

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

Minutes of November 5, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2020 in the Community Room at the District Service Center, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka, Minnesota. Chairperson Katie Becker presided. Other Board members present were: Mark Ambrosen, John Holcomb, Mike LeSage, Christine Ritchie, Chris Vitale, Lisa Wagner and Superintendent Dennis Peterson, ex officio. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Prior to the regular meeting, the Board recognized, via a video, the District's National Merit Scholars; Students with a score of 36 on the ACT; and National AP Scholars.

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

1. **AGENDA**

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

2. **SCHOOL REPORT: DEEPHAVEN ELEMENTARY**

Deephaven Elementary Principal Bryan McGinley updated the Board on how the school year is progressing at Deephaven, with a focus on student mental health efforts and parent/teacher conferences.

3. **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Chairperson Becker outlined the guidelines for the Community Comments portion of the agenda, noting that this opportunity was available to members of the audience who wished to address the Board on any item on that night's agenda. She also read the guidelines for Community Comments, for the benefit of those who wished to comment.

Minnetonka resident Lena Pak then addressed the Board. She expressed her concerns with District Policy #504 and requested changes to language within the policy. Chairperson Becker thanked Ms. Pak for her comments.

4. **PRESENTATION ON MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 CASES**

Health Services Coordinator Annie Lumbar Bendson provided a video update on the District's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the District is managing cases. Board members Holcomb, Ritchie and Becker asked follow-up questions about how the District receives and interprets data to make decisions and about the District's COVID dashboard on the website. Superintendent Peterson and Executive Director of Communications Dr. JacQui Getty responded.

5. **PRESENTATION OF FALL ISTATION DATA**

During the Fall of 2020, First and Second Grade Spanish Immersion students took the Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP) Test. This winter, Kindergarten Spanish Immersion students will take the test, and in the spring, all K-2 Spanish Immersion students will take the test. ISIP is a replacement for the DORA-Spanish Test that was administered to K-2 Spanish Immersion students through the spring of 2016. Director of Assessment Dr. Matt Rega provided the results of Fall tests. Minnetonka students outperformed the national norm in most areas. Dr. Rega said this was encouraging, as the national average is made up of native speakers and non-native speakers. He also explained that in a typical year, fall results can be somewhat unpredictable, because Immersion students do not consistently practice the language throughout the summer, and taking the test within the first two weeks of returning to school can result in unpredictable test performance. It will be important that students continue to work in the Istation system on a regularly scheduled basis throughout the year and with consistent exposure to the system with regular monthly assessments. Spring scores should be positively impacted. School Board Member Christine Ritchie asked follow-up questions, which Dr. Rega addressed.

6. **FOURTH READING OF POLICY #504: STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING CODE**

Chairperson Becker introduced this agenda item and opened it up for discussion. Board Member Wagner made a motion for this item to be tabled for more discussion, considering the School Board had received a lot of good feedback and input at the recent Listening Session and during this meeting in Community Comments, and she thought all of that should be considered together as the policy is reviewed. The School Board discussed that suggestion, Board member Vitale seconded the motion, and upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously. Chairperson Becker noted that this item would be brought back to the November 19 Study Session for further discussion.

7. SECOND READING OF POLICY #524: ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES ACCEPTABLE USE

Superintendent Peterson explained the background of the policy. The policy had been reviewed and discussed at a previous Study Session by the Board. Wagner moved, LeSage seconded, that the policy be adopted as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR MHS PARKING LOT EXPANSION

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois began by saying that as enrollment at Minnetonka High School continues to edge up, it is necessary to provide for additional parking spots for staff and students. It is possible to do a small addition of 20 spots to the ArtsCenter (Purple) Lot, which will allow more staff to park closer to the building and open up an equal amount of parking spots in the other parking lots on the MHS Campus.

Mr. Bourgeois noted that an allocation of \$237,000 will be included in the FY2022 Operating Capital Budget for the parking lot and necessary underground storm water pond construction. In addition, the retaining wall around the north side of Minnetonka High School is being pushed by gravity on the existing blocks to having many areas leaning over past 90 degrees on the vertical plane. The construction date of the retaining wall has not been able to be determined, but it has been in that location for several decades. It is prudent to replace the wall before it fails, and to do so in a manner that follows the latest building codes. As a result, resources totaling \$360,000 have been budgeted in the 10 Year Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan to replace the retaining wall. As a result, a total of \$597,000 is available to construct the parking lot expansion and replace the adjacent retaining wall.

The plans are still under review by the City of Minnetonka Planning Department. However, it is advantageous at this time to accept bids on the plans due to a favorable bidding climate to lock in low prices.

Bids for the project were opened at 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 29, 2020. A total of eight bids were received as follows:

Veit Specialty Contracting	\$454,500
Max Steininger, Inc	\$478,979
Frattalone Companies, Inc.	\$483,210
Fehn Companies, Inc.	\$514,850
New Look Contracting	\$532,250
Peterson Companies, Inc.	\$528,000
Blackstone Contractors, LLC	\$568,000

Northwest Asphalt, Inc.

\$791,700

Mr. Bourgeois recommended that the Board accept the low bid of Veit Specialty Contracting in the amount of \$454,500.

Ritchie moved, Ambrosen seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 does hereby accept the low bid of Veit Specialty Contracting in the amount of \$454,500 for construction of a 20-spot parking lot expansion and replacement of a deteriorating retaining wall at Minnetonka High School in summer 2021, pending final approval of the plans by the City of Minnetonka.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of October 1, 2020 Regular Meeting
- Study Session Summary of October 22, 2020
- Payment of Bills – in the amount of \$7,942,805.52.
- Recommended Personnel Items - as shown in Addendum A.
- Gifts and Donations for October 2020: \$7,000.00 from the ECFE PTO to be placed in the Minnetonka Preschool Student Field Trips & Family Support Program Services Account. \$2,641.00 from the ECFE PTO to be placed in the Minnetonka Preschool Scholarships Account. \$1,000.00 from Village Animal Hospital and \$70.00 from Wells Fargo YourCause, both to be placed in the MHS Theater Program Account. \$300.00 from Special Olympics Minnesota to be placed in the MHS Unified Club Account. \$14.00 from Wells Fargo YourCause, \$21.00 from Wells Fargo YourCause, \$220.00 from EcoLab YourCause, and \$440.00 from EcoLab YourCause, all to be placed in the MHS General Gifts and Donations Account. \$5,000.00 from the Gene Haas Foundation to be placed in the MHS Supermileage and Robotics Account. \$1,500.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the MHS Social Worker Account. \$750.00 from Gregory and Heather Hicks to be placed in the MHS – Anne Schulenberg Special Education Classroom. \$20.00 from Michael and Rebecca Sandberg, \$25.00 from Shelly Curran, \$10.00 from Michelle Hoy, \$15.00 from Timothy Van Dixhorn, and \$25.00 from Gary and Monica Barrett; all to be placed in the MHS Fall IB Retreat Account. \$150.00 from Nicole Champion and \$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation, both to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary School Principal Discretionary Account.

\$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation, \$8,200.00 from the Deephaven PTA, \$150.00 from Medtronic/the Blackbaud Fund, and \$20.00 from Target CyberGrants, LLC, all to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary School Trust Account. \$833.42 from the Excelsior PTO (summer snacks), \$3,966.58 from the Excelsior PTO, and \$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation, all to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary School Trust Account. \$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the Groveland Elementary School Trust Account. \$1,000 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the Minnewashta Elementary School Trust Account. \$4,100.00 (trees and installation) from Chris and Amy Hamdorf, to be planted at Minnewashta Elementary. \$1,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary School Trust Account. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2020-21: \$77,966.80.

- Electronic Fund Transfers - as shown in Addendum B.
- Designation of Title IX Coordinator and Alternate
- Designation of Hearing/Complaint Officer
- Designation of Data Practices Officer
- Update of Policy #521: Student Disability Nondiscrimination

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

10. **BOARD REPORTS**

Board Member Ritchie gave an update on the Minnetonka Foundation's efforts, including Foundation awards, the Tour of Tables event on December 3 at 7:00 p.m., and the Dream Makers event which will likely be virtual. She also noted that the Foundation will allow teachers to defer their awards for the year. She also provided an overview of the Mental Health Advisory Council's recent meeting.

11. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

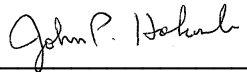
Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson asked the School Board for feedback on how they felt the student recognitions segment went, as it was done in a new way, with videos prerecorded. He also spoke about COVID-19 and said he would keep the Board informed as things evolve there. He said there has been a good turnout for Wednesdays at MHS for high school students, with about 2,000 of them there each week, which, in addition to any in-person classes, allows students the opportunity to meet other students socially and to meet with teachers.

12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member LeSage noted that he had been very pleased with the recognitions segment of the meeting this evening, stating that he liked the creativity. He suggested the District ask students/groups for input on ways they would like to be honored to keep things fresh and engaging. Chairperson Becker said that watching students honor their teachers was always one of her favorite recognition events of the year.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:27 p.m., LeSage moved, Ambrosen seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.



John Holcomb, Clerk