

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

**Minutes of October 7, 2021 Regular Board Meeting**

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, 2021 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, John Holcomb, Mike LeSage, Lisa Wagner and Superintendent Dennis Peterson, ex officio. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Prior to the meeting, the Board recognized, via a video, the District's National Merit Semifinalists; the ACT Perfect Score Recipients; and their honored teachers.

Also prior to the regular meeting, the Board conducted its annual meeting regarding progress made toward the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) goals. The WBWF bill, passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2013, strives to ensure that every school district in the state is making strides to increase student achievement and performance—a strategic focus for Minnetonka since 2001.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Amy LaDue explained that the WBWF legislation requires districts to set the following five goals, which for Minnetonka are embedded in the District's Q-Comp, Staff Development, Teacher Evaluation Growth Model, and Principal Evaluation Plans:

1. All students are ready for school.
2. All Third Graders can read at grade level.
3. All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed.
4. All students are ready for career and college.
5. All students graduate from high school.

Director of Teacher Development Sara White then presented the 2020-21 World's Best Workforce goals and results for the District, along with strategies and initiatives the District engaged in to meet the goals.

In closing, Ms. White noted that the World's Best Workforce legislation aligns with Minnetonka's vision for all students' extraordinary achievement in the classroom and in life. The WBWF provides a template for the District to report on its goals, strategies and results. Ms. White also noted that the summary will be available in the annual report and also on the District website.

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

1. **AGENDA**

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

2. **SCHOOL REPORT: EXCELSIOR ELEMENTARY**

Principal Stacy DeCorsey and Assistant Principal Laura Nelson shared an update on the first month of school. Efforts to social distance, wear masks properly and encourage families to keep students home when they are ill are all part of the work of staff to keep the student population healthy and in school.

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:

- Minnetonka resident Karl Bunday—spoke in support of masking and vaccines
- Victoria resident Shannon Hoban—spoke in support of parent choice regarding masking
- Excelsior resident Kelly DeWane—spoke in support of parent choice regarding masking
- Excelsior resident Kathryn Bonine—spoke in support of parent choice regarding masking
- Minnetonka resident Amy Cho—spoke in support of masking and vaccines
- Excelsior resident Nicole Nejezchleba—spoke in support of parent choice regarding masking and against COVID testing of students
- Minnetonka resident Christine Gosen—spoke in support of masking and vaccines
- Minnetonka resident Amy Stern—spoke in support of masking and vaccines
- Excelsior resident Jen Senescall—spoke in support of parent choice regarding masking
- Chanhassen resident Linda Nelson—spoke in support of non-PCR COVID testing for students
- Excelsior resident Kara Tyler—spoke in support of masking, testing and vaccines
- Excelsior resident Chad Herman—spoke in support of parent choice regarding masking and streaming for quarantined students
- Excelsior resident Kristen Hanson—spoke in support of medical exemptions from mask wearing for students

- Chanhassen resident Kevin Eichhorn—spoke in support of parent choice regarding masking

Chairperson Vitale thanked the community members for their comments.

#### 4. **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Executive Director of Communications JacQui Getty began by saying that enrollment of students is critical to all districts in Minnesota, and growing districts have a distinct advantage over declining districts. In accordance with the District's enrollment plan, Minnetonka welcomes open enrollment families to enjoy the benefits of Minnetonka's programs and staff.

Dr. Getty said that currently, the District has 10,912 in-person students and 323 full e-learning students. In all, 3,847 are open-enrolled in-person and 229 are open-enrolled in the e-learning program. She noted that many young families are hoping to move into the District. Realtors have told her that homes are selling quickly to families who already have open enrolled children in the District and now want to live here.

Dr. Getty also discussed the districts where open enrolled students reside and shared that they were coming from 49 different school districts for in-person learning, with the top three drawing districts being Hopkins (985), Eastern Carver County (889) and Eden Prairie (555). She shared trend data that demonstrated how Minnetonka's enrollment would have decreased without students coming in under the Open Enrollment program, which in turn would have led to budget cuts, staff layoffs and school closings. The revenue from open enrolled students is at \$29.2 million this year from in-person open-enrolled students (and an additional \$1.68 million from e-learning open-enrolled students), and more than \$250 million cumulative since 2007. She also shared the top reasons given by parents who choose to open enroll: academic excellence, personal attention, immersion programs, innovative curriculum, High Potential and AP/IB programs.

Dr. Getty noted that even though the Board had approved an 11,100 in-person student cap in the Fall of 2019, open enrollment will still be needed going forward. Most grade levels are over 800 students, but resident Kindergarten students number 551. Open enrollment is needed to grow the District's revenue, keep all elementary schools open, maintain class sizes and programs and avoid budget cuts.

#### 5. **ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT**

Superintendent Peterson began by stating that the District is required by law to prepare an annual report for District residents and the format can take many forms. He said that because the District uses this report as a primary tool to communicate student achievement, finances, student enrollment, and a number of other aspects, the report is far more comprehensive than most districts' efforts. He called upon Dr. Getty to present the report.

Dr. Getty began by saying that the annual report would be mailed to every District parent and resident, distributed to staff and included in welcome packets. It will also be posted on the District's website. She shared highlights including a MOMENTUM feature; the District's response to COVID-19; Points of Pride; a Community Education feature; and information on Tonka Online. Dr. Getty noted that per state guidelines, this year's report also includes elements required by the World's Best Workforce statute, which was passed in 2013 to ensure that every school district in the state is making strides to increase student performance. She said that Minnetonka had been working on these goals for many years, and would continue to do so.

Ambrosen moved, Wagner seconded, that the Board approve the Annual Report. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously. Board members thanked Dr. Getty and members of her team for incorporating all the suggested changes to the report that the Board had requested at their last Study Session.

## **6. APPROVAL OF VANTAGE/MOMENTUM BUILDING**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois and Dave Maroney, architect from ATS&R, led the discussion. Mr. Bourgeois began by noting that at the June 17, 2021 Board meeting, the Board had received the final report on Goal 3, which included the construction of a facility at 5735 County Road 101 to house existing and future VANTAGE programs and future MOMENTUM programs. Based on Board input at the August 19, 2021 Study Session, ATS&R and Administration worked on fine-tuning two building plan options, as requested by the School Board. Input has been received from the City of Minnetonka, and information has been requested from Hennepin County related to the capacities and shares of water input to the adjacent stormwater pond. Additional work has been done to identify the information needed to include any possible Review and Comment submission to the Commissioner of Education for approval of the project, which is necessary to obtain bonding authority for the project.

Option 1 is a facility of 36,300 square feet with an updated estimated cost of \$13.98 million, and Option 2 is a facility of 28,700 square feet with an updated estimated cost of \$11.21 million. Mr. Maroney presented architectural renderings of both options, and Mr. Bourgeois provided details on how the building would be financed. He noted that Administration's recommendation was to proceed with construction of Option 1. This will allow VANTAGE programs to be housed in a single facility and the District will no longer need to lease space at the Welsh building on Baker Road. Mr. Bourgeois also noted that this project will not add to the property tax levy.

In the discussion that followed, Board members noted that these programs would hopefully continue to grow and accelerate, and the advantages to having additional dedicated spaces for each. Board member LeSage talked about the possibility of using the building in the evenings for various Community Education offerings. Board

member Wagner noted that the Finance Advisory Committee had recently met and discussed the possible new building, and they were in support of it.

Wagner moved, LeSage 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 construction of the VANTAGE/MOMENTUM Building Option 1 with a total estimated square footage of 36,300, and authorizes Administration to commence necessary work for submittal of the project for Review and Comment by the Minnesota Department of Education, and undertake any preliminary financing work, and initial detailed programming and building design work that can be completed subsequent to approval by the Minnesota Department of Education, with the purpose of providing this new facility for instruction of District students by September 5, 2023.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously. Board members thanked Mr. Bourgeois and Mr. Maroney for their great work on the project thus far.

## **7. REVIEW OF SAFE LEARNING PLAN**

Dr. Peterson began the discussion by saying that the Board had adopted the District's current Safe Learning Plan on August 19, and it set a target of October 7 to review that decision. Health Services Director Annie Lumbar-Bendson presented a COVID-19 update for the Board, which included information about District active and recovered cases of COVID and quarantines since the beginning of the school year, vaccination rates of students at the middle schools and high school and current trends and patterns of cases. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Amy LaDue then presented on how the District is accommodating teaching and learning for the students who are quarantining. Dr. Peterson then presented the following four possible options for the Board to consider regarding mask mandates within the Safe Learning Plan:

- Continue with the current masking and quarantining expectations at all levels.
- Implement the original recommendation to have masks recommended for all students and staff, and to modify the quarantining to fit the mask requirement of this option.
- Continue the Grades 9-12 recommendation for masks, and change to the same expectation for all other students thirty-five days after the availability of COVID vaccine for students who are five years old or older.
- Continue the current masking recommendation for students and staff in Grades 9-12 and the current masking requirement for students and staff in Grades Pre-K through 5. Change the masking expectation for students and staff in Grades 6-8 to become a recommendation instead of a requirement.

In the discussion that followed, the Board talked through each of the options, weighing the challenges and special considerations for each one. Board members discussed the COVID-19 update from Ms. Lumbar-Bendson, the changes that would

likely need to occur if the mask mandate was removed, the timeline of the COVID-19 vaccine for children under 12, the disruption that families may experience if their students needed to quarantine because of unmasked exposure in grades PreK-8, the concept of choice and the feedback from the hundreds of constituents for and against masking who have shared their concerns. After discussion, the Board decided not to vote on a change but rather to revisit this discussion when more information about the vaccine for young children is available, likely at the end of October or early November.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION JUDGES**

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 205A.10, Subd. 2, for school district elections not held in conjunction with a statewide election, the school board shall appoint election judges in accordance with MN Statute 204B.21, Subd. 2. MN Statutes provide that any individual who is eligible to vote in Minnesota is eligible to be appointed as an election judge. An election judge must be literate in the English language and trained as an election judge (MS 204B.19). When a vacancy occurs, the remaining judges shall elect a qualified person from the precinct to fill the vacancy (MS 204B.23). When possible, the judges shall elect individuals who have been trained as election judges pursuant to MN Statute 204B.25. Judges appointed for this election are either trained by their appropriate city or they will receive training by the City of Minnetonka Election Coordinator.

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

*BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 does hereby appoint the following judges and alternates for the November 2, 2021 school board election, and approves a salary of \$16.00 per hour for head judges, \$15.00 per hour for election judges, \$27.00 for training, and \$.56 per mile for judges who pick up supplies and deliver returns.*

**POLLING PLACE:      *District Service Center***

**ELECTION JUDGES:**

<i>Co-Head Judge:</i>	<i>Wiley Sharp</i>	<i>Shorewood</i>
	<i>Ken Huskins</i>	<i>Shorewood</i>
 <i>Election Judges:</i>	 <i>Linda Middendorf (am)</i>	 <i>Eden Prairie</i>
	<i>Julie Schindel (pm)</i>	<i>Eden Prairie</i>
	<i>Amy O’Neill (pm)</i>	<i>Eden Prairie</i>
	<i>Colleen Schultz (am)</i>	<i>Eden Prairie</i>
	<i>Randy Cantin</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Cathy Guthrie (pm)</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Mary Humphreys (am)</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Maureen Kvam</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>

Frank Zimmerman (am) Chanhassen

**POLLING PLACE: Deephaven City Hall**

**ELECTION JUDGES:**

Head Judge: Shelly Duoos Deephaven

Election Judges: Jessica Loftus (am) Deephaven  
Pete Onstad (am) Deephaven  
Jaime Shephard (am) Deephaven  
Dave Irwin (pm) Deephaven  
Gabrielle Rohde (pm) Deephaven  
John Dupont (pm) Deephaven  
Molly Sikorski (am) Deephaven  
Sharon Garber Deephaven  
Kristina Woodburn (pm) Deephaven  
Kate Bryant Deephaven

**POLLING PLACE: Excelsior Covenant Church**

**ELECTION JUDGES:**

Head Judge: Roxanne Martin Shorewood

Election Judges: Kathleen Miller Liu (am) Shorewood  
James Berdahl (am) Shorewood  
Beth Grover (am) Shorewood  
Elaine Love (am) Shorewood  
Gordan Levack (pm) Shorewood  
Karen Petron Shorewood  
Susan Link Shorewood  
Bill Erickson (pm) Shorewood  
Sami Brouwer (pm) Shorewood

**POLLING PLACE: Shorewood Community Center**

**ELECTION JUDGES:**

Head Judge: Laurie Sacchet Shorewood

Election Judges: David Rice Tonka Bay  
Cyndi Westerman (am) Tonka Bay  
Molly Grove Tonka Bay  
Peter Wattson Shorewood  
Karen Lane (am) Shorewood

<i>Phyllis Skinner (pm)</i>	<i>Shorewood</i>
<i>Sarah Winship (pm)</i>	<i>Shorewood</i>
<i>Vangie Nicklow (am)</i>	<i>Deephaven</i>

**POLLING PLACE:     *Minnewashta Church***

**ELECTION JUDGES:**

<i>Co-Head Judge:</i>	<i>Miechelle Norman</i>	<i>Excelsior</i>
	<i>Jane Stein</i>	<i>Shorewood</i>

<i>Election Judges:</i>	<i>Maggie Hillmer (pm)</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>John Price</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Nancy Crain (am)</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Timothy Crain (pm)</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Dorothy Downing</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Joann Meyer</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Nancy Nelson (am)</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Jessica Oiseth (pm)</i>	<i>Chanhassen</i>
	<i>Sue Paulson (pm)</i>	<i>Shorewood</i>
	<i>Anne Leland</i>	<i>Shorewood</i>
	<i>Joanne Schmid (am)</i>	<i>Shorewood</i>

**ALTERNATES:**

*Ian Tripp*  
*Molly Welch*

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

**9. APPROVAL OF SALE OF 2021 I GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented the next six items to the Board.

On September 2, 2021, the School Board approved the sale of the 2021I General Obligation Refunding Bonds to refund the 2015A, 2015E, 2016A, 2016B, and 2016E General Obligation Refunding Bonds at their call date. At that time, it was estimated that the bonds could be refunded from their current rate of 3.32% down to 2.00% with net present value savings of \$716,289.28.

Sale of the 2021I General Obligation Refunding Bonds took place on September 20, 2021. The 2021I Refunding Bonds were sold at a total interest cost of 1.88% with net present value savings of \$868,813.07, or 5.56% of the prior debt service.

The resolution approving the sale of the 2021I General Obligation Alternative Facilities Refunding Bonds was prepared by the District's bond counsel Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.

Wagner moved, Holcomb seconded, that the Board approve the sale resolution as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously. Board members Vitale and LeSage did not vote, as they had briefly left the room when this item was presented.

**10. APPROVAL OF SALE OF 2021J GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS**

On September 2, 2021, the School Board approved the sale of the 2021J General Obligation Refunding Bonds to refund the 2016I General Obligation Refunding Bonds at their call date. At that time, it was estimated that the bonds could be refunded from their current rate of 2.91% down to 1.91% with a net present value loss of (\$26,116.67). However, this transaction also would allow the 2016I bonds, which had payments increasing from approximately \$915,000 in FY24 to approximately \$3.3 million in FY25 to have the debt service structure smoothed out to flat payments of approximately \$1.4 million through bond maturity in 2035.

Sale of the 2021J General Obligation Refunding Bonds took place on September 20, 2021. The 2021J Refunding Bonds were sold at a total interest cost of 1.81% with net present value savings of \$63,903.03, or 0.43%% of the prior debt service. In addition, the \$3.4 million payments were smoothed out to approximately \$1.29 million annually through maturity in 2035.

The resolution approving the sale of the 2021J General Obligation Alternative Facilities Refunding Bonds was prepared by the District's bond counsel Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.

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

**11. APPROVAL OF SALE OF 2021K CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION REFUNDING BONDS**

On April 8, 2021, the School Board approved the sale of the 2021K Certificates of Participation Refunding Bonds to refund and restructure the 2012A Certificates of Participation Bonds at their call date. The restructuring was estimated to lower annual payments by \$98,672, which would free up Lease Levy payment capacity to pay for the 2021D and 2021E MOMENTUM COPs. At that time, it was estimated that the bonds could be refunded from their current rate of 2.96% down to 2.78% with a net present value loss of (\$51,279.46).

Sale of the \$1,985,000 2021K Certificates of Participation Refunding Bonds took place on September 23, 2021. The 2021K COP Refunding Bonds were sold at a total

interest cost of 2.22% with net present value savings of \$19,918.96, or 0.92% of the prior debt service. In addition, annual payments were reduced by \$98,662.

The resolution approving the sale of the 2021K General Obligation Alternative Facilities Refunding Bonds was prepared by the District's bond counsel Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.

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

**12. APPROVAL OF SALE OF 2021L CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION REFUNDING BONDS**

On April 8, 2021, the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 approved the sale of the 2021L Certificates of Participation Refunding Bonds to refund and restructure the 2014C Certificates of Participation Bonds at their call date. The restructuring was estimated to lower annual payments by \$118,801, which would free up Lease Levy payment capacity to pay for the 2021D and 2021E MOMENTUM COPs. At that time, it was estimated that the bonds could be refunded from their current rate of 3.62% down to 2.76% with a net present value savings of \$87,797.

Sale of the \$3,200,000 2021L Certificates of Participation Refunding Bonds took place on September 23, 2021. The 2021L COP Refunding Bonds were sold at a total interest cost of 2.32% with net present value savings of \$178,316.63, or 5.16% of the prior debt service. In addition, annual payments were reduced by \$139,919.

The resolution approving the sale of the 2021L General Obligation Alternative Facilities Refunding Bonds was prepared by the District's bond counsel Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.

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

**13. APPROVAL OF SALE OF 2021M CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION REFUNDING BONDS**

On April 8, 2021, the School Board approved the sale of the 2021M Certificates of Participation Refunding Bonds to refund and restructure the 2016F Certificates of Participation Bonds at their call date. The restructuring was estimated to lower annual payments by \$118,801, which would free up Operating Capital payment capacity to pay for a future VANTATGE/MOMENTUM building COP. At that time, it was estimated that the bonds could be refunded from their current rate of 4.22% down to 2.89% with a net present value savings of \$69,868.

Sale of the \$3,705,000 2021M Certificates of Participation Refunding Bonds took place on September 23, 2021. The 2021M COP Refunding Bonds were sold at a total

interest cost of 2.95% with net present value savings of \$76,770.91, or 2.06% of the prior debt service. In addition, annual payments were reduced by \$119,290.

The resolution approving the sale of the 2021M General Obligation Alternative Facilities Refunding Bonds was prepared by the District's bond counsel Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.

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

**14. APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS TO THE GENERAL FUND—A and B**

*Item A: Approval of Transfer from OPEB Trust Fund to General Fund for One-Time \$1,000 Payments to Teachers*

Ambrosen moved, Wagner seconded, that the Board table Item A. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion to table this item carried unanimously.

*Item B: Approval of Transfer from OPEB Trust Fund to General Fund for Construction of VANTAGE/MOMENTUM Facility*

Wagner moved, LeSage 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 transfer of \$7,000,000 in excess assets from the OPEB Trust Fund to the General Fund as authorized by Minnesota Statutes 471.6175 Subd. 7(a)(iv) to fund half the cost of the proposed VANTAGE/MOMENTUM building to be constructed at 5735 Highway 101, Minnetonka, MN 55345.*

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

**15. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of September 2 Regular Meeting and Closed Session; September 9 Special Meeting; September 13 Special Meeting; September 20 Special Meeting; September 21 Special Meeting; September 23 Special Meeting and Closed Session; and September 27 Special Meeting
- Study Session Summary of September 23, 2021
- Payment of Bills
- Recommended Personnel Items – as shown in Addendum A
- Electronic Fund Transfers - as shown in Addendum B

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

16. **BOARD REPORTS**

Board Clerk Holcomb spoke about attending the VANTAGE advisory team meeting and about how impressed he has been with the growth and evolution of the VANTAGE program and what a profound impact it is making on our students.

Board Treasurer Wagner thanked the Finance Advisory Committee for its considerable time and effort in evaluating the proposed VANTAGE/MOMENTUM building project (which was the project discussed in detail and ultimately approved earlier in the Board meeting).

17. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

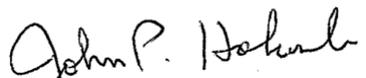
Superintendent Peterson spoke about the first month of school and the joy and excitement of having students and staff back together. He talked about the success of Homecoming events, including the game, the parade and the pep fest and how enjoyable the events were for the students. He also mentioned that the District is meeting with some potential business partners as we look to expand the opportunities for students in the MOMENTUM program.

18. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements this evening.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

Holcomb moved, Ambrosen seconded, adjournment at 11:22 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

  
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John Holcomb, Clerk