



School Board News
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School Board News

April 11, 2024

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Recognitions

Recognitions: Girls Hockey State 3rd Place Finishers; Girls Gymnastics State Qualifiers; Boys Swim & Dive State Runners-Up; Wrestling State Qualifiers; Fencing State Qualifiers; Middle School Orchestra All-State Qualifiers; Middle School MathCounts State and National Qualifiers; High School Math Team State Qualifiers; Science Olympiad State Qualifiers; Elementary, Middle and High School Chess State Qualifiers; and Minnetonka Community Education LERN Awards.

Watch Recognitions

School Reports: Community Education and Excelsior Elementary

Executive Director of Community Education Tim Litfin, Assistant Director

Jenny Bodurka and ECFE and Preschool Coordinator Molly Bahneman presented on Community Education programs and marketing efforts. They also shared a short video as part of the presentation with highlights of MCE events, programs and classes. Chair Meghan Selinger thanked the presenters and said it's always excited to see what's going on in Community Ed.

Excelsior Elementary School Principal Jen Smasal and Fourth Grade Teacher Brooke Igl, along with some students (via video), shared about some key efforts at the elementary school this year, including the impact of building a connected school community and setting conditions for excellence in student learning and support, including efforts specifically focused on improving student literacy. Chair Selinger thanked Principal Smasal for the report.

Watch Presentation

Community Comments

There were no community comments.

Adoption of Minnetonka Foundation's Teacher Grants

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation annually funds a significant number of innovative grants to teachers. Executive Director of the Foundation Jill Howe and Foundation Board Member and Chair of the Teacher Grant Program Troon Dowds presented that the Foundation has elected to grant \$109,124 in teacher grants for the coming school year. This is for 50 of the 66 grants submitted. The Foundation has funded 970 grants, totaling \$1.4M, over the years. The Board accepted the grants. Mr. Dowds also announced the Foundation has elected to provide the District with a one-time \$100,000 grant for decodable readers for the upcoming school year. Chair Selinger thanked the Foundation for its incredible support of the District.

Watch Presentation

Approval of FY24 Amended Budget

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented the FY24 Amended Budget for the School Board's approval. In it, he explained how critical that funds resulting from open enrollment have been for the District over the years and how all of the current funding streams the District have relied upon to combat inflation for the past two decades, including open enrollment, have shifted. He also shared the budget forecast for the next several years and the factors impacting that forecast. The School Board approved the FY24 amended budget. Vice Chair Patrick Lee O'Halloran asked whether the budget and dipping into the fund balance will impact our bond rating. Mr. Bourgeois explained the possibilities.

Watch Presentation

Review and Approval of Policy #534: Equal Educational Opportunity

District Administration recommended changes to Policy 534: Equal Educational Opportunity due to legislative language adjustments and to remove an unnecessary note. General Counsel and Executive Director of Human Resources Anjie Flowers presented. The School Board approved the changes.

Watch Presentation

Approval of Long-term Facilities Maintenance 10-Year Plan Annual Update

Minnetonka Independent School District 276 is eligible for participation in the Long-term Facilities Maintenance Program. The statutes governing this program require that an update of the 10-year plan be reviewed and approved by the School Board annually and filed with the Minnesota Department of Education. Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented the 10-year Plan annual update. As Mr. Bourgeois explained, the use of long-term maintenance funding to ensure the District's fleet of 50-year-old, 65-year-old, and older buildings continue to function effectively for the next 60 years is the most cost effective and prudent course of action for the school district and the community for the long term. The Board approved the 10-Year Long-term Facilities Maintenance Plan for FY2026 through FY2035, as presented.

Watch Presentation

Approval of Consent Agenda

(Minutes of March 7, 2024 Regular Meeting, Closed Session; and March 21 Special Meeting; Study Session Summary of March 21, 2024; Payment of Bills; Recommended Personnel Items; Gifts and Donations; Electronic Fund Transfers; Trust Funds; Policy #440: Handbook for MCE and/or Aquatics Personnel).

Board Reports

Director Dan Olson said there was a Citizen Finance Committee Meeting recently, and that the committee reviewed all of the information Mr. Bourgeois shared regarding the budget and had a lot of discussion about the District's financial picture, so the committee is fully informed.

Watch Reports

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Law shared about the Facilities Study Task Force, which will review the District's facilities and review possible considerations to support student needs now and in the future. The Task Force's work will include several opportunities for input from all stakeholders, including parents, staff, community members and students.

Watch Report

Announcements

Director Chris Vitale announced the Tonka Pride spirit wear/apparel Spring Sale which will take place at the District Service Center in the Community Room on Friday, April 19 (Noon-7PM) and Saturday, April 20 (8AM-3PM). Tonka Pride's clothing and merchandise will all be 25% off! Proceeds support the PTO/PTA groups and their efforts to support our schools.

Watch Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

- April 18, 2024 School Board Study Session, 6PM at District Service Center
 - May 9, 2024 School Board Meeting, 7PM at District Service Center
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