

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026, 6:00 P.M.
ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 WOLVERINE WAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Members Present:

Jennifer Bonner	Tim Riordan
Nicole Culbert-Dahl	John Uhan
Brandi Lautigar	Jodi Westby
	Lisa Westby

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent

Members Absent:

None

- I. Chair UHAN called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:**
 - A. RIORDAN added 5.4.1 under Reports – *Superintendent Evaluation Summary*.
 - B. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by RIORDAN, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Stephanine Aagenes, Special Education Director – shared information about the upcoming Grand Opening of the Rock Ridge Life & Learning Center. Everyone is invited and welcome to come and tour the remodel of the 1404 Building. Open House is 4:30-6:30 PM on August 27.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. UHAN amended Item 4.14 changing the start date for Candy Ofstad as the Activities/Community Education secretary from August 31 to August 25, 2026.
 - B. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER.
 1. Discussion on 4.14. *Approval of transfer of Candy Ofstad from Media Aide to the Activities Director/Community Education Secretary position at a rate of \$24.87/hour effective August 25, 2026.*
 2. Discussion on 4.21. *Acceptance of resignation of Chad Hazelton from the Community Education Director position effective August 27, 2026.* The Personnel Committee will meet to discuss what the Community Education Director role and duties will look like going forward before interviewing any candidates for the position.
 3. Motion passed unanimously.
 - a. Approval of August 10, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
 - b. Approval of hire of Sean Paine for the Custodian/GM/Grounds/Driver position at a rate of \$25.75/hour effective August 19, 2026.
 - c. Approval of hire of Nathan Mitchell for the High School Band Teacher position with a salary of \$64,493 (Step D MA) effective August 24, 2026.
 - d. Approval of hire of Katina Tews for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 31, 2026.
 - e. Approval of hire of Sheila Anderson for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 31, 2026.
 - f. Approval of hire of Sophia Poderzay for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 31, 2026.
 - g. Approval of hire of Holland Markasich for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 31, 2026.
 - h. Approval of hire of Allison Polacec for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 31, 2026.

- i. Approval of hire of Holland Markasich for the Junior High Girls Swimming Coach position with a stipend of \$3,278 for the 2026-2027 school year.
- j. Approval of additional duty of Extra-Curricular Paraprofessional (football) position for Julie Syversrudat at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 24, 2026.
- k. Approval of transfer of Marissa Mast from Paraprofessional to the Student Support Staff (NSE) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 26, 2026.
- l. Approval of transfer of Bridget LaCoursiere from Paraprofessional to the Media Aide (LES) position at a rate of \$22.00/hour effective August 31, 2026.
- m. Approval of transfer of Lindsay Blackwood from Paraprofessional to the Student Support Staff (LES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 31, 2026.
- n. Approval of transfer of Candy Ofstad from Media Aide to the Activities Director/Community Education Secretary position at a rate of \$24.87/hour effective August 25, 2026.
- o. Approval of additional duties for the following staff for the 2026-2027 school year: (Before School Supervisor, \$3,026 each) Robert Hinrichs, Jessica Johnson, Melissa Lautigar, Elizabeth Niemi, Heather Gulbranson; (Noon Supervision, \$3,026 each) Robert Hinrichs. Cody Baker; (Cafeteria Supervision, \$3,026 each) Heather Gulbranson, Becki Carey; (After School Supervision, \$3,026) Shelley Schriber; (Student Council Elementary, \$1,513) Stace Landwer; (Yearbook Advisor Elementary, \$1,765) Stace Landwer; (Knowledge Bowl Elementary, \$1,261) Stace Landwer; (I Love To Read Coordinator, \$505) Bridget LaCoursiere.
- p. Approval of volunteer coaches for the 2026-2027 school year: John Westby (C-Team Football), Andrew Peterson (Tennis).
- q. Approval of resignation of Sarah Randall from the Paraprofessional position effective August 11, 2026.
- r. Acceptance of resignation of Cody Lupich from the Paraprofessional position effective August 12, 2026.
- s. Acceptance of resignation of Breanna Bridgewater from the Wolverine Care After School Staff position effective August 14, 2026.
- t. Acceptance of resignation of Nancy Reed from the Playground Aide position effective August 18, 2026.
- u. Acceptance of resignation of Chad Hazelton from the Community Education Director position effective August 27, 2026.
- v. Approval of lane change for August Galloway from BA+30/MA to Step J MA+10 effective August 18, 2026.
- w. Approval of overnight/out-of-state athletic trips for Fall 2026.
- x. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of school supplies from Sundell Eye Associates to Parkview Elementary.

V. REPORTS:

- A. Junior High Volleyball coaching staff update: Motion to **hire two additional junior high volleyball coaches to accommodate the number of participants this school year**. The cost of the two coaches would be equivalent to the athletic fees taken in by these participants.
- B. An update was given by teachers and principals who have been participating in the elementary student behavior committee for the past two years and discussed the new “Reset & Return Room” available in each elementary school this upcoming year. This room will be a resource where students will be given guidance to reset and return to the classroom. They will also be educated on positive ways and skills that will help them in the future in handling difficult situations.
- C. Tim Riordan discussed the idea of using one of our school billboards to display an informational “advertisement” for the Permanent School Trust Fund that will be on the November ballot. The billboard will be paid for by MSBA and RAMS.
 1. Motion to **approve the new billboard** made by Lautigar, seconded by J. Westby. Motion passed unanimously.

- D. Supt. Schmidt provided a recap of events last spring regarding legal changes made by TRA and how it affected the current superintendent contract. He also stated that he has been told that the roundabout will be open for the first day of school. Third, the first teacher in-service day was successful, and finally, the newly hired principal of North Star Elementary, Dan Merfeld, was introduced.
- E. Chair UHAN read the Executive Summary of the Superintendent Evaluation. Motion to **adopt the Executive Summary** made by RIORDAN, seconded by UHAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to **approve the donation request from the Virginia Area Historical Society for the cornerstone of the former James Madison School** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to **approve the 2026-2027 Elementary Student Handbook** made by BONNER, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to **approve the Concurrent Enrollment Contract between Lake Superior College and ISD 2909 effective for the 2026-2027 school year** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Motion to **approve the Addendum A Terms of Teleservices Assignment from Soliant Health, LLC in regards to Contracted Telepractitioner services for the 2026-2027 school year** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.

- VII. **TEACHER STAFFING.** Discussion was had regarding class sizes in the elementary schools. With higher student numbers in the 5th grade at Laurentian Elementary, motion to **add one elementary teacher at Laurentian** was made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion failed 3-4 with RIORDAN, BONNER, J. WESTBY, AND L. WESTBY voting NO.

- VIII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

CHAIR

CLERK