

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

**Minutes of December 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 1, 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: Mark Ambrosen, Katie Becker, Patrick Lee-O'Halloran, Michael Remucal, Meghan Selinger, Lisa Wagner and Superintendent David Law, ex officio. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Prior to the meeting, the Board recognized, via a video, the Girls Varsity Tennis State Champions; Boys Varsity Cross Country State Qualifiers (4<sup>th</sup> place); Girls Varsity Cross Country State Qualifiers (2<sup>nd</sup> place); Middle School Mountain Biking State Champions; District Service Center Honored Artists (Middle Level); AP Scholars with Honor from the 2021-22 School Year; and Leaders and Site Coordinators for the Employee Charitable Giving Campaign.

Also prior to the regular meeting, the Board held its annual Truth in Taxation Hearing. Superintendent Law said that this time was set aside to provide information to District residents and that the Board would take action on the levy as part of that evening's regular meeting agenda. He called upon Paul Bourgeois, Executive Director of Finance and Operations, to present the information to the Board.

Mr. Bourgeois began by saying that MN Statutes have required since 1988 that every school district, city and county hold a Truth in Taxation hearing prior to adopting the annual property tax levy. At the hearing, the School District must present information on the current year budget, information on the proposed levy, and it must explain major changes in the proposed levy. In addition, after the presentation, the School District is required to take public comment on the proposed levy.

Highlights of Mr. Bourgeois' presentation included the following:

### District Revenues and Expenditures

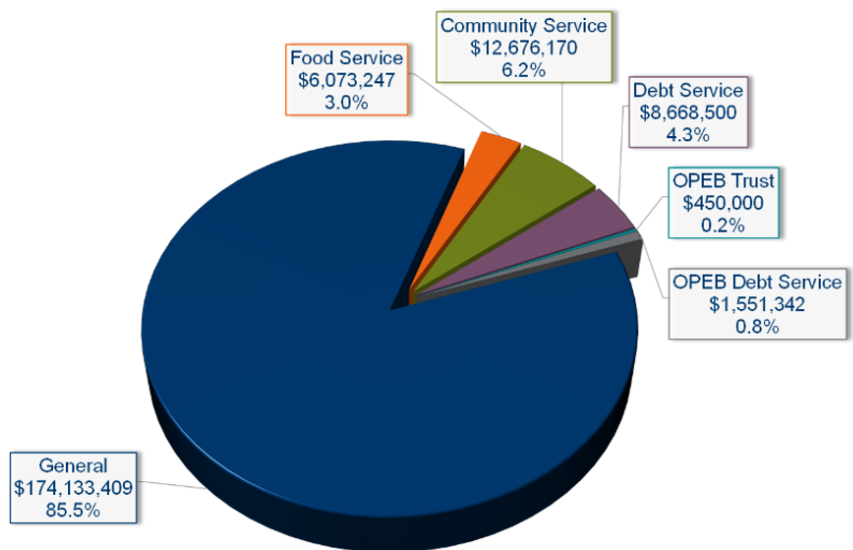
Actual for FY 2022, Budget for FY 2023

	FISCAL 2022 BEGINNING	2021-22 ACTUAL	2021-22 ACTUAL	JUNE 30, 2022 ACTUAL	2022-23 BUDGET	2022-23 BUDGET	JUNE 30, 2023 PROJECTED
	FUND BALANCES	REVENUES & TRANSFERS IN	EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS OUT	FUND BALANCES	REVENUES & TRANSFERS IN	EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS OUT	FUND BALANCES
General/Restricted	\$4,513,957	\$24,607,685	\$24,899,719	\$4,221,923	\$22,300,651	\$20,461,009	\$6,061,565
General/Other	28,597,565	154,741,188	154,775,987	28,562,766	151,832,758	151,503,447	28,892,077
Food Service	1,433,782	6,565,747	4,986,676	3,012,852	6,073,247	6,593,354	2,492,745
Community Service	911,122	13,141,158	11,278,077	2,774,203	12,676,170	12,911,282	2,539,091
Building Construction	1,058,190	20,438,293	4,906,382	16,590,101	-	10,000,000	6,590,101
Debt Service	1,745,730	51,369,388	51,825,091	1,290,027	8,668,500	9,023,967	934,560
Internal Service	9,733,877			10,643,467			10,765,022
OPEB* Revocable Trust	27,300,773	(2,196,078)	10,604,419	14,500,277	450,000	768,720	14,181,557
OPEB* Debt Service	414,247	1,696,788	1,606,660	504,375	1,551,342	1,475,746	579,971
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$75,709,244</b>	<b>\$270,364,169</b>	<b>\$264,883,011</b>	<b>\$82,099,991</b>	<b>\$203,552,668</b>	<b>\$212,737,525</b>	<b>\$73,036,689</b>

\*Other Post Employment Benefits

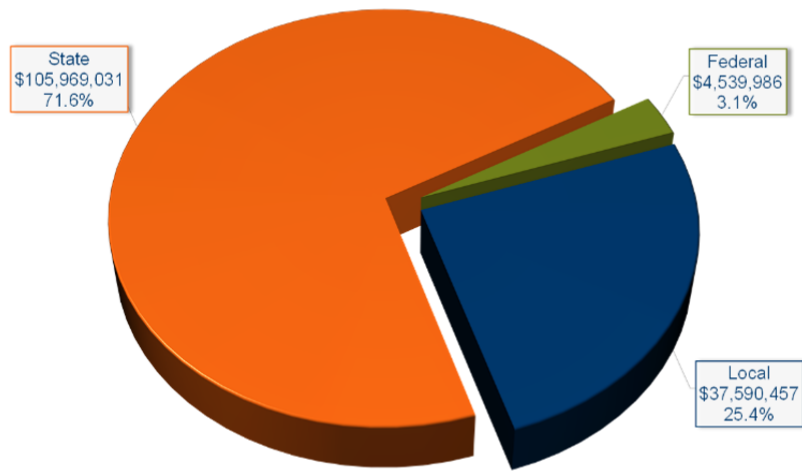
### Revenue - All Funds -

2022-23 Budget  
\$203,552,668



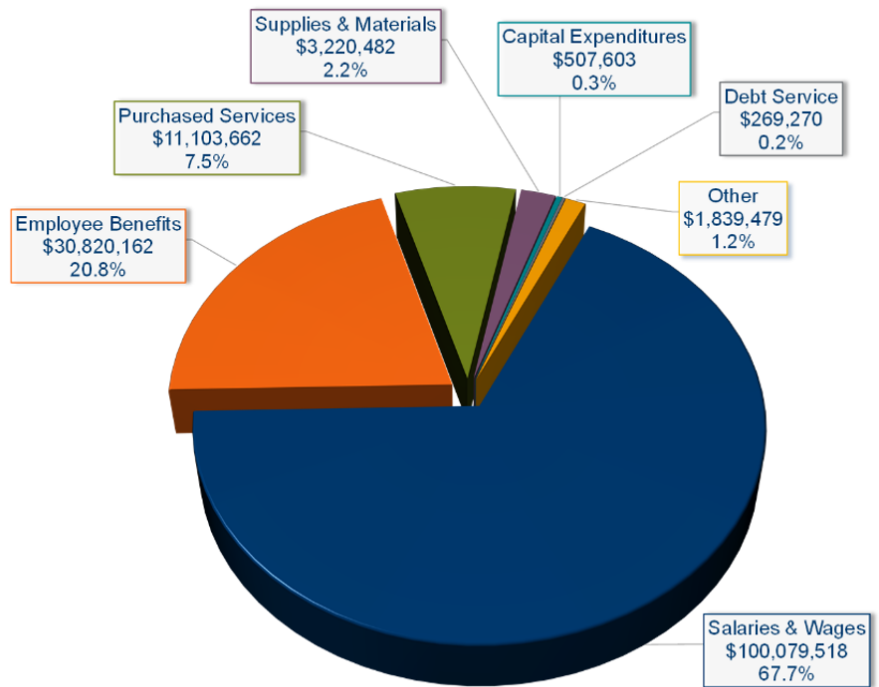
## General Fund Revenue

2022-23 Budget  
\$148,099,474



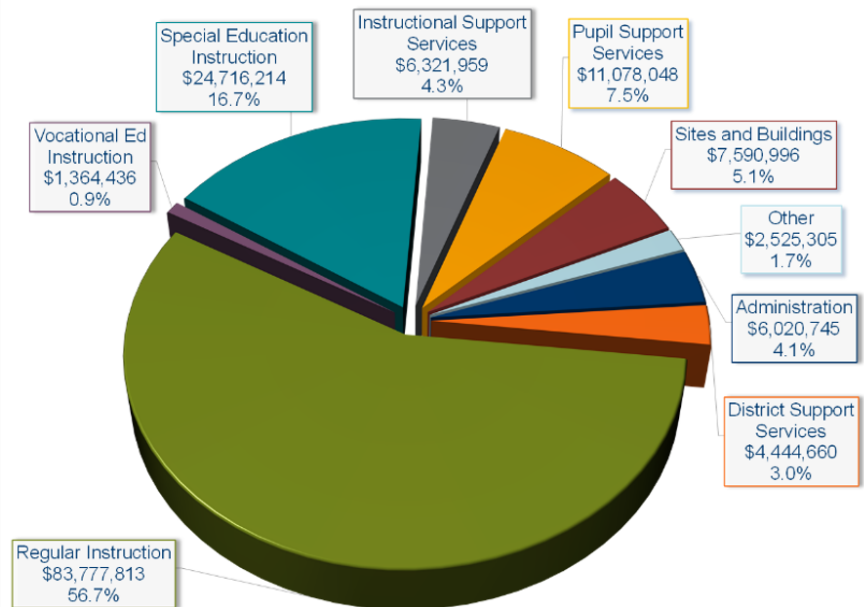
## General Fund Expenditures - by Object -

2022-23 Budget  
\$147,840,176



## General Fund Expenditures - by Program -

2022-23 Budget  
\$147,840,176



## Overview of District's Proposed Tax Levy

- Proposed Payable 2023 tax levy is an increase from 2022 of \$6,138,935 or 10.9%
- Changes by levy category and reasons for major increases & decreases in levy are included on following slides

Fund Levy Category	Actual Levy Payable in 2022	Proposed Levy Payable in 2023	\$ Change	% Change
<b>General</b>				
Voter Approved Operating Referendum	\$22,917,435	\$25,874,581	\$2,957,147	
Local Optional Revenue (LOR)	8,658,282	8,721,859	63,577	
Equity	842,593	845,900	3,307	
Capital Project/Technology Referendum	7,275,915	7,609,742	333,827	
Operating Capital	1,177,566	1,236,845	59,278	
Alternate Teacher Compensation	1,034,188	1,050,093	15,905	
Long Term Facilities Maintenance	590,000	600,000	10,000	
Instructional Lease	2,462,671	2,554,553	91,882	
Other	1,304,431	1,288,747	(15,684)	
Prior Year Adjustments	(202,115)	2,243,377	2,445,492	
<b>Total, General Fund</b>	<b>\$46,060,966</b>	<b>\$52,025,697</b>	<b>\$5,964,731</b>	<b>12.9%</b>
<b>Community Service</b>				
Basic Community Education	\$303,140	\$303,140	\$0	
Early Childhood Family Education	290,752	305,505	14,753	
School-Age Child Care	100,000	100,000	0	
Other	12,123	11,452	(671)	
Prior Year Adjustments	274,034	289,581	15,546	
<b>Total, Community Service Fund</b>	<b>\$980,049</b>	<b>\$1,009,678</b>	<b>\$29,628</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>				
Voter Approved	\$1,862,015	\$1,706,700	(\$155,315)	
Long Term Facility Maintenance	6,409,458	6,490,149	80,691	
Other Post Employment Benefits	1,549,533	1,552,001	2,468	
Reduction for Debt Excess	(400,000)	(175,385)	224,615	
Prior Year Adjustments	12,837	4,954	(7,883)	
<b>Total, Debt Service Fund</b>	<b>\$9,433,843</b>	<b>\$9,578,418</b>	<b>\$144,576</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>Total Levy, All Funds</b>	<b>\$56,474,858</b>	<b>\$62,613,793</b>	<b>\$6,138,935</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
<b>Subtotal by Truth in Taxation Categories:</b>				
Voter Approved	31,719,607	37,382,854	5,663,247	
Other	24,755,251	25,230,939	475,688	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,474,858</b>	<b>\$62,613,793</b>	<b>\$6,138,935</b>	<b>10.9%</b>

## Explanation of Levy Changes

### Category:

General Fund – Prior Year Adjustments

### Change:

+\$2,445,492 – Largest Adjustment Is FY23 Operating Referendum 4.3% of the 10.9% increase – one-time – drops off next year

### Use of Funds:

Various - Primarily General Fund Operating Expenditures

### Reason for Change:

Initial levies are based on estimates. In next year, amounts are recalculated with actual results and retroactively adjusted.  
\$1,881.81 estimated - \$2,074.17 actual - \$165.36 or 8.9%

## Explanation of Levy Changes

<b>Category:</b>	General Fund - Voter Approved Operating Referendum
<b>Change:</b>	+\$2,957,147 – 5.2% of the 10.9% increase – ongoing
<b>Use of Funds:</b>	General Operating Expenditures
<b>Reason for Change:</b>	Voter approved operating referendum inflation increase per pupil \$1,881.81 for 21 Pay 22 versus \$2,110.97 for 22 Pay 23 \$229.16 or 12.2% increase per pupil over 21 Pay 22 Levy

## Explanation of Levy Changes

<b>Category:</b>	Capital Projects (Technology) Referendum
<b>Change:</b>	+\$333,827 – 0.6% of the 10.9% increase
<b>Use of Funds:</b>	Primarily District Technology and also classroom equipment and security barriers per voter approved referendum question
<b>Reason for Change:</b>	Based on 6.569% of net tax capacity <u>calculated</u> on property values which increased 4.59% in Calendar 2021

## Explanation of Levy Changes

<b>Category:</b>	Reduction for Debt Service Excess
<b>Change:</b>	+\$224,615 – 0.4% of the 10.9%
<b>Use of Funds:</b>	Payments on General Obligation Bond Payments
<b>Reason for Change:</b>	GO Bonds are levied at 105% of required bond payments so a Balance gradually builds up so is used to offset future levies Prior year was (\$400,000) – Current year (\$175,385)

## Factors Impacting Individual Taxpayers' School Taxes

Many factors can cause a tax bill for an individual property to increase or decrease from year to year

- Changes in value of individual property
- Changes in total value of all property within District
- Increases or decreases in levy amounts caused by changes in state funding formulas, local needs & costs, voter-approved referendums & other factors

## Four Year School Levy Comparison

- Examples include school district taxes only & are shown based on no change and a 22.0% increase in property value for residential homes over the past four years
  - Actual changes in value may be more or less than this for any parcel of property
  - Intended to provide a fair representation of what happened to school district property taxes over this period for typical properties
- Examples are for property in City of Minnetonka
- Amounts for 2023 are preliminary estimates; final amounts could change slightly
- Estimates prepared by Ehlers (District's municipal financial advisors)

Estimated Changes in School Property Taxes, 2020 to 2023  
Based on No Changes in Property Values

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Actual Taxes Payable in 2020	Actual Taxes Payable in 2021	Actual Taxes Payable in 2022	Estimated Taxes Payable in 2023	Change in Taxes 2020 to 2023	Change in Taxes 2022 to 2023
Residential Homestead	\$300,000	\$1,630	\$1,581	\$1,545	\$1,434	-\$196	-\$111
	400,000	2,200	2,134	2,086	1,933	-267	-153
	500,000	2,754	2,670	2,611	2,420	-334	-191
	600,000	3,357	3,257	3,186	2,948	-409	-238
	700,000	3,961	3,843	3,761	3,476	-485	-285
	800,000	4,565	4,430	4,336	4,004	-561	-332
	900,000	5,168	5,016	4,910	4,532	-636	-378
Commercial/Industrial #	\$1,000,000	\$5,899	\$5,773	\$5,541	\$5,210	-\$689	-\$331
	1,250,000	7,399	7,241	6,950	6,534	-865	-416
	1,500,000	8,898	8,709	8,358	7,857	-1,041	-501
	2,000,000	11,897	11,645	11,176	10,504	-1,393	-672
	2,500,000	14,895	14,581	13,994	13,151	-1,744	-843

# For commercial-industrial property, amounts above are for property in the City of Minnetonka. Taxes for commercial-industrial property in other municipalities may be slightly different, due to the impact of the Fiscal Disparities Program.

### General Notes

1. Amounts are based on school district taxes only, and do not include taxes for city or township, county, state, or other taxing jurisdictions.
2. Estimates of taxes payable in 2023 are preliminary, based on the best data available.
3. For all examples of properties, taxes are calculated based on no changes in estimated market value from 2020 to 2023.



Mr. Bourgeois noted that the 2022 Payable 2023 Levy to be presented for Certification by the School Board is \$62,613,793.43. A school district can always lower the Final Levy Certification from the amount of the Preliminary Levy Certification in a particular category, but it can never increase it from the Preliminary Levy Certification unless there is a voter-approved referendum for facilities, capital projects, or operations. The proposed final levy of \$62,613,793.43 is an increase of \$6,138,935.16 or 10.87% from the prior year amount of \$56,474,858.27.

At this point in the proceedings, Chairperson Vitale invited members of the public to speak regarding the proposed levy. Eden Prairie resident Sarah Jackson addressed the Board at this time, expressing her concern regarding the increase in the levy. Chairperson Vitale then closed the public hearing, called the regular meeting to order and asked that everyone stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1. **AGENDA**

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

2. **SCHOOL REPORT: MMW**

MMW Principal Freya Schirmacher provided an update summarizing the first quarter highlights at MMW. She also offered a snapshot of what is to come for the rest of the 2022-23 school year. This report specifically focused on reviewing MMW's Literacy Initiatives, developing the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support framework, and the continued focus on belonging, inclusion and community at MMW. Several MMW students joined Principal Schirmacher in presenting to the Board. Chairperson Vitale thanked the students and Principal Schirmacher for coming in and for the great presentation.

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

The following individuals then addressed the Board:

- Chanhassen resident Tara Lee Stone addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the District's provider for Transportation Services
- Excelsior resident Stacey Klein addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the Board's goals and priorities, the District's literacy plan, and the increase in the levy

Chairperson Vitale thanked the community members for their comments.

#### **4. ACCEPTANCE OF FY22 AUDIT**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois noted that the audit of the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Statements has been completed by the auditing firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. He introduced Michelle Hoffman of CliftonLarsonAllen, who reviewed the Basic Financial Statements in the audit for the Board. Upon approval, the audited financial statements will be filed with the Minnesota Department of Education as required by statute. The District will be receiving an unmodified opinion from CliftonLarsonAllen, which means the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the District on June 30, 2022.

The results of operations in the District's General Fund Accounts for ongoing school site operations, administration, and extracurricular activities were impacted by the recovery process from the COVID-19 Pandemic, which lasted through all of FY2021. There was still uncertainty as to how things would materialize so in preparation for a potential continuation of the Pandemic, additional expenditures for personal protective equipment and air filtering equipment were incurred prior to the start of the school year. There was also the need to address student learning loss that occurred in the prior years of the Pandemic, which required the use of additional instructional staff resources. The General Fund Accounts produced an operating deficit of ongoing revenues over ongoing expenditures of (\$2,208,361) for FY2022. Inclusive of all capital revenues and costs, including the Operating Capital Fund having a surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$223,832, the Fiduciary Fund receiving more donation revenue over expenditures by \$256,968, the Activities Fund having a surplus of revenue to expenditures of \$106,857 and the Capital Projects Fund having a surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$581,848, the results of operations for the District's Comprehensive General Fund showed a deficit of revenues to expenditures of (\$1,029,860.) (According to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and MDE accounting requirements, the Comprehensive General Fund includes the District's General Fund, Transportation Fund, Operating Capital Fund, Activities Fund, Fiduciary Fund, Arts Center Fund, Pagel Center Fund, Tonka Dome Fund and Capital Projects (Technology) Fund.)

The District General Fund Accounts for ongoing school site operations administration and extracurricular activities had an Unassigned Fund Balance of \$21,855,534, which is 14.9% of General Fund expenditures for ongoing operations. The strength of the District's financial position is reflected in the School District maintaining an Aaa bond rating from Moody's Investors Service, which is held by only 90 out of 13,584 school districts in the country as of the latest information available to the District. The District's Unassigned Fund Balance is an important component that is considered by Moody's Investors Service when assigning bond ratings. The Fiscal Year 2022 Audit will be published on the District's website.

Becker moved, Wagner 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 Fiscal Year 2022 Audit as performed by the auditing firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP and directs administration to file the audit with the Minnesota Department of Education.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

5. **ADOPTION OF 2022 PAYABLE 2023 LEVY**

Mr. Bourgeois repeated his presentation from the Truth in Taxation Hearing that had occurred earlier that evening. He noted that MN Statutes require that each school district certify a final property tax levy by December 30, 2022 for property taxes to be collected in calendar year 2023. The 2022 Payable 2023 Levy being presented for Certification by the School Board is \$62,613,793.43. A school district can always lower the Final Levy Certification from the amount of the Preliminary Levy Certification, but the district can never increase it from the Preliminary Levy Certification unless there is a voter-approved referendum for facilities, capital projects, or operations.

The proposed final levy of \$61,613,793.43 is an increase of \$6,138,793.43 or 10.87% over the prior year amount of \$56,474,858.27. Certification of this levy amount will set this amount as the amount that the School Board will levy for the 2022 Payable 2023 levy.

Ambrosen 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 certify the 2022 Pay 2023 Property Tax Levy in the amount of \$62,613,793.43, and;*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Deputy Clerk of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 is hereby directed to deliver a signed original of the 2022 Payable 2023 Levy Certification to the County Auditors of Hennepin and Carver Counties prior to December 30, 2022 and deliver a copy to the Minnesota Department of Education Program Finance Division no later than December 30, 2022.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

6. **REVIEW OF SCHOOL BOARD GOALS**

Each year, the School Board meets with the Superintendent to set annual goals for the school year. This process includes a review of the previous year's goals, a review of student data on standardized assessments and graduation, survey data from students and parents and input from District staff. This year's goal-setting meetings were held on Monday, September 12 and Monday, November 14. Executive Director of Communications Dr. JacQui Getty presented the School Board's proposed goals for the 2022-23 school year as a first read for the public. The School Board will

formally approve its goals at its first regular meeting in January 2023. Moving forward, the Board plans to finalize and approve the goals for the next year in the spring.

Chairperson Vitale thanked Board members, Superintendent Law, Dr. LaDue and Dr. Getty for providing input and said it was a good, collaborative effort and that we have strong goals. Board member Selinger stated there were very rich, thoughtful conversations during the goal planning and that a lot of thought was put into the first draft and revisions and that the goals were written in the best interest of students.

## **7. APPROVAL OF MCE FEES**

Each year, in December, the School Board receives fee recommendations from the Superintendent and Minnetonka Community Education administrators for Minnetonka Preschool, ECFE and Explorers programs. These fees have also been presented to the Minnetonka Preschool/ECFE PTO leadership. Fee recommendations are for the upcoming school year. Marketing materials need to be prepared for January mailings and Open House events. The Board's early input and approval allows for these key District programs to be marketed and planned for in an efficient manner.

The Minnetonka Community Education administrators asked the School Board to approve a 4.5% fee increase proposal for Minnetonka ECFE for 2023-24, as well as to increase the length of the ECFE school year from 34 to 36 weeks. Additionally, they asked the Board to approve a 5.5% fee increase for Minnetonka Preschool for 2023-24, as well as to increase the length of the Minnetonka Preschool year from 36 to 37 weeks. And, they asked the Board to approve a proposed fee increase of 4.5% for Explorers in 2023-24.

Wagner moved, Becker seconded, that the Board approve the 4.5% fee increase proposal for Minnetonka ECFE for 2023-24, as well as increasing the length of the ECFE school year from 34 to 36 weeks. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

Selinger moved, Becker seconded, that the Board approve the 5.5% fee increase for Minnetonka Preschool for 2023-24, as well as increasing the length of the Minnetonka Preschool year from 36 to 37 weeks. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

Lee-O'Halloran moved, Wagner seconded, that the Board approve the proposed fee increase of 4.5% for Explorers in 2023-24. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

Board member Selinger said there was very strong support from parents to extend the calendar year for these programs. Board member Becker agreed and said she's glad to see the sliding scale for the fees.

## 8. **APPROVAL OF NEW COURSE PROPOSALS, CHANGES AND DELETIONS**

Superintendent Law noted that these proposals have been reviewed by department chairs, building administration, district administration, the District Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee, and the Student Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee. Courses that are approved by the School Board will be included in the Skipper Log and available to students as they register for the 2023-24 school year. Course development and implementation funds will be allocated for each course based on sufficient enrollment.

### **DEPARTMENT PROPOSALS**

The following proposals respond to programmatic needs that have been identified by the respective departments and administration.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Grade(s)</b>
AP Precalculus	9-12
Guitar Ensemble	9-12
Introduction to Computing Systems (College in the Schools)	9-12
Lifetime Sports and Activities	9-12
Sports and Entertainment Marketing and Management	10-12
Beginning Orchestra / Beginning Band	6

### **TONKA ONLINE PROPOSALS**

Tonka Online (TO) proposals expand current offerings and introduce several existing courses to an online environment.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Grade(s)</b>
Astronomy	10-12
Engineering Design Fundamentals	9-12
Exploring Science Through Literature	10-12
Sports and Entertainment Marketing and Management	10-12

### **VANTAGE PROPOSALS**

The VANTAGE program is proposing a new strand, International Relations, which will introduce a new College Writing (College in the Schools) course and incorporate an existing IB Global Politics course. In addition, VANTAGE is proposing to introduce a Creative Marketing Design (College in the Schools) course to replace an existing Graphic and Product Design course.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Grade(s)</b>
International Relations Strand	10-12

College Writing	10-12
Creative Marketing Design	10-12

## **MOMENTUM PROPOSAL**

The MOMENTUM leadership team continues to explore opportunities to expand pathways for students. Members of the team will be meeting with other districts and experts in the field over the coming months to determine courses that would support a potential aviation pathway. In addition, a Transportation Careers and Global Commerce course is proposed for the 2023-24 school year.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Grade(s)</b>
Transportation Careers and Global Commerce	9-12

## **COURSE REMOVAL LIST**

Over the past three years, the following courses have not reached minimum student enrollment or have been replaced by a new course. Building and District administration will continue to monitor courses that have not run for subsequent years.

<b>Course</b>
Algebra 1
App Development with Swift
Introduction to Education
Graphic Arts
Chinese Immersion Intro to Politics
Spanish Immersion Intro to Politics

## **COURSE TITLE CHANGES**

Departments have recommended revising several course titles to more accurately reflect the content of the courses and course sequences. The proposed and current titles are listed below.

<b>Proposed Title</b>	<b>Current Title</b>
English Language Development (ELD)	Beginning English
Graphic and Product Design	Graphic and Product Design Thinking
Multimedia Communications	Digital Journalism

Superintendent Law clarified that while an earlier version of this agenda item referenced removing Honors Precalculus, that is no longer the case. Next fall both AP Precalculus and Honors Precalculus will be offered. Board member Wagner noted that there are several students on the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee,

which reviews course proposals and changes, and that the students' voices matter greatly in the process. She said students were very excited about the new courses being offered, especially those that allow more accessibility—such as ways to get into guitar or into band when a student may not already have experience in it.

Wagner moved, Becker seconded, that the Board approve the full slate of new course proposals, changes and deletions. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **9. APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT FOR FY24-27**

Mr. Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He noted that the four-year contract with First Student for regular transportation and special education transportation expires on June 30, 2023. The District sent out a Request for Proposal for Transportation Services for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 with an option for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 in September 2022. The proposals were due to be received on November 11, 2022. Two companies submitted proposals—First Student and Transit Team.

After reviewing the two proposals, First Student submitted a proposal that was substantially lower in the first year of the two-year contract with options for 2 additional years. Based on that significantly lower starting point, the District then entered final review with First Student as allowed by Minnesota Statutes 123B.52 Subdivision 3.

Superintendent Law noted that part of this process is that the bus company must provide a safety plan, and he provided that plan to all Board members and verified that all MDE guidelines are met by this vendor and have been submitted on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Bourgeois recommended that the Board accept the proposal of First Student, Inc. for transportation services for FY2024 through FY2027. Board member Lee-O'Halloran asked about the length of time of the contract. Mr. Bourgeois said there is a two-year contract with ability to option an additional two years, and the District negotiated that. Board member Lee-O'Halloran asked how we audit our safety practices. Mr. Bourgeois said this is an ongoing effort. We do this on a daily basis and constantly make improvements—not in a one-time annual update. Board member Selinger asked whether it is the District's transportation department that creates the routes. Mr. Bourgeois said the District has two routers and First Student also has one, and they work collaboratively to adjust routes.

Ambrosen moved, Wagner 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 proposal of First Student, Inc., for transportation services for Fiscal Year 2024 at the average transportation rates of 19.88% above the Fiscal Year 2023 rates, followed by 8.00% increases in transportation rates for Fiscal Year*

*2025, 5.00% increases in transportation rates in Fiscal Year 2026, and 5.00% increases in transportation rates in Fiscal Year 2027, and;*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 authorizes administration to execute the contract with First Student incorporating the aforementioned rate increases and all the terms and conditions specified by the District in the District Request for Proposal for Transportation Services.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **10. APPROVAL OF 2023 LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENTS**

Each year during the fall the Finance Advisory Committee works with District administrative staff and the citizens lobbying group Community Action for Student Education (CASE) to develop a platform of position statements for use in communicating District priorities to legislators during the subsequent legislative session. The 2023 Legislative Position Statements articulate key areas in which the District requires support from the Legislature in order for the District to continue to deliver high performing citizens into society in future years. The 2023 Legislative Position Statements focus on the need for the Legislature to provide sufficient funding for key funding formulas that are the backbone of programmatic stability for the District. Mr. Bourgeois shared the drafts of the legislative position statements, which include asking the legislature to increase the basic formula revenue to combat the effects of inflation, to increase special education formulas by the rate of inflation and to increase the operating referendum cap.

Wagner moved, Lee-O'Halloran seconded, that the Board approve the following motion:

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 does hereby approve the 2023 Legislative Position Statements and directs administration to utilize these position statements as the Minnetonka ISD 276 Platform for communications with the Governor and State Legislature during the 2023 Legislative Session.*

In the discussion that followed, Board member Lee-O'Halloran asked why we settled on a particular level of reduction for the special education subsidy. Superintendent Law said the effort was to make incremental gains. Board member Wagner said she liked how the position statements are crucial for districts across the state, not just Minnetonka, and that it will be good for us to lobby and partner with community parents to tell the legislators our story. Board member Selinger asked whether the positions were prioritized. Superintendent Law explained which would benefit all districts and which would be more Minnetonka-specific.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.



## 11. **AUTHORIZATION OF SALE OF 2023A BONDS**

Mr. Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He noted that at the School Board Meeting of November 17, 2022, the Board had approved moving forward with the financing of five projects for summer 2023 that will improve school district facilities at four school sites in the District:

- Scenic Heights ½ Multipurpose Room Conversion to Classroom - \$300,000
- Excelsior Staff Lounge Conversion to Classroom & Breakout Rooms - \$700,000
- MMW Parking Reconfiguration for Car Queuing - \$450,000
- MMW Temporary Space to Small Classroom - \$225,000
- MME Temporary Space to Small Classroom - \$175,000

The total all-in estimates of these projects is \$1,850,000. Funding for the projects will be through the 2023A Certificates of Participation Bonds. Annual payments are estimated at \$142,175 at an estimated interest rate of approximately 6.3%. Authorization is being requested to sell the 2023A Certificates of Participation Bonds to fund these school improvement projects for completion by August 18, 2023.

Lee-O'Halloran moved, Selinger seconded, that the Board approve the 2023A Authorizing Resolution as prepared by the District's bond counsel, Dorsey & Whitney. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

## 12. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of November 3 Regular Meeting and November 17 Special Meeting
- Study Session Summary of November 17, 2022
- Payment of Bills
- Recommended Personnel Items
- Gifts and Donations for November 2022: \$2625.00 from the Deephaven PTA to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary Lexia Licenses Fund. \$199.97 from the Deephaven PTA to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary Teacher Grants Fund. \$990.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MHS Principal Discretionary Fund. \$500.00 from Artsonia to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary Art Account. \$20.99 from U'Sagain, LLC to be placed in the Minnewashta Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$30.00 from Target c/o Cyber Grants to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary Principal Discretionary Fund. A 2002 Dodge Caravan from Diane Sampson and a 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee from Joyce & Larry Hewer, both to be placed in the MHS MOMENTUM Program. \$500.00 from RBA, Inc to be placed in the MHS Tonka Hacks Fund. \$100.00 from Richard & Delores Klein to be placed in the

Minnetonka Special Education Classroom Funds for MMW teachers Meghan Becker & Jennifer Pearce. \$1,000.00 from Family Friends to be placed in the Minnetonka Nutrition Services Fund. \$250.00 from the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club to the MHS Best Buddies Club. \$250.00 from the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club to the MHS Bunny Besties Club. \$72.93 from Brent Rickenbach and \$35.90 from Charities Aid Foundation America; both to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$52.00 from the Blackburn Giving Fund to be placed in the MME Principal Discretionary Fund. \$200.00 from Canon Medical Informatics, Inc. to be placed in the MHS Robotics Fund. \$468.00 from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (American flag) to be placed in the MHS Homecoming Fund. \$1,500.00 from the American Legion Post (American flag) to be placed in the MHS Fund. \$100.00 from Dale Nelson & Elizabeth Simpson to be placed in the Minnetonka Community Education Rake-a-thon Fund. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2022-23: \$374,444.03.

- Electronic Fund Transfers
- Designated Combined Polling Places

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

13. **BOARD REPORTS**

None.

14. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Law noted that the District has kicked off its winter athletic season. He encouraged District families to get out and watch the events and also to see a Minnetonka Theatre performance. "Come out and see our kids. They are amazing," he said.

15. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member Becker reminded the community there are upcoming opportunities to buy winter Tonka apparel. The MHS Booster Store is open every day and on December 8 and 15 the store will also be open from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the evenings. All proceeds go to support high school athletics and activities. Also, the Tonka Pride sale is Friday, December 9 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 10 from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the District Service Center. Proceeds from that sale go to the E-8 PTO and PTA organizations.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ambrosen moved, Wagner seconded, adjournment at 9:25 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

*Lisa Wagner*

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Lisa Wagner, Clerk