

OFFICIAL
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 281, ROBBINSDALE AREA SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
4148 Winnetka Avenue North, New Hope, Minnesota
June 1, 2009

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Bassett, Beugen, Green, Johnson, Tyrrell, Van Heel, Walsh, directors; Stan F. Mack II, Superintendent of Schools.

2. Additions to Agenda

Superintendent Mack noted that agenda item 4.01.b. had been added.

3. Acceptance of Agenda

Johnson moved to accept the agenda as amended. Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Presentations and Special Reports

4.01. Superintendent's Recognition

4.01.a. Robbinsdale Area Schools 2009 Graduates

The superintendent and school board recognized and congratulated all who are graduating from elementary and middle schools in the Robbinsdale Area Schools. Graduates from Robbinsdale Armstrong and Robbinsdale Cooper High School were honored as well as graduates from Highview Alternative and Adult Academic Programs.

4.01.b. Robbinsdale Armstrong and Robbinsdale Cooper Athena and Academics, Arts & Athletics Awards

The superintendent and school board recognized Robbinsdale Armstrong and Robbinsdale Cooper students who have been awarded Athena and Academics, Arts and Athletics Awards.

Each year the Minnesota State High School League honors an exceptional group of students, drawn from across the state who represent true achievement. These students have outstanding academic records and have excelled outside the classroom, in athletics and the arts. We are proud to recognize Haley Johnson, the AAA award winner from Robbinsdale Cooper and Nicole Carlson and Andrew Grimley, the award winners from Robbinsdale Armstrong.

Athena Awards are presented to the top female athlete from approximately 50 high schools throughout the state of Minnesota. We are proud to recognize Elizabeth Wilson from Robbinsdale Armstrong and Cortney Imgrund from Robbinsdale Cooper.

4.02. Arts Showcase – None

4.03. Special Reports

4.0.a. Intermediate District 287 Report

Linda Johnson provided an overview of the mission of Intermediate District 287 in providing specialized services to ensure that each member district can meet the unique learning needs of its students. She noted that they completed a Facility Study in 2006 and are in the process of examining their use of facilities and resources as they move forward to advance their mission and strategic plan. She presented information on

District 287’s use of the Hosterman site and possible interest in purchasing the property, based on stimulus dollars, for a North Area Facility. She expressed hope that District 281 would continue to partner with District 287 to make a decision for the use of the Hosterman site that would benefit the needs of both districts and the students they serve. The board will provide information on Intermediate District 287 and the Hosterman site to the Divestiture Committee when they meet on June 17.

5. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included minutes of the May 18, 2009 regular board meeting, personnel matters, financial matters, including contracts, scholarships, grants, gifts and other deposits in the amount of \$\$5,265.82. Van Heel moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Bassett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda items removed for discussion – None

7. Teaching and Learning

7.01. Instructional Programming for ELL Students at Robbinsdale Cooper High School

Gayle Walkowiak, assistant superintendent of Teaching and Learning, was joined by Karla Stone, teacher on special assignment; and Heidi Palms and Neeka Connors, ELL teachers. The group presented an update on year one of the English Language Learner program at Cooper (previously, ELL students in the Cooper attendance area attended Armstrong). A majority of students needing ELL service at Cooper were born in the U.S., but speak either Hmong or Spanish. Spanish speakers born outside the U.S. and Liberians are the next largest groups needing ELL services. For the 2009-10 school year, there will be 2.5 full-time equivalent teaching staff and a .5 education assistant.

8. Business

8.0.1. Robbinsdale School District 281 Bid Awards

Van Heel moved approval of bid award 8.01.a and 8.01.b. Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project/School</u>
8.01.a	Wilcox Paper	151,468.00	8 1/2 x 11 White Xerocopy, 11x17 White Offset and 8 1/2x11 White 3-Hole Punched paper for the 2009-2010 school year
8.01.b	C.J. Duffy	39,317.48	Pacon Paers, Riverside (Construction Paper) and Colored Xerocopy paper for the 2009-2010 school year

8.02. Robbinsdale School District 281 Change Orders - None

8.03. Health and Safety Budget “Attachment 99”

Johnson moved to certify "Attachment 99. Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Attachment 99 contains a number of health and safety measures required of school districts by the Minnesota Department of Education. The district’s health and safety projects and the district’s health and safety revenue application will not be approved until this document is received and verified by MDE. As part of the requirements, a mock OSHA inspection was performed which found no significant safety issues in district facilities at this time.

8.04. Ten Year Plan

Johnson moved approval of the district's Alternative Facilities Ten Year Plan for submission to the Minnesota Department of Education. Tyrrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jim Gerber, program director of facilities, provided a list of facility projects. About \$5.8 million is budgeted for facilities projects in 2009-10. To put these numbers in some perspective the district spent nearly \$26 million in FY 2008 on facilities improvements, and budgeted more than \$19 million for the current year. Some facilities improvements continue to be scheduled for facilities on the list for divestiture until the divestiture committee presents its recommendations and the board makes a decision on the future of the buildings.

8.05. Preliminary Budget – Child Nutrition Budget 2009-2010

Van Heel moved approval of the 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget for Child Nutrition. Beugen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The board accepted the 2009-2010 Preliminary Child Nutrition Budget. Adele Lillie, program director, provided a report. The department will spend approximately \$6 million next year and will spend down fund balance slightly. There will be no increase in lunch or breakfast prices next year. About half of revenues come from the federal government and about half from fees. About half the expenses are food and nearly half are salaries and benefits.

8.06. Preliminary Budget – Building Fund 2009-2010

Johnson moved approval of the 2009-2010 budget for the Building Fund. Van Heel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The building fund budget is based on the Alternative Facilities Ten Year Plan. Revenue for the \$5.8 million budget comes mostly from local levy and a portion from the state of Minnesota.

8.07. Preliminary Budget-General Fund and Transportation Fund 2009-2010

Tyrrell moved to approve the Preliminary 2009-2010 Budget for the General and Transportation Fund. Revenue is expected to increase by \$8.3 million due to the referendum; expenses will increase by \$4.5 million, resulting in an increase in fund balance of about \$2 million. Further analysis of the budget, including staffing figures and revenue and expense related to stimulus funds is necessary, so the final budget to be approved by the board at the June 15 meeting is likely to be different.

8.08. Permission to Accept Proposals

Green moved to approve administration's request to accept proposals from interested used equipment buyers for the sale of obsolete computer equipment. Bassett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8.09. Permission to Solicit Bids

Van Heel moved to approve administration's request to solicit bids for renovation of the Armstrong High School Girls Shower Room. Tyrrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Notice to bidders will be posted on the District website,

8.10. Update Budget Revisions 2008-2009

Johnson moved to approve budget revisions to the current year budget. Van Heel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The revisions are necessary to reflect the sale of bonds to cover Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB), and the transfer of the proceeds to a separate fund.

8.11. Financial Report – April 2009

Johnson moved to approve the April 2009 Financial Report. Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Expenses and revenues are favorable in comparison to last year at the same time.

8.12. Contracted Transportation Request for Proposal 2009-2010 and 2010-2011

Johnson moved to approve a transportation contract for special education bus routes to two vendors in a combination form. Beugen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Those vendors are Metropolitan Transportation Network Inc. (MTN) and Adams Service Inc. The routes were previously served by First Student. The costs savings coming from the new vendors will go to the state of Minnesota as most costs for special education busing are paid for by the state.

9. Administrative Matters

9.01. Divestiture Plan Advisory Committee

Tyrrell reviewed the application process for the Divestiture Committee as well as the applicants. She noted that all appointees have been contacted and are willing to serve on the committee. The board noted that if citizens step forward to represent attendance areas that do not have representation, the board will amend the membership. Green moved to approve the membership of the Divestiture Plan Advisory Committee. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The first meeting of the committee will be June 17. The committee's charge is to create a list of possible options and recommendations for each district surplus facility that represents a proper use and fit for the school district, community and neighborhood where it is located. Committee members appointed are Tony Biskupski, Bryan Burk, Jim Damiani, Chris Gibbs, Jeff Houle, Scott Johnson, John Kuchka, Joanne Kostka, Kim Labat, Brad Scheib, and Ron Stoffel. City representatives include Patrick Peters, City of Crystal; DeDe Scanlon, City of Golden Valley, Andy Hoffe, City of New Hope, and Bill Blonigan, City of Robbinsdale. Administrative Staff Ex-Officio includes Aldo Sicoli, Gayle Walkowiak, Gary Hauan and Jim Gerber.

10. Board Reports

10.01. Legislative Update

10.01.a. Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) Report

Green reported that AMSD had their wrap up session on Friday, May 29. Deputy Commissioner of Education was present to provide information from the Minnesota Department of Education. Green has forwarded handouts from the meeting to the board.

10.10.b. Legislative Action Coalition (LAC) Report

Walsh reported that most metro districts already participate in shared services. He noted that LAC is pretty well done for the year since the legislative session is over. Federal Stimulus dollars continue to be a focus. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 7:30 a.m. at the Winnetka Learning Center.

10.02. Agenda for June 8, 2009 Work Session

Walsh reported that agenda topics for the June 8 work session included: Ryan Development and City of New Hope interest in the ESC and bus garage site; Update on Intermediate District 287 and the Hosterman site, Discussion of Redesign Funding, Renaming Cooper Athletic Field, Presentation on Transition Progress, School Board Evaluation and a closed Session for the Superintendent Evaluation.

10.03. Listening Time Report

Tyrrell reported that topics for Listening Time included a matter relating to special education, concern regarding a transition concern at Sunny Hollow Elementary, school district calendar activities that include sports and not arts or music, and concern about the prospect of a Northeast school to house Northport and Lakeview.

10.04. Financial Advisory Council Report

Tyrrell reported that members of the Financial Advisory Council discussed budget scenarios with Gary Hauan; they reviewed a draft of the general fund budget and assumptions and talked about their upcoming June 15 dialogue with the school board.

10.05. Communications Advisory Council Report

Van Heel reported that the Communications Advisory Council continue their work on Strategic Plan goal 4E and have started on the action plan which they will bring to the board in August. She thanked Robim Smothers and Kami Aho for their great work as co-chairs. The steering committee will meet in the next few months to identify a new chair or co-chairs.

10.06. Desegregation Community Collaboration Council Report

Bassett reported that members of the Deseg Council reviewed the district's Strategic Plan to see how it works with the deseg council. They look forward to exciting work next fall as they review the charge, logic model, strategic plan and equity initiatives. Beugen noted that they are looking at the logic model and how it interfaces with the strategic plan. They will review the structure of the committee They will look at student and staff cultural experiences as opposed to achievement gap and look for more positive outcomes.

11. Board Rapport.

Green reviewed meetings and events relating to the opportunity through the economic stimulus package for funding a school in the Northeast corner of the district. She noted that the district will continue to explore options and will hope for a good outcome for the district. Johnson congratulated all graduates. Van Heel thanked all staff and everyone for their good work throughout the year. She congratulated those who are graduating. Bassett noted that this is a fun time of the school year; highlights for her included the staff retirement event. She looks forward to shaking hands with graduates. Beugen noted that he will attend the Highview graduation. He thanked all who volunteered to serve on the Divestiture Committee. Tyrrell thanked all staff. She noted a wonderful closing event for Pilgrim Lane Elementary. She looks forward to being at the Armstrong graduation. Superintendent Mack noted that he looks forward to celebrating with our seniors who now being a new chapter in their lives. Walsh apologized to the Sunny Hollow families for the disruption in their end of year celebration. He extended best wishes to all graduates.

12. Announcements

13. Adjournment

Van Heel moved to adjourn the meeting at 10.25 p.m. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Bassett, clerk of the board

Approved June 15, 2009

Tom Walsh, chairperson