MINNETONKA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #276

District Service Center

5621 County Road 101

**Minnetonka, Minnesota**

Minutes of August 5, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 5, 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, Christine Ritchie, Lisa Wagner and Superintendent Dennis Peterson, 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: Minnetonka Theatre Spotlight Award recipients; Adapted Bowling State Champion; Baseball State Qualifiers; Esports State Qualifiers; Boys Golf State Qualifiers; Girls Golf State Qualifier; Boys Track and Field State Qualifiers; Girls Track and Field State Qualifiers; and National School Public Relations Association Award recipients.

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

1. **AGENDA**

LeSage moved, Wagner seconded, that the School Board approve the agenda, as presented.

Board member Ambrosen proposed, via a friendly amendment, that Agenda Items IV-VII be moved to follow Community Comments, to allow time for Board member Ritchie to make a statement. Board member Wagner seconded the friendly amendment. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion to accept the friendly amendment carried unanimously. The original motion to approve the agenda (now modified) also carried unanimously.

2. **STATEMENT FROM BOARD MEMBER CHRISTINE RITCHIE**

Board member Ritchie then read the following statement:

*I am resigning my seat on the School Board effective August 10, as we are relocating to the East Coast. It is bittersweet as Minnetonka is an amazing school district and my kids have thrived here, but we are looking forward to a new adventure.  I want to thank:*

* *the Minnetonka community for giving me this opportunity to serve;*
* *District leadership and school administrators, especially teachers who were able to quickly pivot in order to continue educating our students during the last year and a half;*
* *the amazing teachers my kids have had at Scenic Heights and MME; and*
* *the students and their parents, especially those of you we got to know well over the years.*

*This elected school board seat is accorded the right to decide on a specific date for resignation, as long as the requirements for being a board member are still intact. The remaining board members will choose who replaces me until a special election can be held next year.  There is a public process that governs this selection.  Board leadership will provide more information about the process.*

*After a lot of inner searching, and consultation with trusted people in my life, I decided not to resign until tonight.  It wasn’t an easy decision, but I believe it’s the right one.*

*I want to provide some context for my decision.*

*I want to share some of my concerns about the state of tension among parents and voters that I’ve observed in the last 18 months.*

*Between emails, social media posts, text messages, I and other board members - and the superintendent - have variously been called:*

* *Racist*
* *Leftist*
* *Reactionary*
* *Homophobes and transphobes*
* *Pro-critical race theory*
* *Anti-critical race theory*
* *Communists, socialists, white supremacists*
* *Pawns of Dr. Fauci’s lies*
* *Pawns of Donald Trump’s lies*
* *Enablers of oppression*

*We’ve been accused of running a secretive cabal in service of Dr. Peterson’s dictatorship.*

*We’ve been accused of voter obstruction.  And that we didn’t care about our students because we didn’t let them into classrooms.  Or that we didn’t care about our students because we didn’t keep them out of classrooms long enough.*

*At least one of the members has received veiled threats.  And we have all been completely misrepresented on social media.*

*None of this can be further from the truth.*

*This is not a racist board, or a socialist, or pro- or anti-CRT board.  These are people who make huge efforts to do what is best for the students and teachers we all ultimately serve.  We spend tremendous amounts of time researching, questioning, talking to parents and students, and all manners of other tasks.  Just because you don’t see or hear all the conversations with students, teachers, parents, taxpayers happening, don’t assume they are not happening.  And just because we don’t immediately answer demands or implement your suggestions, doesn't mean we aren’t listening.  We are listening - to everyone - and the decisions we make are determined by what we think is in the best interests of the students and community as a whole.*

*I made a campaign promise that I would listen to all voters, and I’ve had countless conversations with people who have requested my time.  On many occasions I’ve used vacation days from work to do so.*

*This is not a glamorous job, and it’s not intended to be.*

*We do not all agree on all matters.  I have voiced my challenges to the board members and I’ve questioned our superintendent on matters I didn’t agree with.  There are many times I wish I had done or said more - coming from over 25 years in the corporate world, I was used to being able to take action immediately.  Public education and school boards do not work that way.  That was definitely a learning curve for me.*

*And there is no secret cabal.  The board meets in public, BY LAW.  Just like the process for appointing the person to fill my spot until Nov 2022 is a public process, with the entire board voting.  There will be no puff of smoke when the decision is made because it will be made in public.*

*My point in all of this is that there is a lot of work to be done, and the time spent addressing the current angry maelstrom of discontent only detracts from that work.*

*Going into the upcoming election, this is the environment we find ourselves in.*

*The 2019 School Board election was the most acrimonious in recent history.  And the major topic of contention was open enrollment and crowded hallways and lunchrooms.*

*But overall, most candidates and their advocates behaved in a balanced and decent manner.*

*I’ve seen that change since January of last year.   COVID-19 and the upheaval it has caused, coupled with the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing elevation of dialogue around racism and equity, seem to have driven a lot of dialogue to inflammatory rhetoric and hyperbole.  On both sides of the political spectrum.*

*It looks to me like large tribes have emerged from this, each with a goal of gaining a majority of seats on the school board.*

*And each doesn’t seem to care about the opinions of the others.*

*In a discussion with a concerned parent not long ago, I was explaining how as a board member, it is my responsibility to represent all constituents, not just those whose ideals align with mine.  Their response was “if their beliefs are x, then they can just leave the district.”*

*Public education does not work that way. A pluralistic democracy does not work that way.  This job entails listening to everyone, particularly those who hold a viewpoint different than mine, and pushing for what is best for our students.*

*There are dangers to this toxicity, because every tribe now has a huge megaphone, and their truth is the only truth.*

*There is a danger in assuming you know someone’s story - my family has experienced racism in this town - it exists and it’s abhorrent.  There are those who believe it doesn’t exist.  At the same time, I’ve had conversations with people who told me that racism directed toward my family “is different” or “doesn’t count.”*

*It’s dangerous to assume people’s reasons for making decisions.  If you believe the posts on social media, my decision to resign tonight was made as part of a secret enclave that is scheming to uphold Dr Peterson’s dictatorship.  Did anyone stop to think - or better yet, ask me - why?  It surely wasn’t an easy decision and my last month as a resident of Minnetonka was not at all fun.*

*It is dangerous for any board member - or voter - to believe that their truth is the only truth.  And other ideas can be cast aside with aspersions.*

*I’m not naive - It’s not just Minnetonka that’s experiencing this.  There are these pockets in every community.  And every community also has members who seem to try to find an outrage and amplify it to 11.*

*But as a community, we have to confront our challenges.*

*In this upcoming election, from my perspective, I believe it’s important that voters select a candidate who:*

* *Publicly acknowledges the importance of dignity for and fairness and kindness to all students, faculty, and staff, regardless of their color, gender, sexual or gender preference.*
* *Commits to genuinely listening to ALL voters, students, parents, district employees, regardless of whether or not they agree with them.*
* *Is not aligned with those who employ half-truths and hyperbole to rile the masses*
* *Recognizes the importance of striving for excellence for all our students.  There does not have to be a trade-off between equity and excellence.  One does not come at the cost of the other.*

*On the note of excellence:  here’s what I mean:*

*I’m going to take a slight departure to talk about excellence, since that is core to Minnetonka.  I believe that the best thing we can do for all students - and I’ve also been told this by parents of all colors, cultures, and religions - is to give them an advantage for the future.*

*Use our tremendous resources to equip them in the best way possible to excel as adults in whatever their interests are.*

*Meet each student where they are:  some students excel in certain areas.  Accelerate that.  Some do not:  ensure they are given all the support they need.*

*The world is getting more competitive and challenging in every way.  A district needs to ensure its graduates are equipped to thrive, lead, and change that world.*

*A critical pillar of excellence is equipping our kids to function as adults in the real world - a reality that requires inclusivity, tolerance, and diversity of thought. And in many cases, just learning simple kindness.  Our students can only benefit from learning to have difficult conversations and constructive discourse.  Not all of this can be planned in the curriculum - our kids are smarter and more aware than we give them credit for.*

*I’ve generally found that students are more capable of accepting differences than their parents are. We can’t claim to be striving for excellence if we are not teaching our kids to function in a modern, heterogeneous world.*

*For leaders of groups who advocate for candidates:*

* *Be decent and tone down the rhetoric.*
* *Talk to others outside your sphere.  Don’t make assumptions about the motivations of others - just ASK them.  You’ll find that you have much more in common with your opposing group than you realize.  Think about your words and actions and how they affect the district and our students.*

*For adult activists who sponsor student organizations:*

* *Be role models.*
* *Show students how they can achieve meaningful change - my first experience with some students under your guidance was a finger pointed in my face telling me I should be ashamed of myself.  And I’m someone who believes in many of the same things you do.*
* *Show how to engage in constructive dialogue.  I put myself out there and met with some of you, only to later be thrown under the bus on social media.  This isn’t in anyone’s best interest.*
* *That means discouraging people from acting on their most base inclinations. Show them how to engage with diplomacy.*
* *Don’t hide behind students; they are not vehicles to further your political agendas.*
* *Recognize that people won’t always agree with you.  You won’t get everything you want.*
* *This is called compromise, and it’s a cornerstone of democracy:* ***nobody*** *gets everything they want.*
* *But that’s not an excuse to set a destructive course for the district - for our students - because you’re dissatisfied.  Leave those kinds of politics for Washington DC.  We should be better than that.*

*To voters:  be skeptical of rhetoric and candidates who are not open minded.  And closely examine those who claim to be.*

# *Back to why I’m resigning on August 10th.*

*It’s not hard to see that the upcoming election will have a heavy political overtone, though a school board member should be apolitical in doing their job.*

*Though there were calls for me to resign early, prior to my residency status changing, I did not do that.  My reason is simple: As a member of the school board, I am entrusted to make the decisions I believe are best for the district.  I did not feel it was in the best interest of the district to have a majority of seats up for election in such a contentious time.*

*The last election was divisive enough and the past 18 months have done nothing but further that divide.  A school board needs stability - it’s crucial to the success of this district.  None of us want to see our district meetings look like any number of school board screaming and fighting matches you can find on YouTube.  It’s bad enough that we need occasional police presence here due to implied threats.*

*An ideological voting bloc majority on a school board is dangerous.  Student welfare takes a back seat to ideology.  This leads to a district lurching back and forth between policies and strategies as different majority blocs are voted in.*

*As I stated before, this doesn’t mean there is no disagreement.  Other board members know I’ve disagreed with them on many issues. But an excellent education for our kids is always the paramount concern.*

*I am fully confident that my fellow board members will conduct a fair process to evaluate those interested in filling my role and will choose the person they feel will be fair, balanced, and apolitical when it comes to the matters under purview of the school board.*

*It’s my hope that by the time of a special election next year, this community will have stepped back from the brink, and found ways to collaborate, despite the differences that will always exist.*

*Some have called this voter suppression - I think they’re wrong; this seat was never meant to be up for election this November.  The reason there are staggered elections with the majority of seats up only every four years, is to provide stability.  To those of you questioning my integrity and ethics, I am comfortable with my decision.*

*In closing, I want to address the way one of our teachers was treated on social media and in emails and texts.  My biggest regret is not publicly stating my support for him from the beginning.  Our teachers and students - deserve better.*

*I will miss Minnetonka; it is an amazing school district and a lot of that is due to Dr. Peterson and his administration.  We have one of the best school finance minds in Paul Bourgeois and our Principals and Teachers are as good as they get (I will miss Mr. Dymit’s emails).*

Chairperson Vitale thanked Board member Ritchie for her statement. The Board then discussed the process for filling a vacancy when it is less than 90 days before an election, determining that the position will be appointed by the Board, and the appointee will fill Board Member Ritchie’s seat until a special election can be held for the seat in November of 2022. To appoint a person to fill the seat, the Board determined it would have an opportunity for interested individuals to apply to fill the role. More information will be posted on the District website in the coming days, with applications to be accepted from August 17-September 7. From September 7-28, the Board will review applications and conduct interviews. Their initial plan is to appoint someone from that pool of applicants in early October, though the timeline will be flexible.

Wagner moved, Ambrosen seconded, that the Board approve the timeline for the process of filling the School Board vacancy caused by the resignation of Board member Christine Ritchie. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

Wagner then moved, Holcomb seconded, that the Board accept Board member Christine Ritchie’s resignation, effective August 10, 2021. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

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.

Seven individuals then addressed the Board:

* Minnetrista resident Jennifer Mason
* Excelsior resident Kathryn Rogness
* Excelsior resident Nicole Nejezchleba
* Excelsior resident Kathryn Bonine
* Chanhassen resident Carter Nye
* Chanhassen resident Tammy Zywotko
* Chanhassen resident Faith Staut

All spoke about their concerns about masks, asking the District not to require them in the coming year. They all said they would like parent choice in determining whether or not their child should have to wear a mask while at school in 2021-22.

Chairperson Vitale thanked the community members for their comments.

4. **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION CALLING THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois explained that in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 205A.07 Subd. 3, the school board of a school district must adopt a resolution to call a general school district election. The district must give written notice of the general election to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part no later than 74 days before the election. In 2021, Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, resulting in the final day to notify the county auditor being August 20, 2021. The filing period is July 27 – August 10, 2021. The deadline for a candidate to withdraw is 5:00 PM on August 12, 2021.

Mr. Bourgeois explained that the recommended resolution has been reviewed by the law firm of Knutson, Flynn & Deans to comply with all applicable Minnesota Statutes that pertain to school board elections.

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

5. **REPORT ON SOLAR GARDENS**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois began by noting that the District is continuously looking to reduce costs of operations in order to free up more resources for direct educational programs. One area that the District has concentrated on is the usage of electricity. The District has been gradually converting all lights in District facilities to LED lighting. Another area that the District has been working on is in reducing electrical bills through credits received for purchasing wind-generated and solar-generated electricity, commonly called renewable energy sources. There are significant credits available through a variety of programs offered by utilities at various times for the use of renewable energy that can serve as a hedge against rising energy prices.

The District has contracted with Xcel Energy through its Renewable Connect Program for wind-generated and solar-generated electricity to power the Minnetonka High School Campus, the Minnetonka Community Education Center, the District Service Center and the District Technology Center for the next 10 years, totaling approximately 6 million kilowatt hours annually. Under the Renewable Connect program, the District has locked in rates per kilowatt-hour that will only increase approximately 1.2% per year, versus an average of approximately 3% per year for other electricity from other generation.

The District contracted with SoCore Energy of Chicago, IL in December 2015 for 1.1 million kilowatt hours for the next 25 years through a 12.83% subscription to the Nesvold 1 Community Solar Garden located in Watertown Township in Carver County. This electricity is directed to serve Minnetonka Middle School East. The per-kilowatt-hour credits received from the solar energy generated will exceed the cost of the payment to SoCore Energy by approximately 0.4 cents in Year 1 and increasing annually up to approximately 9.7 cents in Year 25. These credits are then applied against the expense bills received from Xcel Energy to reduce the net expense of electricity to the District.

The District also contracted with Nokomis Energy Partners, LLC of Minneapolis in June 2018 for approximately 40% of the production of the Erin Community Solar Garden near Green Isle, MN, or approximately 674,000 kWh. The credits for these kilowatt-hours are set to be 1.0 cent larger than the cost that the District will be billed by Nokomis Energy Partners, thereby insuring that the District receives a fixed credit amount over the 25-year duration of the agreement. The Erin Community Solar Garden is in production as of January 1, 2020. As this Community Solar Garden is located in Sibley County, under Xcel Energy rules for Community Solar Garden development, its electricity must be delivered to a facility in an adjacent county, which for Minnetonka ISD 276 would be Minnetonka Middle School West, which is the only District facility located in Carver County.

In two other agreements in 2019, the District contracted with Nokomis Energy Partners, LLC for additional Community Solar Garden Subscription agreements as listed below. The terms of these agreements are under the same tariff approved by Xcel Energy for the agreement for electricity for Minnetonka Middle School West, or 1.0 cent larger than the cost that the District will be billed by Nokomis Energy Partners, thereby insuring that the District receives a fixed credit amount over the 25-year duration of the agreement.

* 37% of the Mud Garden near Gaylord in Sibley County to provide approximately 633,000 kWh annually to serve the load of Minnetonka Middle School West that is not already served by the Erin Garden near Green Isle in Sibley County. This Mud Community Solar Garden is in production as of January 1, 2020.
* 40% of the Chub Garden near Northfield in Dakota County to provide approximately 694,000 kWh annually to serve 100% of the load of Groveland Elementary School and 31% of the load of Scenic Heights Elementary School.
* 40% of the Lyman Garden near Northfield in Rice County to provide approximately 689,000 kWh annually to serve 100% of the load of Clear Springs Elementary School and 39% of the load of Scenic Heights Elementary School. This garden will commence construction in June 2020.
* 40% of the Elk Garden near Big Lake in Sherburne County to provide approximately 690,000 kWh annually to serve 100% of the load of Minnewashta Elementary School and 30% of the load of Scenic Heights Elementary School.
* 40% of the Johnnyvale Garden near Northfield in Dakota County to provide approximately 690,000 kWh annually to serve 100% of the load of Excelsior Elementary School.
* 20% of the Pickerel Garden near Northfield in Dakota County to provide approximately 400,000 kWh annually to serve the load of Deephaven Elementary School.

The District is working with Xcel Energy to participate in the renewable energy from hydro power and solar power being developed at the site of the former Ford plant in St. Paul to provide additional renewable energy for the MOMENTUM Addition, SAIL Program at the Shorewood Education Center, and any future projects that may come up.

6. **REPORT ON LONG-TERM DEBT**

Minnetonka Schools periodically issues bonds as needed to fund long-term maintenance projects or to construct targeted building additions as needed to meet the needs of the educational program for the students. Over the past few years, the majority of deferred maintenance items have been eliminated, with only a few remaining, and the District is on schedule with its long-term maintenance plan to continue to replace major building components for the fleet of buildings that have reached 50 years or more of use. The District has also done targeted additions over the past several years to serve the educational programs in an efficient manner and to serve all the students who wish to enroll in Minnetonka Public Schools. Mr. Bourgeois provided an update to the Board on the various bond issues, the annual bond payments on the outstanding bond principal and a look at the current and future levels of outstanding bonds as the District moves through its strategic facility initiatives and bonds are paid off over time.

7. **AUTHORIZATION OF SALE OF 2021G LONG-TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE BONDS**

Mr. Bourgeois explained that the District maintains a rolling 10-Year Long Term Facility Maintenance Plan to keep the District’s over 1.8 million square feet of buildings and 255 acres of outdoor facilities in a state of good repair. The FY22-FY31 Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan approved by the School Board at the June 17, 2021, Special School Board Meeting includes $6,245,000 in necessary projects for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), which begins on July 1, 2022. The majority of the FY23 projects will be competed in summer 2022 in the period when school is not in session from approximately June 15 through August 15. Projects for summer 2022 work are currently in the design and permitting process in order to obtain the most favorable bid pricing. The Minnesota Department of Education reviewed the 10-Year Plan in late June 2021 as required by statute and approved the issuance of $6,245,000 in bonds for the FY23 projects.

Authorization is being requested to sell the $6,245,000 in bonds at this time. The interest rate environment is very favorable toward selling the bonds at low interest rates. Once authorized, the bonds will be sold in late August with approval of the sale terms at the September 2, 2021, School Board Meeting, which is in time for inclusion of the bond payments in the 21 Pay 22 Preliminary Levy.

The authorizing resolution for the 2021G General Obligation Long Term Facilities Maintenance Bonds was written by the District’s bond counsel Dorsey & Whitney.

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

8. **APPROVAL OF AP, IB, SUPPLEMENTAL AND NEW COURSE MATERIALS**

As in years past, departments and programs have identified instructional material needs for the upcoming school year. As the English Language Arts and Health Education departments engage in the curriculum review process in the coming school year, additional resources will be reviewed and brought to the Board for future implementation. Dr. Amy LaDue, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, presented to the Board asking for Board approval of instructional materials that were evaluated by departments during the 2020-21 school year, were available for public review this summer and are recommended for full implementation at the start of the 2021-22 school year. The Board reviewed the materials at a previous study session. The materials are:

Core and Supplemental Materials

Everyday Mathematics continues to serve as the core mathematics program at the elementary level. The most recent edition of this program, Everyday Mathematics 4, provides additional core and supplemental resources, including numerous digital tools, to enhance mathematics instruction. Teachers received access to these updated digital resources to supplement existing instructional resources and enhance the e-learning experience during the 2020-21 school year. Everyday Mathematics 4 is recommended for full implementation for the 2021-22 school year.

Fundamentals of Neuroscience, a new science elective course addressing how the human brain works in relation to cognition, memory, and learning, will be introduced next year. This summer the science curriculum writing team has continued to review *Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain* as the core text for implementation during the upcoming year.

Instructional Materials

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Author** | **Course/Level** |
| Everyday Mathematics 4 | University of Chicago STEM Authorship Team | Mathematics, Grades K-5 |
| Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain | Mark Bear, Barry Connors, Michael A. Paradiso | Fundamentals of Neuroscience |

AP and IB Materials

The changing nature of the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum requires adjustments on a regular basis. Advanced Learner Coordinator Laura Herbst works closely with AP and IB teachers and department chairs each year to select from available and appropriate materials.

In addition to the criteria outlined in Policy #606, these materials are selected based upon the curriculum recommendations of the International Baccalaureate Organization, the College Board and the organizations’ trainers. For the 2021-22 school year, AP and IB teachers have recommended implementing a number of new instructional resources to meet the demands of these programs. The instructional resources are included in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Author** | **Course/Level** |
| *Economics for the IB Diploma* | Ellie Tragakes | IB Economics |
| *Human Geography for the AP Course* | Barbara Hildebrant, Max Lu, Kethheth Keller, Roderick P. Neumann | AP Human Geography |
| *Human Geography: A Spatial Perspective (AP Edition)* | Sarah Bednarz, Mark Bockenhaur, Fredrik Hiebert | AP Human Geography |
| *Matter and Interactions, 4th edition* | Ruth Chabay, Bruce Sherwood | AP Physics C |
| *Physics For Scientists and Engineers: A strategic Approach, 4th Edition* | Randall D. Knight | AP Physics C |

Digital Resources and iPad Apps

In response to the varying e-learning needs of the past year, the district introduced additional digital resources to supplement the existing curriculum. The resources listed in the table below have been reviewed by teams of teachers, tech coaches and the Director of Instructional Technology and Media Services Dave Eisenmann to ensure that they meet the criteria described in Policy #606. They are recommended for the 2021-22 school year and beyond.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **App Name** | **Category** | **Subject/Course** |
| Acapella from PicPlayPost | Subject Specific | Music |
| Arcademics | Subject Specific | Math, ELA, Social Studies |
| AutoCad | Subject Specific | CAD/3D Printing |
| BioNetwork: Virtual Microscope | Subject Specific | Science |
| Bridge Constructor Free | Subject Specific | Tech Ed/STEM |
| Chromville | Subject Specific | Augmented Reality Creation |
| Day One Journal | Productivity/Organization | Health/SEL |
| Dice 3D 7pixels | AR/3D | Augmented Reality Creation |
| Edclub | Productivity/Organization | Typing/Keyboarding |
| Edpuzzle | Other | Multiple |
| EPview | Subject Specific | Photography |
| EV3 Programmer | Subject Specific | Tech Ed/STEM |
| Froggipedia | Subject Specific | Science/AR |
| Google Tasks | Productivity/Organization | Organization |
| Hudl Technique | Other | Physical Education |
| Learn the Pinyin | Subject Specific | Chinese Immersion |
| Math Clock, by MLC | Subject Specific | Math |
| Mathigon | Subject Specific | Math |
| Mathseeds Grade 2 | Subject Specific | Math |
| Moose Math | Subject Specific | Math |
| Number Rack by MLC | Subject Specific | Math |
| Play and Learn - Engineering | Games | Tech Ed/STEM |
| Quiver - 3D Coloring | AR/3D | Augmented Reality Creation |
| Shortcuts | Other | iOS Apple |
| TanZen HD | Other | Other |
| Teachers TalkingPoints | Other | ELL Communication |
| Tinkercad | Subject Specific | CAD/3D Printing |
| Truss Me! | Subject Specific | Tech Ed/STEM |

Wagner moved, Ritchie seconded, that the Board approve the list of instructional materials. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

9. **PRESENTATION ON PARENT SURVEY**

Executive Director of Communications Dr. JacQui Getty explained that every year, the District surveys parents about their family’s educational experience in our schools. Our 2021 Parent Survey was administered from mid-May to mid-June of 2021 and captured 2,727 completed responses. All parents were invited to participate in the online survey, and multiple reminders were sent to increase participation. Although this is not a random sample survey, we are confident in the results. Demographic questions indicated that respondents were consistent with the distribution of our student population.

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

* Approximately 94% of respondents rate the education provided by the Minnetonka School District as excellent or good, with 65% rating it excellent.
* Of the respondents to a question on the quality of education over time, 29% believe the quality of education has improved over the last five years, 57% believe it has remained the same and 14% feel there has been a decrease.
* 94% of parents who responded believe our community receives a good value from its investment in our local public schools.
* 96% of elementary school parents, 92% of middle school parents and 90% of high school parents would recommend their school to friends or neighbors.
* 92% of parents, on average, believe their school principal is accessible to them when they have questions or concerns.
* 94% of parents, on average, believe their child’s school provides a safe learning environment.

Dr. Getty then walked the Board through the data, focusing on elementary, middle school, and high school-specific results. She also shared polling in the area of District leadership and School Board engagement. She noted that while the overall survey results are very positive, a segment of the parent population expressed their advice and suggestions to the District regarding a variety of topics, including but not limited to: the desire for the District to avoid political and social agendas, to limit or adjust iPad use for students, to address an academic/curriculum or teacher/staff issue, to provide a stronger focus and support for diversity, equity and inclusion and to consider COVID protocols, including whether or not to require masks, for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

With regard to next steps, Dr. Getty noted that each principal or District leader will be provided with school-specific or program-specific results for goal-setting for the coming year. The Board and Superintendent will also use this data to determine issues to address in goals in the coming year.

10. **REPORT ON UPDATED LEARNING PLAN**

Superintendent Peterson shared details with the School Board of what will be included in the Return-to-School Plan for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Peterson provided information about the learning models available (in-person and also a full e-learning option for families that choose that). He also offered preliminary information and recommendations on transportation, lunch, athletics and activities, vaccination, testing, temperature-taking, quarantining and options for whether or not to require face coverings for students and staff. The Board’s final decision on the plan will be at a Special Meeting on August 19 or at the September 2 School Board meeting.

11. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

* Minutes of June 17, 2021 Closed Session; June 17, 2021 Special Meeting; and June 21, 2021 Closed Session
* Study Session Summary of June 17, 2021
* Payment of Bills for May 2021 – in the sum of $7,621,890.99.
* Payment of Bills for June 2021 – in the sum of $11,273,474.39.
* Recommended Personnel Items – as shown in Addendum A.
* Gifts and Donations: $7,000.00 from United Health Care-Baseball Program; $100.00 from the Girls Golf Team via the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club; $100.00 from the Girls Hockey Team via the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club; $2,000.00 from Michael Rogers (boys soccer uniforms); $5,000.00 from the MHS Soccer Booster Club (upper field south turf); and $35.00 from Stephan Schneider and Joni Jensen (Boys Tennis Team); all to be placed in the MHS Sports Account. $2,000.00 from the Victoria Lions to be placed in the MHS Victoria Lions Scholarship Account. $660.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MHS General Gifts and Donations Account. $50.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MME Student Leadership Account. $100.00 from Alan Schulman to be placed in the MME School Trust Fund. $8,728.54 from the MME PTA to be placed in the MME PTA Reimbursement Account. $1,061.16 from the MMW PTA to be placed in the MMW PTA Reimbursement Account. $30.00 from Target CyberGrants, LLC; $50.00 from Ally Financial Inc.; and $16,797.00 from Deephaven PTA (Grants/Media Program); all to be placed in the Deephaven Elementary Trust Account. $8.40 from YourCause Best Buy and $60.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund; both to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary Trust Account. $33.32 from Frontstream; $10,000.00 from Groveland PTO (new risers); and $2,790.00 from Groveland PTO (keyboards for iPads); all to be placed in the Groveland Elementary Trust Account. $21,000.00 from the Minnewashta PTO to be placed in the Minnewashta Elementary Trust Account. $200.04 from Kurt Hoddinot; $71.16 from Brent Rickenbach; and $50.00 from Timothy Krueger; all to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary Trust Account. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2021-22: $77,924.62.
* Electronic Fund Transfers - as shown in Addendum B.
* 2021-22 Resolution for Membership in the MN State High School League
* Metropolitan Council Temporary Easements at Excelsior Elementary School

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

12. **BOARD REPORTS**

There were no Board reports this evening.

13. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Peterson shared that the District has received a “Class of America” award for being one of the top school districts in the nation from Humanex. Minnetonka is the first district to receive this prestigious new annual award. He also shared that, as the school year is fast approaching, district staff are busy preparing.

14. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board Treasurer Wagner thanked Board member Ritchie for her service and wished her and her family all the best in their upcoming move to the East Coast.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Holcomb moved, Becker seconded, adjournment to closed session to discuss MTA negotiations at 10:15 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

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John Holcomb, Clerk