

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2021

REGULAR MEETING
7:00 PM

Remote Locations

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Ms. Erica Allenburg (attended remotely)
Mr. Matthew Fox (attended remotely)
Ms. Julie Greene (attended remotely)
Ms. Ellen Jones (attended remotely)
Mr. Owen Michaelson (attended remotely)
Ms. Janie Shaw (attended remotely)
Mr. Leny Wallen-Friedman (attended remotely)

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Erica Allenburg

7:03 PM – 8:52 PM

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:


Dr. John W. Schultz, Superintendent (attended remotely)
Dr. Randy Smasal, Assistant Superintendent (attended remotely)
Steve Buettner, Director of District Media and Technology Services (attended remotely)
Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning (attended remotely)
Donna Roper, Director of Research and Evaluation (attended remotely)
John Toop, Director of Business Services (attended remotely)
Nicole Tuescher, Director of Human Resources and Admin Services (attended remotely)
Mary Woitte, Director of Communications (attended remotely)

Dr. Timothy Anderson, Principal, South View Middle School (attended remotely)
Andrew Beaton, Principal, Edina High School (attended remotely)
Shawn Dudley, Principal, Valley View Middle School (attended remotely)

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


Ms. Erica Allenburg, Chair


Ms. Ellen Jones, Clerk

(Official Publication)
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT 273 EDINA, MINNESOTA JANUARY 11, 2021

7:03 PM Chair Allenburg called to order the regular meeting of the School Board. All Members and staff participated remotely. Members present: Allenburg, Fox, Greene, Jones, Michaelson, Shaw, Wallen-Friedman. Staff present: Schultz, Smasal, Buettner, De St. Hubert, Roper, Toop, Tuescher, Woitte; Anderson, Beaton, Dudley; District media specialists Sherron Gaughan, Krista Winkel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION – Media Specialists

READING OF COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- A. Minutes: 1/4/21 special meeting; 1/4/21 organizational meeting
- B. Personnel Recommendations
- C. Non-affiliated Employees Guidebook, Appendix G
- D. Expenditures Payable – December 2020
- E. Correction of Polling Places
- F. Internet Services Contract
- G. Purchases of Networking Equipment
 1. Firewall
 2. Uninterrupted Power Source

DISCUSSION

- A. Technology Referendum

ACTION ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- A. Budget Parameters
- B. Secondary New Course Proposals
- C. Elementary Grading, 2020-21 School Year
- D. Secondary Grading, 2020-21 School Year

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM. The minutes and resolutions are open to public inspection on the district website, and on file at the district office, 5701 Normandale Road.

Ms. Erica Allenburg, Chair

Ms. Ellen Jones, Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD'S
JANUARY 11, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

7:03 PM Chair Allenburg called to order the regular meeting of the School Board. All Members and staff participated remotely. Members present: Allenburg, Fox, Greene, Jones, Michaelson, Shaw, Wallen-Friedman. Staff present: Schultz, Smasal, Buettner, De St. Hubert, Roper, Toop, Tuescher, Woitte; Anderson, Beaton, Dudley; District media specialists Sherron Gaughan, Krista Winkel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

Member Wallen-Friedman moved and Member Shaw seconded to approve the meeting agenda. All Members voted Aye by roll call vote.

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Krista Winkel and Sherron Gaughan presented an overview of how District media specialists support reading for both in person/hybrid students and EVA students. Additional support is provided in myriad other ways, including through news shows; teacher resources; instructional support; device checkouts; digital citizenship support; and assistance with Schoology, SeeSaw and Google Meets.

READING OF COMMUNITY INPUT

Director Toop read from emails received by the Board. Sara Klos asked how civic education, civil discourse and debate are provided to Minnesota students. Jeff Northrup, Elizabeth Ross and Nicole Schnell of Edina Parents 4 Progress expressed their group's desire for the return of all students to the classroom, five days a week, noting other districts' return to hybrid or in-person learning. Bill Dean expressed disappointment that middle school students were not included in the current plan to return to in-school learning. Andrea Bushaw wrote about the timeline for returning students to school, transition time, asynchronous days, and supporting data. Sarah Parry wrote about mental health and equity issues with respect to distance learning. Christine Dean wrote about staggered starts and getting students back in the classroom as soon as possible. Marta Drew wrote about the difficulties facing the community, problem-solving, critical thinking and understanding. Jenny Griskevicius wrote about the lack of perfect options, controversy, and her appreciation for Board members. Michelle Meek referenced a student response to Edina Parents 4 Progress, and thanked the Board for their work. Megan Walsh wrote about difficult decisions and our extremely divided community and country. EHS students Isadora Li, Mia DiLorenzo and Izzy Wagener highlighted portions of their response to the Edina Parents 4 Progress letter, touching on CDC guidelines, frontline workers, community safety, and hard data.

Member Fox clarified that the Board does not respond to emails in real time.

CONSENT ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

Member Wallen-Friedman moved and Member Michaelson seconded to approve the consent agenda. All Members voted Aye by roll call vote. The resolutions were:

- A. Minutes: 1/4/21 special meeting; 1/4/21 organizational meeting
- B. Personnel Recommendations
- C. Non-affiliated Employees Guidebook, Appendix G
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DISCUSSION ITEM

Technology Referendum: Director Buettner provided information on the technology levy, noting that technology use is pervasive in all aspects of our educational system - from managing heating and security, to paying staff and invoices; from providing recruitment and professional development, to guiding, enhancing and directing instruction. The goal is to use levy funds to maintain Edina excellence, by ensuring we leverage technology when it is the best tool, and by supporting our investments by maintaining and replacing our current technology. Discussion touched on technology's benefits to struggling readers, assistive technology, and partnerships with Student Support Services; efforts by the district to protect against ransomware and cybersecurity; the role of media specialists (salaries paid through the tech levy) in literacy; stewardship of district funds; alignment with neighboring districts; leveraging levy funds to help the district budget; and ties to the Strategic Plan.

ACTION ITEMS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

Budget Parameters: Member Wallen-Friedman moved and Member Fox seconded to approve the motion. All Members voted Aye by roll call vote. Motion passed.

Comments: Member Fox noted that, due to issues and constraints relating to the pandemic, this is the 4th iteration of the budget parameters to come to the Board. Director Toop highlighted the budget parameter's three most critical components: enrollment; state revenue/per pupil allowance; and salaries and benefits. Member Fox noted the District is erring on the side of conservatism in budgeting a modest enrollment increase, no increase in state revenue per student, and salaries/benefits at recent historical increases.

Secondary New Course Proposals: Member Wallen-Friedman moved and Member Shaw seconded to approve the motion. All Members voted Aye by roll call vote. Motion passed.

Comments: Member Jones asked Director De St. Hubert for clarification and additional information related to secondary science courses. Director De St. Hubert offered to have someone from the high school follow up with additional information.

Elementary Grading, 2020-21 School Year: Member Wallen-Friedman moved and Member Fox seconded to approve the motion. All Members voted Aye by roll call vote. Motion passed.

Comments: Director De St Hubert noted administration will determine a way to record kindergarten information prior to the end of the year. She clarified that each

site has its own tracking system and procedures in place to watch for students who may be falling off or not attending.

Secondary Grading, 2020-21 School Year: Member Fox moved and Member Wallen-Friedman seconded to approve the motion. All Members voted Aye by roll call vote. Motion passed.

Comments: Director Smasal and Principals Anderson and Dudley provided background on secondary grading during the 2020-21 school year. They noted that secondary levels also have tracking systems and intervention procedures in place for students who aren't engaged.

Member Fox provided an update on the work of the COVID testing ad hoc committee. Superintendent Schultz noted the district is piloting testing procedures at three sites, and Director Tuescher noted Mary Heiman's work with site-based crews to implement testing at all sites. Superintendent Schultz noted the district's current work focuses on budget development, continual planning for new learning models, and plans for federal funding.

At 8:52 PM, there being no objection, Chair Allenburg adjourned the meeting.

