

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

**Minutes of September 3, 2020 School Board Meeting**

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, 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, Christine Ritchie, Chris Vitale, Lisa Wagner and Superintendent Dennis Peterson, ex officio. Absent: Mike LeSage. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

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

**1. AGENDA**

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

**2. 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. No one responded to this invitation to speak.

**3. REPORTS FROM PRINCIPALS ON OPENING OF SCHOOL PLANS**

Reports were given to the Board from the following individuals regarding their Opening of School Plans:

Dr. Paula Hoff, retired Principal at MMW (E-Learning Plan)  
Curt Carpenter, Clear Springs Elementary Principal  
Bryan McGinley, Deephaven Elementary Principal  
Stacy DeCorsey, Excelsior Elementary Principal  
Andrew Gilbertson, Groveland Elementary Principal  
Cindy Andress, Minnewashta Elementary Principal  
Joe Wacker, Scenic Heights Elementary Principal  
Pete Dymit, MME Principal  
Freya Schirmacher, MMW Principal  
Jeff Erickson, MHS Principal  
Tim Litfin, Executive Director of Community Education

Christine Breen, Executive Director of Special Education

Updates were shared from all regarding the preparation and cleaning of instructional spaces; the planned distribution of personal protective equipment; the utilization of outdoor learning spaces; the plans for lunch and recess, pickup and dropoff; how teachers plan to build connections with students; the number of students choosing the full e-learning option; specialists' schedules; and how the fourth and fifth grade teachers will be supported at the high school.

Chairperson Becker thanked all the presenters for their in-depth reports and wished them all the very best for a smooth start to the school year.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF POSSIBLE CHANGES TO SCHOOL OPENING PLAN**

Superintendent Peterson shared the following recommended adjustments to the School Opening Plan:

1. The original opening date of September 8, 2020 will no longer allow for all work to be done for students to have a positive start. It is, therefore, recommended that the first day of school for students in Grades K-8 be Thursday, September 10 and that they start with half of the students on Thursday and half on Friday, September 11. The virtual classes for K-8 would also start on September 10. High school students will begin school, as planned, on September 8.
2. The middle school principals and the Minnetonka Teachers Association have created a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enable a block schedule to be used for middle school students in school and online for the duration of the Plan.

Ambrosen moved, Ritchie seconded, that the Board approve the recommended adjustments to the School Opening Plan. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously. Board members thanked District administrators for working so hard to make sure that students have a good start to the school year.

#### **5. PRESENTATION ON PARENT SURVEY**

Dr. Jacqui Getty, Executive Director of Communications, presented this item to the Board. By way of background, she explained that each year, the District surveys parents about their family's educational experience in our schools. The 2020 Parent Survey was administered May 17 – June 18 and captured 2,515 completed responses. All parents were invited to participate in the online survey, and multiple reminders were sent to increase participation. Although this is not a random sample survey, the District is confident in the results. Demographic questions on resident/non-resident, grade level of students, various program participation and more indicated that respondents were consistent with the distribution of our student population.

Results of the survey were again outstanding, showing high confidence in our programs, schools, teachers and leadership.

- Approximately **97%** (96.6%) of respondents rate the education provided by the Minnetonka School District as excellent or good, with **67%** rating it excellent.
- **34%** of respondents believe the quality of education has improved over the last five years, **59%** believe it has remained the same and **7%** feel there has been a decrease.
- **97%** of parents who responded believe our community receives a good value from its investment in our local public schools (up from 94% in 2019).
- **96%** of elementary school parents, **97%** of middle school parents and **95%** of high school parents would recommend their school to friends or neighbors. These numbers have all increased over the results from 2019.
- **95%** of parents, on average, believe their school principal is accessible to them when they have questions or concerns. This is up from 93% in 2019.
- **96%** of parents, on average, believe their child's school provides a safe learning environment.

Dr. Getty then went over the results in more detail, focusing on Preschool Education, Elementary Education, Middle School Education, High School Education, and School and District Leadership.

Board members thanked Ms. Getty for the in-depth report. Board member Wagner thanked the District families that had taken the time to fill out the survey. She also noted that the Board reads every one of the 8,000+ comments that are received.

## **6. APPROVAL OF SALE OF 2020F GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He noted that at the School Board Meeting of June 4, 2020, the Board had authorized the sale of up to \$2,085,000 2020F General Obligation Alternative Facilities Refunding Bonds to refund outstanding principal of the 2012C and 2014A bonds to lower interest rates and accrue savings.

Sale of the 2020F General Obligation Alternative Facilities Refunding Bonds started at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. The bonds were sold at a true interest cost of 2.08%, which is significantly lower than the 3.42% rate of the refunded bonds. In addition, that rate was lower than the initial 2.53% estimate for this transaction. The transaction also results in a Net Present Value savings of \$140,128.50, which is an increase over the initial estimate of \$45,412.67. This transaction also will lower the annual payment by an average of \$91,298 annually.

Mr. Bourgeois recommended approval of the bond resolution that was written by the District's bond counsel, Dorsey & Whitney.

Vitale moved, Holcomb seconded, that the Board approve the resolution as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

**7. APPROVAL OF SALE OF 2020G GENERAL OBLIGATION LONG-TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE BONDS**

Mr. Bourgeois noted that at the School Board Meeting of August 6, 2020, the Board had authorized the sale of up to \$4,950,000 2020G General Obligation Long Term Facilities Maintenance Bonds to fund Long Term Facilities Maintenance Projects scheduled in Fiscal Year 2022.

Sale of the 2020G General Obligation Long Term Facilities Maintenance Bonds started at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. The bonds were sold at a true interest cost of 1.74%, which is below the estimated rate of 2.16%. Due to the buyer interest in the bonds, it was possible to issue the bonds at premium which lowered the par value by \$80,000 to \$4,870,000 while still providing \$4,950,000 in funds for the scheduled long term facility maintenance projects.

Mr. Bourgeois recommended approval of the bond resolution that was written by the District’s bond counsel, Dorsey & Whitney.

Wagner moved, Ambrosen seconded, that the Board approve the resolution as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS FOR REPAVING AT MINNEWASHTA ELEMENTARY AND MINNETONKA COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER FOR SUMMER 2021**

Mr. Bourgeois noted that as part of the rolling Long Term Facility Maintenance 10 Year Plan, paving projects to resurface parking lots are scheduled each year as important components for keeping the District’s school buildings and sites in a state of good repair. For Summer 2021, paving projects are scheduled at the following locations:

Minnewashta Elementary School Main Lot	Budget Estimate \$392,000
Minnetonka Community Education Center East Lot	Budget Estimate \$ 70,000

Bids were opened for the two paving projects at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Bid results were received as follows, with the low bid highlighted in Bold Italic:

Vendor	Minnewashta	MCEC	Total
Bituminous Roadways, Inc.	<b><i>\$133,925.00</i></b>	<b><i>\$23,000.00</i></b>	<b><i>\$156,925.00</i></b>
Northwest Asphalt, Inc.	\$138,700.00	\$26,300.00	\$165,000.00
Allied Blacktop Company	\$147,421.00	\$23,564.00	\$170,985.00
Minnesota Paving and Materials	\$141,700.00	\$30,800.00	\$172,500.00

FPI Paving Contractors, Inc.	\$156,350.00	\$27,707.00	\$184,057.00
Park Construction Company	\$157,428.00	\$30,622.50	\$188,050.50
SM Hentges & Sons, Inc.	\$175,480.00	\$32,385.00	\$207,865.00
Molnau Trucking LLC	\$292,145.00	\$57,425.00	\$349,570.00

Mr. Bourgeois recommended that the School Board accept the low bids for Summer 2021 paving projects at Minnewashta Elementary School and the Minnetonka Community Education Center.

Wagner moved, Vitale seconded, that the Board approve the following motion:

*BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 does hereby accept the low bid of Bituminous Roadways in the amount of \$156,925.00 for paving projects at Minnewashta Elementary School and the Minnetonka Community Education Center in Summer 2021.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

## **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of August 20, 2020 Special Meeting
- Study Session Summary of August 20, 2020
- Payment of Bills - in the sum of \$11,302,943.23.
- Recommended Personnel Items – as shown in Addendum A.
- Gifts and Donations for August 2020: \$600.00 from the Shell Matching Gift Program Read-a-thon to be placed in the Groveland Elementary General Gifts and Donations Account. \$20.80 from the Best Buy Employee Giving Program to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary General Gifts and Donations Account. \$105.00 from YourCause, Wells Fargo to be placed in the Minnewashta Elementary General Gifts and Donations Account. \$1,500.00 from the Einer Anderson Senior Memorial Scholarship to be placed in the Minnetonka High School General Gifts and Donations Account. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2020-21: \$3,225.80.
- Electronic Fund Transfers – as shown in Addendum B.
- Approval of Employee Agreement with Office Assistants
- Approval of Employee Agreement with Paraprofessionals

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

**10. FAREWELL FROM TIM ALEXANDER**

Retiring Executive Director of Human Resources Tim Alexander delivered his farewell remarks to the Board. He thanked Board members and Dr. Peterson for their support and encouragement over the past 12 years. He said he considered it a privilege to close out his career in Minnetonka, noting that the District continually strives for excellence and is not afraid to take bold steps to achieve that excellence. He also thanked all the District administrators and principals that he had worked with over the years.

Board members thanked Mr. Alexander for his exemplary service to the District and wished him all the best for a wonderful retirement. Board member Holcomb specifically thanked him for the connections he had built with the Universidad de Concepción in Chile and the student teacher program there.

**11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Peterson thanked District administrators and principals for the incredible amount of work they had done in order to be ready for the start of the upcoming school year.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Wager moved, Ritchie seconded, adjournment at 10:00 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

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John Holcomb, Clerk