

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

Minutes of November 2, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023 in the Community Room at the District Service Center, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka, Minnesota. Chairperson Lisa Wagner presided. Other Board members present were: Mark Ambrosen, Patrick Lee-O'Halloran, Michael Remucal, Meghan Selinger, Chris Vitale and Superintendent David Law, ex officio. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel. Absent: Katie Becker.

Prior to the meeting, Board members recognized, via a video, the following groups and individuals: Class of 2024 National Merit Semifinalists; Class of 2024 ACT Top Score Earners; 2023-24 Student-Honored Teachers; Class of 2024 National Merit Commended Students; Class of 2024 National College Board Recognition Honorees; 2023 AP Scholars with Distinction; Minnesota Council on Economic Education Teacher of the Year; Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association Master Orchestra Teacher of the Year; and Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) 2023 Richard Green Scholar Award Recipient Dr. Amy Ladue.

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

1. **AGENDA**

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

2. **SCHOOL REPORT FROM GROVELAND**

Groveland Principal Andrew Gilbertson and Assistant Principal Sarah Klitzke shared some of the highlights of the year so far as well as some of the great things they have planned for the future. They have been working to strengthen belonging through clear communication, strong connections and student-led anti-bullying efforts. They have also introduced an intervention block during the school day to better use their resources and support students.

Chairperson Wagner thanked Principal Gilbertson and Assistant Principal Klitzke for their report and asked them to thank the students for the video and for their leadership efforts.

3. **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Chairperson Wagner 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.

4. **APPROVAL OF INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES**

The State of Minnesota allows school districts to provide e-learning days due to inclement weather. This requires districts to adopt a locally developed plan. A school district may have up to five weather-related e-learning days during a school year that can be counted as instructional days in the school calendar.

As Superintendent of Schools David Law explained, the District has developed a plan that allows e-learning days to be offered as an option should we have snow or cold days that do not allow students to attend school in person. As required by State Statute, which was updated during the 2023 legislative session, the District has negotiated with the Minnetonka Teachers Association (MTA) and has a tentative agreement on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for inclement weather. The goal for this plan is to provide students with instruction after a minimal number of school interruptions due to winter weather as well as to eliminate the possibility of needing to add additional school days at the end of the current school year calendar due to weather related closures.

With regard to students on IEPs, Superintendent Law noted that asynchronous instruction, per guidance from the MDE, can be considered both direct and indirect, dependent upon how the staff choose to meet that student's needs based on their IEP goals and objectives. The team will determine what this looks like, based off the service minutes dictated by the child's IEP. A child's access to a free appropriate public education should not be impacted by one asynchronous learning day, similar to when a child is absent, a teacher is absent, or a child goes on a vacation, missing school. Students can and do make progress given one or two days of asynchronous instruction. If there are students who are negatively impacted by asynchronous instruction, based on a review of data, the team may address that through a variety of avenues.

Superintendent Law said that information about the e-learning plan for inclement weather will be communicated with staff, families, and students as a part of the annual inclement weather communication.

Ambrosen moved, Lee-O'Halloran seconded, that the Board approve the inclement weather procedures as presented. Board member Vitale asked whether the second snow day would need to be consecutive to the first, or whether we would get one day per season. Superintendent Law spoke about how tight we are with high school credits and the challenge with rescheduled days. He said grades 6-12 would be asynchronous on the second day that is impacted by inclement weather. Vice Chairperson Selinger asked about late starts or early releases for a snow incident. Superintendent Law confirmed those are not days impacted by this plan.

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

5. UPDATE ON SOLAR GARDENS

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He explained that the District works continuously to be efficient in its support operations to maximize funds that are available for student instruction. One area where the District has undertaken and enacted numerous efficiencies is in the area of energy efficiency.

Mr. Bourgeois then presented an update on the District's use of solar gardens, including a history of energy efficiency initiatives in the District and the activity related to contracting for delivery of solar-generated electricity from utility-scale solar garden installations to the District.

Chairperson Wagner thanked Mr. Bourgeois for his innovative approach to this, as we work to keep as many dollars in the classroom as possible. Board member Vitale asked whether the solar garden contracts are secure or whether they could be altered by future legislative action. Mr. Bourgeois said contracts are honored to the end of the contract, as entities would not enter into these if that wasn't the case. Our investments in these contracts are very safe.

6. VANTAGE MOMENTUM BUILDING – CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The VANTAGE/MOMENTUM Building has been under construction since June 2022. Construction has taken place during a period of supply chain issues that has extended the length of the construction period. As Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois explained, work is advancing steadily, and the building should be ready for student use in January 2024. Photos of the status of construction as of October 31 were also presented.

Chairperson Wagner thanked Mr. Bourgeois and asked him to thank all who have been involved. Board member Lee-O'Halloran asked about the completion date. Mr. Bourgeois said the contractors have said they will have it done by January.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of October 5 Regular Meeting and Closed Session
- Study Session Summary of October 26, 2023
- Payment of Bills – in the sum of \$10,509,576.81
- Recommended Personnel Items

- Gifts and Donations for October 2023: \$270.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MHS Principal Discretionary Fund. \$5.60 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MMW Principal Discretionary Fund. \$6,391.59 from the MME PTA to be placed in the MME Principal Discretionary Fund for Students in Need. \$1500.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the MHS Random Acts of Kindness Fund. \$1,000 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary Social Worker Fund. \$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary Social Worker Fund. \$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the Groveland Elementary Social Worker Fund. \$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary Social Worker Fund. \$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the MME Social Worker Fund. \$250.00 from the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club (\$1,750.00 total) to be given to each of the following clubs: Percussion Ensemble, Marching Band, Anime, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz 2, Science Olympiad, and Book Club. \$33.32 from FrontStream to be placed in the Groveland Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$2,718.70 from the Clear Springs Elementary PTO to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary Enrichment & Community Night Duns PTO Staff Allocation Fund. \$10,000.00 from the Groveland Elementary PTO to be placed in the Groveland Elementary Field Trip Fund. \$5,000.00 from the Lake Minnetonka/Excelsior Rotary Club to be placed in the MHS Interact Club & ICA Food Shelf Fund. \$2,000.00 from Anonymous to be placed in the MHS Baseball Program Fund. \$2,000.00 from Ken and Cindy Mueller to be placed in the MHS Baseball Program Fund. \$1,000.00 from myHealth for Teens and Young Adults to be placed in the Minnetonka Tonka CARES Grant Program Fund. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2023-24: \$301,241.76.
- Electronic Fund Transfers

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

8. **BOARD REPORTS**

None.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Law spoke about the end of the athletic season for fall sports and how well our student athletes are doing and how exciting it is to see them compete. He also mentioned Minnetonka Theatre will be launching *Cabaret* this weekend at the Arts Center. He also noted that adapted soccer has a game next Monday. He spoke about meeting with Senator Kelly Morrison who met recently with him, Nutrition Services, Tonka CARES and other district partners to discuss the free breakfast and lunch program, noting that Senator Morrison was the author of that. They also discussed homelessness and mental health issues. He thanked those involved in that meeting.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Wagner read the following statement:

During election seasons, we get this question occasionally, and it has come up recently, so I wanted to address it at our meeting for the public. The Minnetonka Public School District – and our School Board as a body of the whole – do not endorse or oppose any candidate for public office. We would never send a communication from the Board or District, electronically or through the mail, about who to vote for in an election.

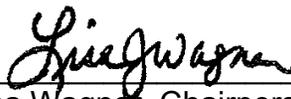
Additionally, when a candidate, campaign, member of the public or organization misuses one of our district logos by including the logo on an election website, mailing, sign, or other election-related communication, we follow up, as able and reasonable, to curtail that behavior, as we want to ensure it is clear the District is not supporting or opposing any particular candidate.

We encourage all voters in our District to learn more about all of the School Board candidates and about the ballot question regarding renewal of the capital projects levy. We encourage each of you to vote on or before Election Day, which is next Tuesday, November 7.

Board member Remucal spoke about being sworn in as the Minnetonka School Board representative to District 287's Advisory Board and noted that he had recently participated in a "Get on the Bus" tour with other members of that board.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Lee-O'Halloran moved, Selinger seconded, adjournment to closed session at 8:00 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.



Lisa Wagner, Chairperson