase	Grade 5 Spanish Immersion	Clear Springs
Daniel	Chies	STEM/Computer Science	MMW
Emma	De Santiago	Spanish Immersion	MMW
Kelly	Diekemper	Special Education	MME
Natalie	Ehalt-Bove	Spanish	MHS
Elizabeth	Eichler	Math	MHS
Alyssa	Engdahl	Occupational Therapist	Excelsior
Laura	Fransen	Special Education	MHS
Jonathan	Gonzalez Bonilla	Grade 1 Spanish Immersion	Minnewashta
Mathew	Gorman	Special Education	MHS
Joy	Gresham	Kindergarten	Minnewashta
Amy	Gutierrez-Paine	Kindergarten Spanish Immersion	Minnewashta
Peggy	Hilbrands	School Psychologist	District -Sped
Rayen	Inostroza	Spanish	MHS
Adrienne	Johnson	Special Education	MHS
Cassandra	Klein	School Counselor	MHS
Joshua	Kukowski	Social Studies Spanish Immersion	MME
Bo	Liu	Chinese Immersion	MHS
Emily	Lukens	Special Education	MMW
Kyle	McDonald	Art	Groveland
Anna	Molina	Grade 2 Spanish Immersion	Clear Springs
Daniela	Moscoso-Donoso	Grade 3 Spanish Immersion	Minnewashta
Laura	Muzzio Torter	Kindergarten Spanish Immersion	Clear Springs
Joel	Newman	Spanish Immersion	MME
Patrick	O'Keefe	Music	Excelsior
Blanca	Orteu Duran-Sindreu	Grade 5 Spanish Immersion	Deephaven
Fabio	Ortiz Corredor	Social Studies Spanish Immersion	MMW
Stuart	Pease	Language Arts	MHS
Kelly	Peryam	Special Education	District -Sped
Kevin	Pinck	Grade 1 Spanish Immersion	Groveland

Keely	Pullman	Special Education	Scenic Heights
Jessica	Ronk	Science	MHS
Kathleen	Ruemmele	Speech Language Pathologist	Elementary
Madeline	Schinke	Early Childhood Special Ed	MCEC
Sandra	Serrano Notivoli	Grade 1 Spanish Immersion	Minnewashta
Rocio	Sotelo Arce	Spanish	MHS
Kristen	Spilane	Special Education	Excelsior
Melissa	Talmo	Speech Language Pathologist	Elementary
Angela	Tuma	Reading/Language Arts	MME
Joshua	Wagner	Special Education	MHS
Bernadette	Walker	Elementary-Reading	Groveland
Nathan	Wentz	Math	MHS
Benjamin	Whitcomb	Math	MHS
Monique	Wiley	Special Education	MME
Katherine	Wilson	Speech Language	Clear Springs
Li	Zheng	Grade 5 Chinese Immersion	Scenic Heights

12. **APPROVAL OF NON-RENEWAL**

Dr. Cyrus presented this item to the Board. He explained that Minnesota law provides that “during the probationary period any annual contract with any teacher may or may not be renewed as the School Board sees fit; provided, however, that the School Board shall give any such teacher whose contract it declines to renew for the following school year written notice to that effect before July 1.” This law applies to all teachers and administrators who are required to have a license in their position. The District’s obligations include furnishing the teacher with appropriate supervision, which is spelled out clearly in state law. The reasons for termination of probationary staff are varied; the teacher has the right to ask for and receive within 10 days reasons for the termination in writing.

Chairperson Vitale then read the following resolution out loud:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT OF THE PROBATIONARY TEACHER

WHEREAS, the teacher listed below, is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 276:

Eugenia Cegla-Science Teacher, Minnetonka Middle School West

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 276, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §122A.40, that the teaching contract of the probationary teacher named above in Independent School District No. 276, is hereby terminated and not renewed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that written notice be sent to said teacher regarding the termination and non-renewal of said contract as provided by law.

Wagner moved, Ambrosen seconded, that the Board approve the resolution as presented. Upon roll call vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor: Ambrosen, Becker, Holcomb, Ritchie, Vitale and Wagner, and none voted against, whereupon the resolution carried.

13. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Becker moved, Ritchie seconded, that the School Board approve the following recommendations included within the following Consent Agenda items:

- Minutes of April 8 Regular Meeting and Closed Session
- Study Session Summary of April 19, 2021
- Payment of Bills – in the sum of \$6,583,636.41.
- Recommended Personnel Items – as shown in Addendum A.
- Gifts and Donations for April 2021: \$4,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the MHS Scholarship Fund. \$100.00 from the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the Minnetonka Mail Fund. \$500.00 from the Optimists of Glen Lake to be placed in the Minnetonka Super Mileage Program Fund. \$100.00 from the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the Tonka Serves Steering Committee Fund. \$125.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MME Student Needs Fund. \$2,691.92 from the MME PTA to be placed in the MME Target Fund. \$170.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$100.00 from Stephanie Hoffman and \$33.32 from Frontstream, both to be placed in the Groveland Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$47.44 from Brent Rickenbach, \$200.04 from Kurt Hoddinot, and \$75.00 from Anonymous, all to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2020-21: \$158,584.17.
- Electronic Fund Transfers - as shown in Addendum B.
- Approval of Individual Contracts
- Approval of Individual Pay Changes
- Approval of Policy #432: Confidential Support Staff
- Approval of Naming of Minnetonka Transition Program (SAIL)

Upon vote being taken on the foregoing Consent Agenda items, the motion carried unanimously.

14. **BOARD REPORTS**

There were no Board reports this evening.

15. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

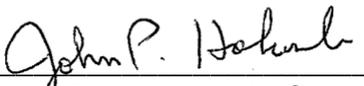
Dr. Peterson spoke about the newly announced statewide updates to COVID-19 restrictions, which will now allow school districts to increase spectators for events such as graduation. Minnetonka High School will hold Graduation at US Bank Stadium, and students will each be able to have up to 10 tickets for family and friends to attend. Dr. Peterson also spoke about the history of the ship's bell and wheel that have been kept at the high school after they were given to the District to care for by the American Legion years ago. The Legion has now determined the two naval items will be moved to a memorial site in Minneapolis. This move will occur over the summer. The Minneapolis Park Board, which will now have responsibility for the artifacts, has issued a resolution thanking Minnetonka Public Schools for refurbishing the bell and wheel.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements this evening.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ritchie moved, Wagner seconded, adjournment at 8:20 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.



John Holcomb, Clerk