

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 831
Forest Lake, Minnesota
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

September 3, 2026

The regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 831, Forest Lake MN, was called to order by Chair Rebelein at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at the Forest Lake Area School District Offices. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called and the following members were present: Tessa Antonsen, Jill Christenson, Julie Corcoran, Mark Kasel, Curt Rebelein Jr., Gail Theisen and Superintendent JP Jacobson ex officio, vacant seat open.

MEETING AGENDA

Member Kasel moved, 2nd by Member Theisen to approve the School Board Agenda as presented. All members voted aye, the motion carried.

SCHEDULED / UNSCHEDULED VISITORS

- Listening Session - one visitor, talked about a variety of school topics.
- Green Cards - none

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Forest Lake Area Middle School Principal Miller spoke about the start of the school year and presented an overview of the literacy and math intervention from the prior year and what is new for the coming year.
- Positive Happenings: Member Christenson spoke of the first week of school, new playgrounds supported by the PTA and PTO, fall sports are underway. Member Theisen spoke about the school flyer and how well it's received in the community and the first week of school excitement. Member Corcoran spoke about the first week of school excitement and energy. Chair Rebelein spoke about the excitement the school staff expressed to him. Member Antonsen expressed excitement about back to school from students and Arts in the Park attendance.

REPORTS

- Workshops & Conferences Member presented on
- City of Forest Lake – Member Theisen spoke about the end of Arts in the Park, the Farmers Market, and street improvements about Clear Lake.
- MSBA - Member Theisen spoke about the Kids Rise event at the State Fair. MSBA has an article about the Permanent School Fund, and the Chart the Course handout that summarizes upcoming events. Member Christenson said there is an online tool to look up how much your school would receive from the Permanent School fund.
- Superintendent Report - Mr. Jacobson spoke about MSBA School Board September appreciation month and the first week of school welcome back. Slowly declining enrollment from the previous year. The reboundary of the district has evenly distributed the number of students in each elementary school, with Forest View Elementary being the biggest. The inter-district transfers has allowed families to continue at their previous school, however this may not guarantee busing. The new routing software was

challenging but the transportation office is working through them and thanked families for being patient. Supt Jacobson spoke of the generosity of the community donations to our schools. The cell phone change policy has been well received and students are adjusting to it. Member Theisen spoke of the elementary schools updating their mascots to reflect that we are all Rangers and unified. Chair Rebelein spoke about the cell phone challenges during the lunch hour but is confident that the students will adjust quickly to it.

Finance Report — Chrissy Rehnberg-Eide presented. Audit Status & Financial Standing: The audit is approximately 50% complete, focusing on internal controls and processes. The district's self-insurance fund balance is now positive, reaching its goal a year ahead of schedule. Enrollment & Budgeting: The district continues to experience a long-term declining enrollment trend, with current enrollment at 5,435 students. A slight first-day enrollment dip was attributed to new transportation software automation, which more accurately identified students dually enrolled in other programs. FY27 Structural Imbalance: The proposed FY27 budget shows a planned structural imbalance, specifically due to a scheduled repayment of Long-Term Facility Maintenance (LTFM) funds to the state after a previous overpayment. This is a one-time, planned adjustment rather than an ongoing issue. Staffing & Expenditures: Due to shortages in specialized areas (primarily special education), the district has shifted resources from salary/benefits accounts to contracted services. This is a reallocation of existing resources rather than new spending, with an estimated net additional cost of \$300,000 when accounting for benefit savings. Levy Information: The district approved a 2.43% levy increase. Despite this, homeowners with steady property values would see a slight decrease in property taxes due to the overall expansion of the tax base (new developments and commercial valuations). Strategic Outlook: The district anticipates enrollment stabilization by FY29. Moving forward, challenges include inflation, salary obligations, and state mandates. The Board expressed appreciation for the pre-meeting small group sessions used to review these materials and discussed the need to continue lobbying the state legislature for transportation funding relief.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Kasel moved, 2nd by Member Theisen, to approve agenda items 7.1 - 7.5 as presented. All members voted aye and the motion carried.

7.1 Approved the Minutes of August 6, 2026 & August 26, 2026

7.2 Approved the bills as of September 3, 2026

7.3 Approved the Classified Personnel

Add/Change of Position (all additional positions will be paid for by Community Education)

- Request the addition of a SAC Program Aide position at Columbus Elementary, 20 hours per week and 200 days per year, effective August 28, 2026
- Request the addition of a SAC Program Aide position at Columbus Elementary, 10 hours per week and 200 days per year, effective August 28, 2026

Authorization of Transfer

- Baldwin, Halle Jo - from SAC Program Aide at Linwood Elementary to SAC Substitute District Wide, effective August 24, 2026
- Flagstad, Lisa - Long Hour Cook Helper at Forest Lake Area Middle School, from 25 hours per week to 30 hours per week, effective August 31, 2026
- Kurtz, Emily - from SAC Program Aide to SAC Assistant Site Manager at Linwood Elementary, 32.5 hours per week and 260 days per year, effective August 31, 2026
- Nelson, Betty - Long Hour Cook Helper at Forest Lake Area Middle School, from 35 hours per week to 20 hours per week, effective September 1, 2026
- Riepe, Samantha - from SAC Substitute District Wide to SAC Program Aide at Forest View Elementary, 10 hours per week and 200 days per year, effective September 8, 2026
- Yang, Neenah - from School Bus Driver Trainee to Regular Bus Driver, effective August 24, 2026

End of Employment/Termination

- Employee A - Special Education Paraprofessional at Columbus Elementary, effective August 31, 2026

Recommendation of Employment

- Ferderer, Tania - SAC Special Needs Program Aide at Columbus Elementary, 20 hours per week and 200 days per year, effective August 31, 2026
- Flater, Rebecca - Special Education Paraprofessional at Scandia Elementary, 30 hours per week and 177 days per year, effective September 8, 2026 (contingent upon satisfactory background check)
- Hestekin, Sydney - Special Education Paraprofessional/SAC Combo position at Columbus Elementary, 40 hours per week and 177 days per year, effective August 31, 2026 (contingent upon satisfactory background check)
- Kyle, Deandra - SAC Program Aide at Forest View Elementary, 10 hours per week and 200 days per year, effective August 25, 2026
- Olson, Maria - Long Hour Cook Helper at Forest Lake Area High School, 30 hours per week and 178 days per year, effective August 26, 2026 (contingent upon satisfactory background check)
- Rumpza, Jennifer - Long Hour Cook Helper at Forest Lake Area High School, 20 hours per week and 178 days per year, effective August 31, 2026 (contingent upon satisfactory background check)
- Ryhn, Lyn - Long Hour Cook Helper at Forest Lake Area Middle School, 25 hours per week and 178 days per year, effective August 24, 2026
- Schultz, Mason - Special Education Paraprofessional at Lino Lakes Elementary, 30 hours per week and 177 days per year, effective August 31, 2026 (contingent upon satisfactory background check)
- Shults, DeAnn - SAC Program Aide at Linwood Elementary, 20 hours per week and 200 days per year, effective September 8, 2026
- Symanietz, Joleen - Special Education Paraprofessional at Linwood Elementary, 30 hours per week and 177 days per year, effective August 31, 2026

Resignation(s)

- Anderson, Christopher - Special Education Paraprofessional at Forest Lake Area MiddleSchool, effective July 24, 2026
- Jacobs, Hannah - Special Education Paraprofessional at Forest View Elementary, effective June 4, 2026

7.4 Approved the Licensed Personnel

Non-Curricular Assignments:

- Anderson, Shawn: Football - .48 Asst Coach (Booster pd)
- Andrade, Zach: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Atz, Shane: Football - .48 Asst Coach (Booster pd; Pending satisfactory background check)
- Bade, Jesse: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Bauer, Megan: Fall Dance Team - 1.0 Asst Coach (Pending satisfactory background check)
- Booker, Ygenio: Football - .48 Asst Coach (Booster pd)
- Burtness, Adam: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Carpenter, Cole: Football - .48 Asst Coach (Booster pd)
- Conley, Brian: Boys Soccer - 9th Grade Coach
- Dumonceaux, Duane: Football - .48 Asst Coach (Booster pd)
- Hageman, Leah: Girls Soccer - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Harris, Jermaine: Boys Soccer - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Irish, Casey: Football - .48 Asst Coach (Booster pd)
- Kendrick, Paul: Boys Cross Country - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Kigner, Ross: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Leiskau, Mathea: Girls Volleyball - 1.0 9th Grade Coach
- Manning, Jennifer: Boys Soccer - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Mitchell, Carl: Football - .48 Asst Coach (Booster pd)
- Ososki, Eric: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Pavek, Aaron: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Raaen, Phillip: Girls Tennis 7th/8th - 1.0 Coach
- Ruona, Zohra: Fall Dance Team: 1.0 Asst Coach (Pending satisfactory background check)
- Schlichtmann, John: Girls Soccer - 1.0 Head Coach
- Schurhamer. Mackenzie: Girls Tennis - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Shortly, Violet: Girls Tennis - 1.0 Head Coach
- Sundem, Brad: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Swanson, Maria: Girls Soccer - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Tinklenberg, Joellynn: Adapted Fall Athletics - Bowling - 1.0 Head Coach
- Westberg, Brandon: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Wicken, Matthew: Football - 1.0 Asst Coach
- Wolf, Justin: Football - .48 Asst Coach (Booster pd)
- Zumwalde, Barry: HS Band & HS Pep Band - 1.0 Head Director

7.5 Approved the 2026-2027 FL Employee Handbook

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Donations - Member Kasel reviewed and thanked those providing donations totaling \$6,135.94. Member Theisen moved, 2nd by Member Antonsen, to accept donations provided to FLAS. All members voted aye, the motion carried.

8.2 Chair Rebelein moved, 2nd by Member Theisen to approve the FLAS Staff Retirement(s) All members voted aye, the motion carried.

8.3 Chair Rebelein moved, 2nd by Member Kasel, all members voted aye and the motion passed to establish and approve Superintendent Goals for 2026-2027 Chair Rebelein and Superintendent Jacobson worked on Supt. Jacobson goals for the upcoming year.

Goal Areas:

- Leadership and Credibility: Focuses on accessibility and building trust within the entire community, including taxpayers without students in the system.
- Strategic Alignment and Instructional Excellence: Centers on leading district learning, driving student growth, and developing a new strategic plan.
- Board Relations: Committed to working as a cohesive team and providing data and support to ensure the board makes informed management and business decisions.
- Professional Growth: Aims to accelerate the Superintendent's development through cohorts with MASA, MSBA, and other professional networks.

Evaluation and Discussion:

- Superintendent Jacobson will provide a mid-year progress update in December or January, followed by a formal performance review in a closed session in June 2027.
- During discussion, the board clarified that financial sustainability would be integrated into the strategic planning goal, and the Superintendent agreed to explore additional networking opportunities like AMSD.
- Board members expressed strong support, particularly highlighting their confidence in his leadership given his background as the district's Director of Teaching and Learning.

NEW BUSINESS - None

REVIEW UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES, next meeting is on September 17, 2026, committee meetings will resume on that date. Chair Rebelein moved to close the meeting, as permitted by Minnesota Statute Section 13D.03, subdivision 1B, for the purpose of discussing labor negotiation strategies regarding classified staff, second by Member Antonsen and approved unanimously, and the meeting subsequently adjourned into closed session at 8:06pm.

REGULAR MEETING RECESSES TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY FOR THE FOLLOWING BARGAINING UNIT: CLASSIFIED STAFF

Closed session convened at 8:12pm with all members present. Closed session recessed at 8:43pm. Open session resumed at 8:44pm with all members present. Member Antonsen

moved, 2nd by MemberTheisen to adjourn. All members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

Curt Rebelein, Jr., Chair

Tessa Antonsen, Clerk

Approved Date: 10/01/2026