

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

Minutes of April 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022 in the Community Room at the District Service Center, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka, Minnesota. Chairperson Chris Vitale presided. Other Board members present were: Katie Becker, Patrick Lee-O'Halloran, John Odom, Meghan Selinger, Lisa Wagner and Superintendent Dennis Peterson, ex officio. Absent: Mark Ambrosen. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Prior to the meeting, the Board recognized, via a video, the National African American Recognition Award winner, National Hispanic Recognition Award winner and National Indigenous Recognition Award winner from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; Science Bowl State Qualifiers; Science Olympiad State Qualifiers; Music Listening Competition National Qualifiers and National Champions; MBDA 6-8 Honor Band Honoree; Gymnastics State Qualifiers; Wrestling State Qualifiers; Boys Swimming and Diving True Team State Champions and MSHSL State 3rd Place Team; Girls Hockey State Runners Up; Fencing State Qualifiers; and Tonka Top Chef Competition honorees.

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

1. **AGENDA**

Wagner moved, Odom 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 and members of his staff presented MCE program and marketing information. They also shared a short video as part of the presentation. Board member Wagner stated that it was good to see so many people flocking back to Community Education opportunities this year.

3. **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 the 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 53 grants this year, totaling \$58,367.

Becker moved, Wagner seconded, that the Board approve the list of grants. Board member Wagner thanked the Foundation for their time and efforts in reviewing all the grant requests. Board member Becker thanked the teachers for their efforts in submitting grants, the community for providing funding and the Foundation for their support. Board member Selinger noted that the grant program allows teachers to try out innovative ideas that then sometimes get adopted throughout the entire District.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

5. **ADOPTION OF 2023-24 CALENDAR**

Minnesota State law requires the School Board to adopt a calendar prior to April 1 of the school year preceding the year the calendar will be in effect. As is the District's custom, a calendar is set a full year in advance of its due date. Accordingly, in February, a committee of teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, parents and students worked to develop a recommendation to the School Board. As done traditionally, the committee followed the School Board and state law parameters in developing its recommendation.

Executive Director of Human Resources Dr. Mike Cyrus presented a draft of this recommendation at the February 24, 2022 Study Session. This final recommendation has not changed since the February presentation. Thus, the outline for the final recommended calendar is as follows:

- First day of school for staff: Tuesday, August 29, 2023
- First day of school for grades 1-12 students: Tuesday, September 5, 2023
- First day of school for kindergarten students: Thursday, September 7, 2023
- Early release dates: Friday, September 29, 2023; Friday, February 16, 2024
- Late start dates: Wednesday, November 1, 2023; Monday, April 22, 2024
- Fall conference dates: Thursday, Oct. 12, 4-8pm; Friday, Oct. 13, 8am-4pm; an additional 4 hours of conference time to be assigned by building site the weeks of Oct. 9 or Oct. 16, 2023
- Spring conference dates: Thursday, February 29, 4-8pm; Friday, March 1, 8am-4pm; an additional 4 hours of conference time to be assigned by building sites the week of February 26, 2024
- Winter Break: December 21, 2023 – January 1, 2024 (8 work days)
- Spring Break: April 1 – 5, 2024
- Last student day: Friday, June 7, 2024
- Last teacher day: Monday, June 10, 2024

Members of the calendar committee include: Teachers Jennissa Schommer, Brent Frank, Patricia Cespedes-Schueller, Sandy Katkov, Margaret Ruffino, Kelly Swenson and Erik Kottom; Paraprofessional Colleen Fischer; Assistant Principal David Wicklund; Associate Principal Justin Sawyer; Principals Cindy Andress and Curt Carpenter; Coordinator of ECFE Molly Bahneman; Director of Assessment Dr. Matt Rega; Director of Teacher Development Sara White; Director of Activities Ted Schultz; Executive Director of Communications Dr. JacQui Getty; Human Resources Coordinator Sandy Souba; Executive Director of Human Resources Dr. Michael Cyrus; Parents Tesa Laskin, Kirstyn Sansom and Lisa Ulett; and MHS Students Joey Martinez and Audrey Sadura.

Becker moved, Selinger seconded, that the Board approve the 2023-24 calendar as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF NUTRITION SERVICES LUNCH PRICES FOR FY23

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He explained that the mission of the Nutrition Services program is to provide nutritious meals that help support student learning in as economical a manner as possible while not requiring any subsidies from the General Fund. To do this, the Nutrition Services Fund has been operating over the years at a slight operating surplus, with any surpluses that may be built up used to replace capital equipment as it wears out. In this manner, the Nutrition Service Fund does not impact the District General Fund and does not impact the District Operating Capital Fund, leaving those resources to be dedicated directly to educational needs of the District. This prudent course of financial management has made it possible for Nutrition Services to pay all expenses of its program: staff payroll, equipment, repairs, groceries, supplies, and even staff to monitor the lunchrooms while students eat their meals.

Mr. Bourgeois explained that as a result of the pandemic, the District has experienced some supply chain issues and substantial rising costs associated with food, supplies, transportation costs to get food and supplies to the kitchens, and staffing shortages. All of these costs are anticipated to continue to increase into the 2023 school year. To continue to operate in that self-sustaining manner, the recommendation is that lunch prices be increased for Fiscal Year 2023 by 15 cents, resulting in \$3.10 for an elementary lunch, \$3.20 for a middle school lunch, and \$3.40 for a high school lunch. The price increase is required by a USDA regulation that paid lunch prices cover most of the expenses required to produce them, to ensure that Federal free lunch revenue does not subsidize paid lunches. The adult lunch price is being recommended for an increase to \$4.50 to cover the full costs of the adult lunch. The adult price is the minimum required by the USDA. Adult lunches do not receive any Federal or State reimbursement, so the cost is more than a student lunch. Milk is proposed to remain at 50 cents. These increases are needed to cover the rising costs of food prices and diesel fuel prices associated with the delivery of food. It is important to note that if the Federal Government decides to pick up student lunches for another school year, these prices would not go into effect with the exception of the Adult Meal. At this point in

time there has been no indication by the Federal Government that they will be paying for school lunches for FY23, so it is prudent to be prepared to operate in a normal fashion for FY23.

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 set school lunch prices for Fiscal Year 2023 at \$3.10 for an elementary lunch, \$3.20 for a middle school lunch, \$3.40 for a high school lunch, \$4.50 for an adult lunch, and milk at 50 cents per carton.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

7. ADOPTION OF POLICY #412: EMPLOYEE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He explained that when the policy was adopted in 2004, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners was 178.6. As of February 2022, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners was 260.3. That is an increase of 81.7 points or 46%. As a result, Administration is recommending that the per-diem limit for meals plus tips be increased from \$50 per day to \$75 per day.

Odom moved, Becker seconded, that the Board approve revised Policy #412 as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of February 24 Closed Session and Special Meeting; March 3 Regular Meeting and Closed Session; March 14 Special Meeting; March 22 Special Meeting; and March 24 Special Meeting
- Study Session Summaries of February 24 and March 24
- Payment of Bills—in the amount of \$8,570,852.75.
- Recommended Personnel Items
- Gifts and Donations for March 2022: \$4,000.00 from Minnetonka Preschool and ECFE PTO to be placed in the Minnetonka Preschool and ECFE Child and Family Support Account. \$3,000.00 from Minnetonka Preschool and ECFE PTO to be placed in the Minnetonka Preschool Student Field Trips Account. \$40.00 from Target c/o Cyber Grants, LLC and \$300.00 from the Blackburn Giving Account; both to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary School Principal Discretionary Account. \$312.00 from the Deephaven PTA to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary School Young Author's Conference Field Trip Account. \$48.62 from Brent Rickenbach to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary School Principal Discretionary Account. \$33.32 from Frontstream to be placed in the Groveland

Elementary School Principal Discretionary Account. \$38.84 from the Benevity Community Account to be placed in the Minnewashta Elementary School Principal Discretionary Account. \$87.39 from the Benevity Community Account to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary Student Support Account. \$5.60 from the Blackbaud Giving Account to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary School Principal Discretionary Account. \$500.00 from Yuran Liu to be placed in the MHS Theatre Program Account. \$1,259.37 from the Mark Allen Streeter Foundation to be placed in the MHS Mark Allen Streeter Scholarship Account. \$3,242.80 from the Minnetonka Foundation to be placed in the MHS Touch Wall Screen Account. \$165.00 from Chipotle to be placed in the MHS Robotics Club Account. \$100.00 from the Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the MHS Red Cross Club Account. \$100.00 from the Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the MHS Knitting Club Account. \$100.00 from the Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the MHS FCA Club Account. \$100.00 from the Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the MHS Hispanic Student Union Club Account. \$100.00 from the Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the MHS Ping Pong Club Account. \$100.00 from the Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the Minnetonka Mail Club Account. \$6,302.00 from the Minnetonka Girls Softball Assn to be placed in the MHS Girls Softball Scoreboard Account. \$185.00 from the Benevity Community Account to be placed in the Minnetonka School District General Account. \$35.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Account to be placed in the MHS Principal Discretionary Account. An autographed mini helmet from the Minnesota Vikings and a 5-hour pontoon rental from the Bay to Bay Boat Club; both to be donated to the MHS HeartWeek Family Friends Silent Auction. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2021-22: \$265,895.78.

- Electronic Fund Transfers
- Individual Contracts
- Individual Pay Changes
- Prime Food Vendor for Nutrition Services for FY23
- Flexible Spending-Health Reimbursement Accounts Third Party Administrator
- Sabbatical Request
- Resolution Regarding Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant for MCE Playground

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

10. **BOARD REPORTS**

None.

11. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

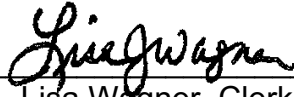
Superintendent Peterson shared that MHS Graduation is just two months away! He also noted that COVID numbers continue to decline, which is great news, and the numbers next week should show if Spring Break had any impact.

12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements this evening.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Wagner moved, Selinger seconded, adjournment at 7:39 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa Wagner", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lisa Wagner, Clerk