

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

**Minutes of September 7, 2023 Regular Board Meeting**

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 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, Michael Remucal, Meghan Selinger, Chris Vitale and Superintendent David Law, ex officio. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Prior to the meeting, the Board recognized the following individuals and groups: Boys Varsity Baseball state qualifiers; Boys Varsity Golf state qualifiers; Girls Varsity Golf state qualifiers; Boys Tennis state qualifiers; Boys Track and Field state qualifiers/alternates; Girls Track and Field state qualifiers/alternates; Theatre Spotlight Award Contributors from the Spring production of *Guys and Dolls*; National LERN award earned by Minnetonka Community Education; National School PR Association awards earned by the District Communications team; and National PhysTEC Teacher of the Year Award earned by Minnetonka High School physics instructor Joe Cosette.

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

1. **AGENDA**

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

2. **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. She also read the guidelines for Community Comments, for the benefit of those who wished to speak.

District resident and parent Tara Lee Stone addressed the Board at this time. She noted that the Board would be hearing a report on district test results this evening, and asked that the Board review Policy 626 in regards to how those test results affect our students. She also asked that the Board make sure the District policies are fair, that they serve a purpose, that they apply equally to all, and that they align with the district's beliefs, missions and goals. She asked that the Board formally and publicly review Policy 626 through this lens.

### 3. REPORT ON ACT, SAT, IB and AP 2023 RESULTS

Director of Assessment Dr. Matt Rega shared a report on the ACT, IB, AP and SAT results from the 2022-23 school year, explaining it was a truly unique year of achievement for Minnetonka students. His presentation outlined highlights and summaries of results from each of these assessments and programs, including the following:

#### 2023 Highlights

- ACT score (637 students) of 26.0 reflects reflects 69.6% of the Class of 2023
- The Top 100, 200 and 400 remain strong (Top 100 – 34.3)
- Overall, the AP program saw enrollment increase from 1,668 to 1,753 (all-time high). The percentage of students scoring a three or higher on the five-point scale increased from 85.0 to 85.7 percent.
- AP Scholar levels saw an increase: Distinction – 286 to 331; Honor – 127 to 1,252; Scholar – 252 to 281 (all-time high levels)
- May 2023 was the first year since the pandemic that IB moved back to traditional assessment model

#### IB Insights

- During the pandemic, IB exams were on an adjusted assessment model (i.e. fewer exams and everything assessed externally by IB)
- More challenging sections of the test were added back to external assessment that were dropped during the pandemic
- One MHS teacher had experience with the pre-COVID testing requirements

#### AP Overview

- AP Math scores remained strong, again improving in 4 of 5 areas
- AP Science scores improved or remained the same in 5 of 7 areas
- AP Government and History exams improved or maintained on 5 of 5 exams

#### VANTAGE

- Students' performance in IB Business SL showed a decrease after eclipsing the 5.0 mark the past three years. The mean score dropped from 5.34 to 4.73
- VANTAGE students earned higher AP Psych scores (3.34) compared to non-VANTAGE students (3.29). The ACT mean for VANTAGE students was a 26.4 versus a 27.5 ACT mean for non-VANTAGE students with VANTAGE students earning an average GPA of 3.47 versus a 3.46 for non-VANTAGE students
- The AP Seminar mean for VANTAGE students (3.38) compared to non-VANTAGE students (3.98) mirrored the profile of both student groups. The non-VANTAGE group also surpassed the VANTAGE students' ACT mean by 3.2 points and had a .12-point higher GPA

## Recommendations

- Math teachers will need to focus on the three areas critical for success on the ACT Math Test: Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra, Intermediate Algebra/Coordinate Geometry, and Plane Geometry/Trigonometry in addition to SAT Math
- The Science Department will need to continue to look carefully at how problem-solving skills can be better integrated into the Science curriculum and continue to study course options for all students
- World Language teachers will continue to focus on studying the AP Exams carefully to ensure student success each year
- VANTAGE instructors will need to monitor changes made to curriculum and assignments to support students and address the differences in assessment performance

After the presentation, Board member Selinger asked whether Dr. Rega knew the results of how the increasingly diverse group of students in the VANTAGE program performed. Dr. Rega said that is data we have and that he will follow up on that. She asked if there was a breakdown by special education. Dr. Rega said that is not something we have included in this report in years past but that he does have data on that and can share it. Board member Lee-O'Halloran asked about weighted grades. Dr. Rega said we do have that information, as well, but not on hand. He will follow up with the Board.

Chairperson Wagner thanked Dr. Rega for his presentation and said the Board looks forward to that follow-up information.

#### 4. **NUTRITION SERVICES UPDATE**

As part of the District goals for 2023-2024, the School Board has included the successful implementation of the recently approved no-cost meal legislation, which includes breakfast at every site. There is also a continued focus on fully staffing all sites in Nutrition Services and increasing the variety and quality of meals available for students. Nutrition Services Supervisor Jane Bender gave an update to the School Board on the initial roll-out of the breakfast program during the first week of school, as well as progress updates on staffing and meal offerings for students.

Board member Remucal said because the elementary school doors now opened earlier, there was almost no car line when he dropped off his student, which was great. Board member Lee-O'Halloran asked whether the staffing levels are back to pre-pandemic levels. Ms. Bender said we learned a lot during COVID about multi-tasking. She said that means we are at 90% of where we want to be now, knowing we are working more efficiently now. Board member Lee-O'Halloran asked whether Ms. Bender is soliciting feedback from her staff. Ms. Bender said she does ask for feedback and that staff knows there is an open door policy and that principals are also giving feedback. Board member Selinger said it's great that Nutrition Services looked at what other districts were doing as they made changes. Chairperson Wagner told Ms. Bender to please thank her team for their efforts.

## 5. POLICY APPROVALS

The District Administration is making recommendations for policy revisions due to recent legislative changes. The following policies were reviewed and discussed by the Board and Administration at the Board's Study Session on August 17. Superintendent Law reminded the public that policies change for a variety of reasons, including because of legislative changes, community input or for other reasons. Executive Director of Human Resources Anjie Flowers then presented the following policies to the Board:

### Policy #424: License Status

Ms. Flowers noted that the state's Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) has a requirement to report on all of the items listed for revision in this policy, based on new legislation. This has been added to the state's Continuing Contract state statute, in an effort to support the retention of BIPOC teachers. Ms. Flowers noted that in practice, the district already reports this data to MDE annually.

Ambrosen moved, Lee-O'Halloran seconded, that the Board approve the policy as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

### Policy #515: Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records

Ms. Flowers noted that the Board determines what is public student directory data. Pursuant to new legislation, student names and addresses can no longer be included as public directory data. That information has been stricken from the policy.

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

### Policy #534: Equal Educational Opportunity

Ms. Flowers noted that this policy mirrors what is likely coming from the federal level regarding Title IX changes that will ensure that transgender students have access to participate in activities and sports. The revisions in this policy reflect the state legislative changes and list factors that must be considered for all sexes and all races. Some examples include: having a variety of sports that reflect the interest of all students, along with provisions for equipment, coaches, and practice time. District Activities Director Ted Schultz has stated that this will not impact our current practice; however, we are making the revisions to ensure compliance with the new state legislation.

Becker moved, Remucal seconded, that the Board approve the policy as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

### Policy #516.1: Overdose Medication

Ms. Flowers noted that this was a new policy, developed to align with the new state requirements for the availability of nasal Naloxone at school sites. Ms. Flowers noted that district health staff have been trained on the proper storage and use of this medication.

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

#### Policy #419: Tobacco-Free Environment

Ms. Flowers noted that this policy includes revisions to better define vaping, including vaping prevention instruction that is required for grades 6-8. This policy sets clear expectations and has clear definitions about vaping and tobacco. In addition, there was a change to state law to allow American Indian students the use of loose tobacco on school property for ceremonial or ritual purposes, and that is now reflected in this policy.

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

#### Policy #418: Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

Ms. Flowers began by speaking about Policy 417. Policy 417 currently serves as the drug-free workplace policy, and also lists consequences for students for violation of that policy. The district is recommending a separate policy, Policy 418, for drug-free workplace. District administration will later bring Policy 417 to the Board for revisions. At that time, the new policy 417 will focus solely on the consequences for students, whereas Policy 418 is a comprehensive policy consisting of expectations and definitions for staff, students and visitors, regarding a drug-free workplace. In addition, given recent changes to cannabis law in Minnesota, administration believed it was a good time to create a comprehensive drug-free workplace policy. Although cannabis has been legalized at the state level, it is still illegal at the federal level, and as such is illegal in our schools. This policy clearly prohibits marijuana and cannabis. There is also an education component that will go into effect in the 2026-27 school year.

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

### **6. ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR HVAC REPLACEMENT AT DEEPHAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented the next three items to the Board. He explained that as part of the rolling Long Term Facility Maintenance 10 Year Plan, replacement of two 1996-installed R-22 HVAC units at Deephaven Elementary School is scheduled for summer 2024. The budget estimate for the project is \$245,000.

Bids were opened at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. Four (4) bids were received for the project as follows:

Kraft Mechanical, LLC	\$149,000.00
Morcon Construction Company, Inc.	\$173,000.00
Northland Mechanical Contractors	\$189,700.00
Peterson Sheet Metal	\$206,000.00

Mr. Bourgeois recommended that the School Board accept the low bid of Kraft Mechanical, LLC in the amount of \$149,000.00 for replacement of the R-22 HVAC systems at Deephaven Elementary School in summer 2024.

Lee-O'Halloran 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 accept the low bid of Kraft Mechanical, LLC, in the amount of \$149,000.00 for replacement of R-22 HVAC systems at Deephaven Elementary School in summer 2024.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

7. **ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR CABINET REPLACEMENT AND WALL RESURFACING AT EXCELSIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

As part of the rolling Long Term Facility Maintenance 10 Year Plan, replacement of cabinets and resurfacing of the hallway walls of the north wing of Excelsior Elementary School has been scheduled for summer 2024. The budget estimate for the project is \$509,600.

Bids were opened at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. Four (4) bids were received for the project as follows:

Morcon Construction Company, Inc.	\$288,031.00
CM Construction Company, Inc.	\$309,800.00
Dering Pierson Group, LLC	\$333,000.00
Action Construction Services	\$397,000.00

Mr. Bourgeois recommended that the School Board accept the low bid of Morcon Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$288,031.00 for replacement of cabinets and wall resurfacing at Excelsior Elementary School in summer 2024.

Vitale 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 accept the low bid of Morcon Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$288,031.00 for replacement of cabinets and wall resurfacing at Excelsior Elementary School in summer 2024.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR UNIT VENTILATOR REPLACEMENT AT CLEAR SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

As part of the rolling Long Term Facility Maintenance 10 Year Plan, replacement of unit ventilators in twelve rooms of the east wing of Clear Springs Elementary School has been scheduled for summer 2024. The budget estimate for the project is \$793,600.

Bids were opened at 1:00 PM on Thursday, August 31, 2023. Two (2) bids were received for the project as follows:

Morcon Construction Company, Inc.	\$786,000.00
Burnn Boiler & Mechanical, Inc.	\$878,000.00

Mr. Bourgeois recommended that the School Board accept the low bid of Morcon Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$786,000.00 for replacement of unit ventilators at Clear Springs Elementary School in summer 2024.

Selinger 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 accept the low bid of Morcon Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$786,000.00 for replacement of unit ventilators at Clear Springs Elementary School in summer 2024.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of August 3 Regular Meeting and Closed Session; and August 17 Special Meeting
- Study Session Summary of August 17
- Payment of Bills – in the sum of \$9,376,978.98.
- Recommended Personnel Items
- Gifts and Donations for August 2023: \$75.00 from Target to be placed in the MME Activities Registration Fund. \$440.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MHS Principal Discretionary Fund. \$550.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MHS Fastpitch Team Fund. \$1,000.00 from Stephen Pouliot and \$1,040.00 from the Minnetonka Class of 1963, both to be placed in the MHS Creative Writing Scholarship Fund. \$1,044.00 from the Rotary Club of Lake Minnetonka/Excelsior to be placed in the MHS Interact Club Fund. \$5,000.00 from the Rotary Club of Lake Minnetonka/Excelsior to be placed in the MHS Tonka Prep Grant Fund. \$40.00 from Target c/o of Cyber Grants, LLC to be placed in the

Deephaven Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$37.50 from Kurt Hoddinot and \$26.25 from King Solutions, LLC, both to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$637.00 from Boba Tonka Bubble Tea, LLC to be placed in the MHS Cultural Fair Fund. Total Gifts and Donations for 2023-24: \$231,129.33.

- Electronic Fund Transfers

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

10. **BOARD REPORTS**

None.

11. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Law said he had had the privilege of being in the schools as the school year started and it had been great to see the enthusiasm of the students, staff and administration. He extended his thanks to staff for being so welcoming and for going the extra mile to make sure students and families had a good start to the year.

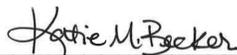
12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member Becker reminded families and staff about the Tonka Pride apparel Fall Sale at the District Service Center on Friday, September 15 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, September 16 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. She also mentioned that the Skippers Booster Store at MHS is open from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. every school day and has some extended hours as well this fall. She explained that 100% of the proceeds from Tonka Pride and the Skippers Booster Store go back to the school district, by supporting the PTO/A groups, student clubs and organizations. She also shared that Minnetonka's Homecoming Parade will be September 22 in downtown Excelsior and the football game will be later that evening at Einer Anderson Field at MHS.

Chairperson Wagner reminded the viewing public of the upcoming School Board election and noted that the League of Women Voters is hosting a candidate forum on Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Arts Center at MHS. All are welcome to attend, and it will also be livestreamed.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Becker moved, Remucal seconded, adjournment at 8:12 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.



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Katie Becker, Clerk