

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

Minutes of April 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 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, Katie Becker, Patrick Lee-O'Halloran, Mike Remucal and Superintendent David Law, ex officio. Absent: Meghan Selinger and Chris Vitale. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Prior to the meeting, the Board recognized, via a video, the following groups and individuals: Boys Swim & Dive state qualifiers; Boys Wrestling individual state champion; Girls Hockey state qualifiers; Girls Gymnastics state qualifiers; MHS Science Olympiad state qualifiers; MHS Math Team state qualifiers; MHS Knowledge Bowl state qualifiers; National German Exam Bronze Award winners; and Chess state qualifiers.

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

1. AGENDA

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

2. SCHOOL REPORT: COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Executive Director of Community Education Tim Litfin, Assistant Director Jenny Bodurka, and Coordinator of Minnetonka Preschool, ECFE & Jr. Explorers Molly Bahneman presented MCE program and marketing information. They also shared a short video of MCE highlights as part of the presentation. Chairperson Wagner said it was exciting to see examples of all the great programming and she thanked MCE for providing options for all ages.

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. ACCEPTANCE OF MINNETONKA FOUNDATION'S TEACHER GRANTS

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation annually funds a significant number of innovative grants to teachers. Mr. Troon Dowds from the Foundation presented the list of grants to the

Board. He noted that the Foundation had been able to fulfill over 50 grants this year, totaling \$95,131. Over the years, the Foundation has funded over \$1.3 million in teacher grants.

Becker moved, Remucal seconded, that the Board approve the list of grants. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously. Board member Becker thanked everyone involved in the teacher grant process for all of their efforts, including teachers, donors, the Alumni Association and the Foundation.

5. BELONGING UPDATE: BULLYING PREVENTION EFFORTS

As part of the 2022-2023 School Board Goals, the School Board and District Administration have committed to deepen implementation of belonging efforts to ensure a welcoming, inclusive, and safe school environment for all. This goal includes efforts to reduce bullying through revisiting and raising awareness of existing bullying prevention efforts and opportunities across all learning levels.

Summaries of belonging and bullying prevention efforts were presented to the Board by Minnewashta Principal Cindy Andress; Clear Springs Assistant Principal David Wicklund and several students; MMW Principal Freya Schirmacher, two staff members and an MMW student; and MHS Principal Jeff Erickson. Specifically, their reports shared messaging for students and families about belonging and specific ways to prevent bullying, respond when an incident occurs, and steps taken when an incident has occurred.

Superintendent Law noted how important it is for all of us to model good behavior for our students. Board member Ambrosen thanked the students for their wonderful presentations and for working to make a difference at their schools. "You are our great best hope," he said. Board member Becker thanked the students, teachers and principals for presenting and for their work on bullying prevention. Chairperson Wagner thanked the students and said they should be very proud of themselves. She said there is some great work being done and that it is an ongoing effort, because there is always room for improvement.

6. APPROVAL OF 10-YEAR LONG-TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PLAN

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He explained that the district is eligible for participation in the state's Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Program. The statutes governing the Program require that an update of the 10-Year Plan be reviewed and approved by the School Board annually and filed with the Minnesota Department of Education.

The district has 1,832,944 square feet of space and 259 acres of land that require sustained long-term maintenance to remain in a state of good repair to support the educational programs. Of the 1,832,944 square feet, 1,520,793 or 83% is 25 years old or older, and 1,043,714 – 57% - is 55 years old or older. Included in that square footage is 469,363 square feet that exceeds 65 years of age.

The age of so much square footage has resulted in the need to make significant “mid-life” component replacement in the facilities to ensure their readiness for the next 60 years of use. In effect, the district facilities are in the process of being “re-built” in place during the summers when school is not in session. Since the district qualified for the Alternative Facilities program in FY2004 (now the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Program), the district has completed over \$100 million in long term facility maintenance projects to work towards catching up on and eliminating deferred maintenance through the end of FY2022. Additional mid-life component replacement needs to be continued over the next 10 years, as with a large fleet of buildings the need for long term maintenance is ongoing.

The update of the 10-Year Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan projects out remaining long-term maintenance needs for the next decade starting with FY2025 through FY2034. The total projects listed in the plan for those 10 years are estimated at \$74,665,000, or an average of approximately \$7.8 million annually.

Mr. Bourgeois then went over the Plan with the Board, focusing on the projects that are scheduled for the next two fiscal years. Lee-O'Halloran then moved, Ambrosen 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 FY2025 through FY2034 including projects estimated at a total cost of \$74,665,000.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of March 9, 2023 Regular Meeting
- Study Session Summary of March 23, 2023
- Payment of Bills – in the sum of \$7,908,465.04.
- Recommended Personnel Items
- Gifts and Donations for March 2023: \$50.00 from Target c/o CyberGrants, LLC to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$60.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the Minnewashta Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$25.43 from the Rickenbach family to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$500.00 from Deephaven Elementary PTA, \$500.00 from Excelsior PTO, and \$500.00 from MMW PTO; all to be placed in the Minnetonka Schools Parenting with Purpose Speaker Series Fund. \$340.00 from Ronald and Sharon Hick to be placed in the Minnetonka Community Education Project SOAR Programming Fund. \$4,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the MHS Senior Scholarship Fund. \$48.00 from the American Online Giving Foundation to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$59.80 from General Mills Box Tops to be placed in the MME Principal Discretionary Fund. \$11.20 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to

be placed in the MMW Principal Discretionary Fund. \$126.99 from the Groveland Elementary PTO to be placed in the Groveland Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund (staff lounge microwave). \$100.00 from Building Disciples to be placed in the MHS Heart Week Fund. \$500.00 from JEM Technical Marketing, \$1500.00 from TEL FSI, Inc, and a trailer from Sandra and Steve Olson; all to be placed in the MHS Robotics Team Fund and Program. \$1500.00 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation to be placed in the MHS International Studies Scholarship Fund. \$250.00 from Seacole-CRC, LLC, \$600.00 from Rotary Club of Minnetonka Foundation, and \$750.00 from the Optimist Club of Glen Lake; all to be placed in the MHS Seniors Serve Program Fund. \$37.50 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MME Principal Discretionary Fund. \$250.00 from the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club to be given to each of the following clubs at MHS: Astronomy Club, FCA Club, Girls United Club, Film Club, Pickleball Club, Voice in Sports Club, Natural Resources Club, Girls Golf Club, Current Events Club, and Coffeehouse Club. \$1286.75 from the Mark Allen Streeter Foundation to be placed in the MHS Mark Allen Streeter Scholarship Fund. \$1300.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the MMW Student Needs Fund. \$1,000.00 from the Minneapolis Jewish Federation to be placed in the MMW Holocaust Education Program Fund. \$9,668.37 from the Minnewashta Elementary PTO to be placed in the Minnewashta Elementary School Field Trip & Enrichment Fund. \$4,614.06 from the Skipperettes Booster Club to be placed in the MHS Athletic Fund for Assistant Skipperette Coach Pay. \$1,836.34 from the TAGA/MHS Gymnastics Booster Club to be placed in the MHS Gymnastics Apparel Fund. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2022-23: \$504,886.17.

- Electronic Fund Transfers
- Approval of Adjustments to Policy #440: Handbook for Minnetonka Community Education and/or Aquatics Personnel (Lifeguard Pay Rates)

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

8. **BOARD REPORTS**

Chairperson Wagner shared two reports on behalf of Vice Chair Selinger. The Minnetonka Preschool ECFE PTO will hold its Spring Fair on May 12 from 5-7:30PM. Community Ed is looking for community partners for fundraising for the fair and on an ongoing basis. And, from the Teaching and Learning Advisory Council, Vice Chair Selinger wanted to share that both English/Language Arts and Health curriculum are currently undergoing the curriculum review process, in alignment with state and national standards. This review work will include surveys, focus groups and much more.

Board member Becker said that she had recently attended the Special Education Advisory Council meeting, and it was a dynamic group. A few things discussed were transition into middle schools, reviewing the parent handbook and the district's IEP efforts. Ms. Becker said she also attended the MCE Advisory Council meeting recently. She thanked Tim Litfin for his work with this "very fun and involved" group, and said they had a robust discussion on the MCE catalog at their last meeting.

Board member Ambrosen said he and Board member Remucal recently attended the Tonka CARES meeting, and there was a very in-depth discussion about e-cigarettes and vaping and how those companies are targeting children and youth. He also talked about the work being done at the local, state and federal level to combat this.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Law noted with the coming of spring, it is officially recognition time in the district. Employees are being recognized at their sites for 5, 10 and 15 years of service. Those celebrating milestones of 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service will be honored at the Celebration of Excellence district-wide event on May 11 at the Arts Center at MHS. He also noted that next week is Explorers Staff Appreciation Week, the following week is Administrative Office Professionals Appreciation Week, and the first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week.

Mr. Law also said that he had attended a recent meeting of area mayors and city officials, and work is beginning on an extensive Highway 7 traffic study. This will be a multi-year effort, and he will share more information as it becomes available.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member Becker shared that there are two Community Ed events coming up that are geared for middle schoolers and soon-to-be middle schoolers. The first is "East Meets West" on May 12 and the second is an event, held at both MME and MMW, where incoming sixth graders get to meet their classmates for next year. More information can be found on the district website.

Board member Becker also noted that the Booster Store at MHS will be open tomorrow evening, April 14, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., and April 15 from 9:00 a.m.–noon. She also said that the Tonka Pride Spring Sale will be held at the DSC on April 21 from 3:00–7:00 p.m. and April 22 from 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Come on out and get some new Tonka gear!

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Becker moved, Ambrosen seconded, adjournment at 8:26 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.



Katie Becker, Clerk