

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

**Minutes of June 1, 2023 Regular Board Meeting**

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, 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, Board members recognized, via a video, the following groups and individuals: Adapted Bowling Team and State Qualifiers; Robotics Team State and National Qualifiers; Archery National Qualifiers; Middle School Science Bowl National Competition Participants (4<sup>th</sup> Place); Le Grand Concours Medal Recipients; ACDA Honors Choir Participants; High School All-State Music/Honors Ensemble qualifiers from Band, Orchestra and Choir; Best Community for Music Education from the NAMM Foundation; National Board Certified Teachers; and Best Buddies State-Level Outstanding Elementary Chapter of the Year for Excelsior Elementary.

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

1. **AGENDA**

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

2. **SCHOOL REPORTS: CLEAR SPRINGS AND MINNEWASHTA**

Clear Springs Principal Curt Carpenter and four members of his staff presented around the theme "A First Year in Minnetonka." The employees talked about their experiences as first-year educators in Minnetonka and at Clear Springs. Board member Becker thanked the team for their great presentation and for sharing their experiences with the Board and the community.

Minnewashta Elementary Principal Cindy Andress and Assistant Principal Jenny van Aalsburg reflected on the 2022-23 school year. Their presentation highlighted Minnewashta's purposeful work that supports the district's board goal centered around student well-being and belonging. Board member Remucal thanked Ms. Van Aalsburg for the presentation and said he looks forward to future presentations from her.

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

4. **APPROVAL OF WAIVERS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Superintendent Law noted that in December of 2007, the School Board had approved a Physical Education waiver provided students met certain requirements. MHS Principal Jeff Erickson has certified that the students have met the requirements in order to be granted a waiver.

Vitale moved, Becker seconded, that the Board approve the list of students. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MHS CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES**

Ambrosen moved, Becker seconded, that the Board approve the list of MHS Class of 2023 graduates. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

6. **PREVIEW OF TOUR DE TONKA**

Executive Director of Community Education Tim Litfin and Assistant Director Jenny Bodurka presented information regarding the 2023 Tour de Tonka bike ride event, set for Saturday, August 5.

7. **FIRST READ OF 2023-24 SCHOOL BOARD GOALS**

Each year, the Minnetonka School Board meets with the Superintendent to set goals for the school year. In previous years, this goal-setting process happened in early fall. For the 2023-2024 school year, the School Board and Superintendent Law have made the decision to set goals earlier. This process included a review of the current school year goals, a review of student data on standardized assessments and graduation, a review of survey data from students and parents and input from District staff. The goal-setting meeting was held on Monday, May 8.

Executive Director of Communications JacQui Getty recapped for the public the process the Board and Superintendent followed and the draft goals for 2023-24 for a first read. The goals, which remain: Excellence in Well-being, Connection and Belonging, Excellence in Student Learning and Support, and Excellence in Leadership and Organizational Support, will be brought back to the Board again in August for approval.

In the discussion that followed, Vice Chairperson Selinger noted that the Board had spent several hours revising the goals, that all voices were heard and that the Board had added

specific measurables to the goals. Chairperson Wagner thanked Superintendent Law for his leadership in moving the process forward.

## **8. APPROVAL OF PROGRAM SPACE FOR MOMENTUM AVIATION STRAND**

Minnetonka Schools is in the process of starting up MOMENTUM Aviation I and II Strands for FY24. A total of 278 students have signed up for those strands, making these two classes the highest in MHS student interest for the first year of any new program the District has developed since the initial strands of the VANTAGE program in 2011.

The District Administration has outlined the equipment and designed the space it feels would ensure the MOMENTUM Aviation program is the premier aviation program in Minnesota and the region. As Paul Bourgeois, Executive Director of Finance and Operations, explained, Minnetonka Schools has the financial capacity to construct a premier space and facilities for the Tonka Flight School strand and Tonka Drone Academy strand, as well as the instructional program human resources capacity to develop the program for these strands to have them available for students for the start of school on September 3, 2024.

Mr. Bourgeois, Associate Superintendent Amy LaDue and MHS Principal Jeff Erickson then presented on the aviation program, talking through how and why the District decided to launch the aviation strand of MOMENTUM, how it would impact the student experience to expand such an option and to provide a tailored space for learning for the program and why experiential learning like this is so important. They also spoke about the potential future offerings in the program, which, in addition to Private Plane Licensure and UAS (Drone) Operation, may include Aviation Maintenance and Air Traffic Control Operation.

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 approve the commencing of design work for the infill of the MOMENTUM Wing of the VANTAGE MOMENTUM Building to provide space for MOMENTUM Aviation Strands and directs Administration to continue the educational design work of the MOMENTUM Aviation Strands.*

The Board asked the presenters questions about bonding, the timing for incurring costs of the simulators and construction, how the program will be staffed, demographics of students who have signed up for Aviation I and II, the make-up of the MOMENTUM Advisory Board, possible future growth of the program, and whether the program would have mentors. All questions were answered fully, and the complete recording of the discussion can be found on the *School Board Meetings* page on the District website.

Several Board members also expressed their strong support for the further development of the MOMENTUM aviation strand. Vice Chairperson Selinger stated that this is a great opportunity for students who may not intend to pursue college but who could go on to a very successful and productive career in aviation. Board members also said that it was

wonderful that students participating in this will have up to \$2,000 of their flight time paid for by logging hours in the simulators and that this opens doors to aviation career paths for students.

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

9. **APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF REVIEW AND COMMENT TO MDE FOR POTENTIAL CAPITAL PROJECTS REFERENDUM RENEWAL**

Mr. Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He began by stating that the current Capital Projects Referendum authority of 6.569% of net tax capacity runs through the December 2024 property tax levy. The levy set in December 2024 will be collected in calendar year 2025 to fund Fiscal Year 2026, which runs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

It is prudent for the School Board to consider revoking and renewing the Capital Projects Referendum authority prior to its expiration. Capital Projects Referendum questions are required by statute to be run on the General Election in November. As a result, at this time the School Board has two opportunities to renew the Capital Projects Referendum before the authority expires – either on the November 7, 2023 election or on the November 5, 2024 election.

While the School Board has not determined if they will call an election to revoke and renew the Capital Projects Referendum on November 7, 2023, it is prudent for the School Board to keep open the option of either a November 7, 2023 or November 5, 2024 election at this time. In order to keep the option open of a November 7, 2023 Capital Projects Referendum renewal election, there is a significant requirement that must be undertaken at this time due to the various associated statutory timelines.

Specifically, Minnesota Statute 123B.71 requires that a school district submit a request to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for review and comment on a proposed Capital Projects Referendum Levy. The submission consists of a cover letter from the Superintendent giving various pieces of information about the proposed Capital Projects Referendum. The submission must also include information related to criteria set out in MS123.71 Subdivision 9. The School Board must adopt a resolution authorizing administration to submit the Capital Projects Referendum for review and comment and include the board resolution with the submission packet. The Commissioner of MDE then has 60 calendar days from receiving the submission for review and comment to respond to the District. This timeline can impact the School Board's ability to call a Capital Projects Referendum. A school board must pass a resolution to call an election no later than August 25, 2023 in order to have a question on the ballot for November 7, 2023 election. Receiving Commissioner's review and comment by August 1, 2023 or before would preserve the School Board's ability to further deliberate whether to call a Capital Projects Referendum renewal election by no later than August 25, 2023.

Lee-O'Halloran moved, Remucal 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 Request for Review and Comment for a Capital Projects Referendum Renewal at the same 6.569% of Net Tax Capacity as is currently levied and authorizes Administration to submit the Request for Review and Comment to the Minnesota Department of Education.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

#### 10. **REVIEW OF FY24 BUDGET**

Mr. Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He noted that the district is required by statute to adopt a budget for each fiscal year prior to July 1 of that fiscal year. District administration has been working with staff on the development of the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget.

The General Operating Fund that includes Transportation and Activities is projected to operate at a surplus of \$2,065,125 of revenues to ongoing expenditures for FY 2024. This surplus is driven primarily by a larger-than normal \$2,957,147 inflation increase in Operating Referendum Revenue, \$2,184,946 in a one-time makeup levy for Operating Referendum Revenue from FY23 due to a higher actual inflation increase for Operating Referendum Revenue than the original estimated levy for FY23, and \$1,500,000 in Investment Revenue from investing District cash because interest rates have risen over 5.0% in the last 12 months. The total increase for Operating Referendum Revenue is approximately 8.5 times the historical annual increase for Operating Referendum Revenue, and the total increase for Investment Revenue is approximately 2.5 times the historical annual Investment Revenue.

The Minnesota Legislature increased the Basic Revenue Formula by 4% or \$275 per Adjusted Pupil Unit for FY24. This is an increase from the 2.0% increase received for FY23. It is the first 4.0% increase in the Basic Revenue Formula since the State of Minnesota gave increases of 4.0% in FY06 and 4.0% in FY07. The Basic Revenue Formula is the largest single revenue component for the General Operating Fund, accounting for 54% of all revenues. With inflation in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Area running at 5.8% in Calendar 2021 and 8.0% in Calendar 2022, every additional percentage increase in the Basic Revenue Formula is much needed.

The Minnesota Legislature provided additional funding through a change in the Special Education Cross Subsidy Revenue formula, increasing it from 6.43% of the Special Education Cross Subsidy Amount to 44% of the Cross Subsidy. This one-time boost in the percentage of Special Education costs covered by State revenues reduces the need to spend local revenues to pay for the shortfall of State revenues to pay for Special Education.

Targeted enrollment for October 2023 is projected at 11,200 K-12 students, inclusive of 11,100 in-person students and 100 e-learning students. The Minnetonka School Board set an enrollment cap of 11,100 in-person K-12 students on October 3, 2019 in FY20. The

11,100 K-12 in-person cap remains in place. FY24 is the fifth year of small-to-no in-person student growth.

Total FY24 Revenues in the General Operating Fund are estimated at \$161,022,727, which is an increase of \$11,029,331 over FY23 Revenues of \$149,993,396. Total FY24 Expenditures in the General Operating fund are estimated at \$158,957,602, which is an increase of \$9,338,515 over FY23 Expenditures of \$149,619,087.

The General Operating Fund Unassigned Balance at the end of FY24 is projected to be \$25,056,801. This amounts to 15.8% of budgeted expenditures and is above the School Board Policy 703 minimum-allowed Unassigned Balance of 6.0% of budgeted expenditures.

The combination of tightly monitored expense controls plus the additional revenue provided from enrollment growth in past years has allowed the District to continue to maintain very stable finances while maintaining and selectively expanding opportunities for students. Additional Operating Referendum Revenue, which is in place through the 2024 Pay 2025 levy to fund Fiscal Year 2026, gives the District a stable base of revenue from which to maintain the high quality programs that are being delivered to students. At this time, the District does not have the Statutory Authority to ask voters of the District for an additional amount of funding per pupil from the Operating Referendum, as the District is at the State-mandated Operating Referendum cap of \$2,110.97 per student. It will require action by the Legislature to increase the State-mandated Operating Referendum cap in order for the District to be able to run an election for additional Operating Referendum revenue per pupil.

Mr. Bourgeois then walked the Board through the District’s various funds, explaining the revenues and expenses for each. In the discussion that followed, Board Treasurer Lee-O’Halloran asked how the budget sheets reflected state funding. Mr. Bourgeois responded by saying that the information is not called out on each budget line but if a constituent has a question about a budget line, he’s happy to get them the information.

Chairperson Wagner thanked Mr. Bourgeois for the detailed presentation and noted that the budget would be brought back to the June 15 special meeting for approval.

**11. APPROVAL OF POLICY #707: TRANSPORTATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

A revision of the District’s Policy 707: Transportation of Public School Students was presented by Executive Director of Special Education Christine Breen for the School Board’s review and consideration at the May 25 study session and again at this meeting. The revised elements are related to the placement of students at care and treatment facilities with the purpose of aligning Policy 707 with Minnesota statutes and the recent Minnesota 8th Circuit Court ruling in the case of *[Student] v. Eveleth-Gilbert Public Schools* regarding the transportation of Open-enrolled Special Education Students.

Vice Chairperson Selinger noted that during study session a question came up about whether this policy applies only to special education students or to all students and it applies

to all students. Board member Ambrosen asked whether the policy will impact any current students' situations, and Executive Director Breen said no current students who are receiving transportation under this policy will be impacted.

Becker moved, Ambrosen seconded, that the Board approve Policy #707: Transportation of Public School Students, as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

## 12. **APPROVAL OF MMW ROUNDABOUT FUNDING**

Minnetonka Middle School West is sited along State Highway 41 with a single entrance for buses and automobiles that opens up directly on to State Highway 41. When the school was originally constructed, the area was largely rural and ex-urban in its makeup, but in the ensuing decades there has been significant residential growth around the school site, as well as business and industry locating along State Highway 41. As a result, traffic has increased significantly over the years and the school has also grown, with an enrollment of 1,260 in FY22.

Over the years, the District has tried to develop other alternatives for the current intersection of the school site driveway with State Highway 41. The District has requested that a traffic light be installed on several occasions, with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) indicating that traffic at the location does not warrant a traffic light. The District has worked with MnDOT on restriping the lane lines in the vicinity of the MMW driveway to increase traffic safety, as well as having speed restrictions in place during school start times and end times to facilitate traffic to and from the school site being able to access State Highway 41.

All of these solutions have improved the traffic circumstances at MMW. However, there is continued dissatisfaction being expressed by parents and residents of Chanhassen about the traffic conditions at MMW start times and end times. As a result, two years ago, the City of Chanhassen assumed the role of champion for improving the situation on behalf of Chanhassen residents and the traveling public. The city applied and was awarded \$2.2 million in MnDOT funding to construct a roundabout at the intersection of State Highway 41 and the MMW driveway. The total cost of their proposed project is \$2.8 million, inclusive of \$2.2 million in MnDOT Funding and \$200,000 in City of Chanhassen funding, with \$400,000 remaining unfunded. The City of Chanhassen initially inquired on April 11, 2022 as to whether the School District would consider funding the remaining \$400,000.

Mr. Bourgeois recommended that the Board approve \$400,000 from the FY25 Operating Capital Budget for the District to participate in the funding of a roundabout at Minnetonka Middle School West because it will improve vehicle and pedestrian safety and traffic flow at the Minnetonka Middle School West driveway.

Becker moved, Remucal seconded, that the Board approve the following motion:

*BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 does hereby approve \$400,000 from the FY25 Operating Capital Budget for the District to participate in the funding of a roundabout at Minnetonka Middle School West because it will improve vehicle and pedestrian safety and traffic flow at the Minnetonka Middle School West driveway.*

In the discussion that followed, Board member Ambrosen wanted to confirm that the District's contribution would not exceed \$400,000. Mr. Bourgeois confirmed that is correct. Board member Becker said there has been much discussion on this and on the efforts to increase safety. She also said she also appreciates the work on the parking lot to route the traffic better, and that the District has landed in a good spot.

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

### 13. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of May 4, 2023 Regular Meeting and May 25, 2023 Closed Sessions
- Payment of Bills – in the sum of \$5,438,919.64.
- Recommended Personnel Items
- Gifts and Donations for May 2023: \$50.00 from Charities Aid Foundation of America c/o CyberGrants, LLC and \$20.00 from Target c/o CyberGrants, LLC; both to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$75.00 from Kurt Hoddinot to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary Principal Discretionary Fund. \$75.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund and \$85.10 from Box Tops for Education; both to be placed in the MME Principal Discretionary Fund. \$1,000.00 from TEL FSI, Inc to be placed in the MHS Robotics Team Fund & Program. \$95,131.00 from the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation to be placed in the Minnetonka Public Schools General Fund for Teacher Grants. \$30.00 from Kay Heley & William Roust to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$440.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MHS Principal Discretionary Fund. \$250.00 from the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club to be given to each of the following clubs/organizations: MHS Robotics Club, MHS Bowling Club, MHS Ultimate Frisbee, MHS Jewish Student Union, MHS National Art Honor Society. \$2,000.00 from MN Swimming, Inc. to be placed in the Minnetonka Aquatics Fund for ISCA National Travel. \$2,311.20 from Northwest Designs Ink to be placed in the Minnetonka Aquatics Fund for 2023 MN Regional Championships. An Ammo 8500 Drum Brake Micrometer from Luther Automotive Group to be placed in the MHS VANTAGE Program. \$2,953.38 from the Clear Springs Elementary School PTO and \$81.20 from Box Tops for Education; both to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$200.00 from Minnetonka Preschool and ECFE PTO to be placed in the Minnetonka Preschool & ECFE Teacher Appreciation Fund. \$1,000.00 from Royal Credit Union/Fox 9 Top Teacher Award (Kimberly Smith) to be placed in the MME Principal Discretionary Fund. \$2,000.00 from Wendy Lulavy to be placed in the MHS Jani

Pankoff Scholarship Account. \$5,000.00 from Tonka United Soccer Association, Inc. to be placed in the MHS Upper Turf Fund. \$5,000.00 from Brian and Susan Mark to be placed in the MHS Boys Hockey Program Fund. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2022-23: \$655,260.45.

- Electronic Fund Transfers
- MOMENTUM/Diamond Club Partnership Agreement
- Individual Contracts
- Individual Pay Changes
- Easement Extension for Met Council at Excelsior Elementary
- Nonpublic School Transportation Reimbursement
- Resolution for Membership in the MSHSL
- 2022-23 Q-Comp Report
- Sale of Used MacBooks
- Policy #432: Confidential Support Staff
- Policy #440: Handbook for MCE and/or Aquatics Employees
- iPad Lease Purchase for Grades K-3
- Authorizing & Reimbursement Resolution for 2023B Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Bonds

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

#### 14. **BOARD REPORTS**

Vice Chairperson Selinger noted she had attended a recent meeting of the Preschool/ECFE PTO, and they wanted the community to know there is an opening for a Spanish Immersion preschool teacher. More information can be found on the District website. She also noted there is still some space available for children this fall in the District's ECFE and Preschool programs.

#### 15. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Law said that as we close out the school year, we want all students to finish strong! We've spent the past several weeks celebrating students and staff and their accomplishments. The culminating event, MHS Graduation, is coming up on June 8 at US Bank Stadium.

#### 16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member Remucal said he had attended the Minnetonka Research Symposium and was impressed with the research topics and process and wanted to congratulate students and teachers in that program.

Board Clerk Becker said that not only are seniors about to graduate but they are signing up for Senior Serve, where they give back to the community as they get ready to graduate.

She also noted that graduation will be livestreamed on the District's website and YouTube channel. Chairperson Wagner said she wished to thank Schmitt Music for its great partnership over the years and for helping to make music achievement possible for students in the District.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Becker moved, Remucal seconded, adjournment to closed session at 9:55 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie M. Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Katie Becker, Clerk