

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent

Members Absent:

Lisa Westby

- I. Chair UHAN called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:**
- A. UHAN added 6.7 under Reports – *Consider approval of Clinical Placement Agreement for Student Teaching between the University of St. Thomas and ISD 2909*; removed Consent Item 5.26 *Approval of transfer of Justine Schunk from Paraprofessional to the Paraprofessional/Secretary (NSE) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour (Para) and \$24.87/hour (Secretary) effective August 31, 2026.*
 - B. LAUTIGAR added discussion on Meet & Confer meetings for the school year (Reports 6.8); removed for discussion Consent Item 5.35 *Approval of additional duties for the following North Star Elementary staff for the 2026-2027 school year: (Leader In Me Coordinator, \$1,000) Amanda Morley; (Morning Breakfast Duty, \$3,026 each) Sarah Thyen, Stacy Aune; (Wolverine Buddies/WEB Leader, \$2,018 each) Kate Ludwig, Amanda Morley; (Yearbook Advisor, \$1,765) Drew Aho; (Crossing Guard Supervisor, \$1,968) Sarah Thyen; (Morning Playground Supervision, \$3,026 each) Byron Negen, Amanda Morley; (Leader In Me: Lighthouse Team, unpaid position) Kate Ludwig.*
 - C. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Laurie Warner – Playground Aide rate of pay increase; Paul Peltier – Permanent School Fund ballot question; Deegan Miller – 5th grade class sizes at Laurentian; Robin Chisholm – school’s policy on athletic violations; Ava Wiener – 5th grade class sizes at Laurentian; Rebecca Hill - 5th grade class sizes at Laurentian.
- IV. **DEMOLITION:** Chelsea Kroells from Kraus-Anderson provided an update on the progress of the abatement and demolition of the James Madison building.
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
- A. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by BONNER, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
 - 1. Approval of August 24, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
 - 2. Approval of August 31, 2026 special meeting minutes.
 - 3. Approval of hire of Lacey Nelson for the High School Special Education Teacher (LLC) position with a salary of \$54,983.43 (prorated) (Step D - BA) effective August 25, 2026.
 - 4. Approval of hire of Beth Carlson-Speltz for the Early Childhood Threes Teacher (LES) position with a salary of \$12,023.25 (prorated) (Step F - MA) effective August 26, 2026.
 - 5. Approval of hire of Hayley Halls for the Elementary Music Teacher (NSE/PES) position with a salary of \$51,266.25 (prorated) (Step C - BA) effective August 31, 2026.
 - 6. Approval of hire of Cody Isaacson for the Custodian/GM/Grounds/Driver position at a rate of \$25.75/hour effective August 31, 2026.

7. Approval of hire of Allison Polacec for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$20.72/hour effective August 31, 2026.
8. Approval of hire of Sheila Anderson for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$20.72/hour effective August 31, 2026.
9. Approval of hire of Petra Benz for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$20.72/hour effective August 31, 2026.
10. Approval of hire of Amelia Hillman for the Before/After School Care Staff at a rate of \$15.00/hour effective August 31, 2026.
11. Approval of hire of BreeAnna Scinto for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$20.72/hour effective September 2, 2026.
12. Approval of hire of John Stanaway for the Community Education Strength Coach Substitute position at a rate of \$20.00/hour effective September 8, 2026.
13. Approval of hire of Ayla Lokken for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 8, 2026.
14. Approval of hire of Cassondra Weber for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 8, 2026.
15. Approval of hire of Jake Moller for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$20.72/hour effective September 9, 2026.
16. Approval of hire of Bradley DuChene for the Custodian/GM/Grounds/Driver position at a rate of \$25.75/hour effective September 10, 2026.
17. Approval of hire of Maegan DuChene for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$20.72/hour effective September 14, 2026.
18. Approval of hire of Melissa Sandstrom for the Paraprofessional (NSE) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 14, 2026.
19. Approval of hire of Darlene Johnson for the Indigenous Education Elementary Advisor (NSE) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 15, 2026.
20. Approval of hire of Hayden Niles for the Lunch/Recess Aide (NSE) position at a rate of \$14.00/hour effective September 21, 2026.
21. Approval of hire of Sarah Knudson for the Early Childhood Parent Educator (PES) position with a salary of \$6,751.69 (prorated) (Step C - MA) effective September 22, 2026.
22. Approval of hire of Randali Watson for the additional Junior High Volleyball Coach position with a stipend of \$1,600 for the 2026-2027 school year.
23. Approval of hire of Gina Altobelli for the additional Junior High Volleyball Coach position with a stipend of \$1,600 for the 2026-2027 school year.
24. Approval of hire of Lexis Trygg for the additional Junior High Volleyball Coach position with a stipend of \$1,600 for the 2026-2027 school year.
25. Approval of transfer of Karilynn Niska from Paraprofessional/Driver to the Media Aide (PES) position at a rate of \$22.00/hour effective September 23, 2026.
26. Approval of transfer of Sophia Kranz from Summer Day Camp Staff to Before/After School Care Staff at a rate of \$15.00/hour effective August 26, 2026.
27. Approval of transfer of Paraprofessional Nichole Malich to the Life & Learning Center at a rate of \$20.72/hour effective September 1, 2026.
28. Approval of transfer of Cindy Kujala from Paraprofessional to the Media Aide (NSE) position at a rate of \$22.00/hour effective September 14, 2026.
29. Approval of transfer of John Westby from Junior High Football volunteer to C Team Football Coach with a stipend of \$3,782 for the 2026-2027 school year.
30. Approval of transfer of Patrick Murphy from C Team Football Coach to Varsity Assistant Football Coach with a stipend of \$4,791 for the 2026-2027 school year.
31. Approval of additional duty of Community Education Strength Coach for Sean Streier at a rate of \$20.00/hour effective September 8, 2026.
32. Approval of additional duty of Morning Bus Monitor (PES) for Panella Rewertz, Paraprofessional, at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 31, 2026. Approval of additional

- duties for the following Parkview Elementary staff for the 2026-2027 school year: (PreK Lunch Monitor, \$3,026) Laura Bakhtiari; (Morning Playground Supervision, \$3,026 each) Crystal Scuffy, Deron Davidson; (Morning Bus Duty, \$3,026 each) Laura Bakhtiari, Hannah Davidson-Teff; (I Love To Read Month Coordinator, \$505) Hannah Davidson-Teff; (Kindergarten Lunch Monitor, \$3,026) Hannah Davidson-Teff; (First Grade Lunch Monitor, \$3,026 each) Deron Davidson, Anita Tyminski; (Second Grade Lunch Monitor, \$3,026) Crystal Scuffy; (Morning Cafeteria Duty, \$3,026) Aubree Schiller; (Yearbook Advisor, \$1,765) Darren Kramer.
33. Approval of volunteer coaches for the 2026-2027 school year: Cally Anderson (Dance), Samantha Roarty (Volleyball), Joseph Roarty (Volleyball), Chad Hazelton (Volleyball), Nicholas Bakhtiari (Football).
 34. Correction to contract for Nathan Mitchell, 1.0 FTE Band Teacher, from \$64,493 (Step D MA) to \$76,952 (Step 6 - MA) effective August 24, 2026.
 35. Approval of unpaid leave of absence for Elementary Teacher Annie Nichols effective November 14 - December 23, 2026.
 36. Approval of lane change for Misty Elliott from Step J - BA+10 to Step 8 - BA+20 effective September 2, 2026.
 37. Approval of lane change for Amber Lind from Step B - BA to Step 2 - BA+10 effective August 25, 2026.
 38. Acceptance of resignation of Isabella Konecny from the Paraprofessional position effective August 24, 2026.
 39. Acceptance of resignation of Wendy Dodge from the Paraprofessional position effective August 25, 2026.
 40. Acceptance of resignation of Mike Lund from the Paraprofessional position effective August 28, 2026.
 41. Acceptance of resignation of Dezirae Drumm from the Paraprofessional position effective August 28, 2026.
 42. Acceptance of resignation of William Beggiani from the Assistant Varsity Football Coach position effective August 31, 2026.
 43. Removal of William Hazelton as a signer from the Rock Ridge High School Activity Fund at Miners Bank.
 44. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of snacks from Peace United Methodist Church for Laurentian Elementary students.
 45. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of school supplies for the students of Laurentian Elementary from First National Bank of Gilbert.
 46. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of school supplies from members of USW Local 1938 to Parkview and North Star Elementary.
- B. Discussion on Consent Item 5.35. *Approval of additional duties for the following North Star Elementary staff for the 2026-2027 school year: (Leader In Me Coordinator, \$1,000) Amanda Morley; (Morning Breakfast Duty, \$3,026 each) Sarah Thyen, Stacy Aune; (Wolverine Buddies/WEB Leader, \$2,018 each) Kate Ludwig, Amanda Morley; (Yearbook Advisor, \$1,765) Drew Aho; (Crossing Guard Supervisor, \$1,968) Sarah Thyen; (Morning Playground Supervision, \$3,026 each) Byron Negen, Amanda Morley; (Leader In Me: Lighthouse Team, unpaid position) Kate Ludwig.* The Leader In Me: Lighthouse Team, unpaid position will be removed until discussion is had with union representatives regarding the stipend amount.
- C. Motion to **approve all other items in 5.35 except The Leader In Me: Lighthouse Team position** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. REPORTS:

- A. Willie Spelts gave a School to Work/Fundraising/Career Academies update.
- B. Motion to **approve the School to Work, Fundraising and Grants, and Community Education work agreement for Willie Spelts effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029** made by BONNER, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Motion to **approve Scott Manni, Joshua Lamppa, and Willie Spelts as signers to the Rock Ridge High School Activity Fund at Miners Bank** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Angie Williams provided an update of happenings at Laurentian Elementary.
- E. Supt. Schmidt notified everyone to be aware that some bears have been spotted around RRHS and the Administration Building. He provided a letter from the IRRR that highlights the financial support ISD 2909 has received through revenue generated by Minnesota's mining industry. Discussion was had on the current class sizes in all the buildings in the district.
- F. Motion to **hire one additional teacher for the 5th grade at Laurentian Elementary** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion failed 3-3 with RIORDAN, J. WESTBY, AND BONNER voting NO.
- G. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by RIORDAN, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion approved unanimously.
- H. Motion to **approve the Clinical Placement Agreement for Student Teaching between the University of St. Thomas and ISD 2909** made by BONNER, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- I. LAUTIGAR noted that Meet & Confer Committee dates for the school year have not been set yet and reminded the board the importance of confirming the schedule.

VII. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to **increase the rate of pay for Playground Supervisors from \$14.00/hour to \$17.00/hour** made by RIORDAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to **approve the 3D Virtual Space Hosting agreement with John Saaristo dba Fulcrum Visions in the amount of \$1,584/year** made by UHAN, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed 5-1 with CULBERT-DAHL voting NO.
- C. Motion to **approve the Client Consulting Services Agreement between Nova Education Consultants and ISD 2909** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Motion to **approve the Dean of Students - TOSA (Life & Learning Center) job description** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Motion to **approve the Special Education Coordinator - TOSA job description** made by BONNER, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Motion to **approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Teacher Preparation Time at the Rock Ridge Life & Learning Center** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- G. Motion to **approve the Income Contract for PSEO between Minnesota North College and ISD 2909 for the 2026-2027 school year** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- H. Motion to **approve the Contract for Vended Meals for 2026-2027 between AEOA/ Arrowhead Head Start and ISD 2909** made by J. WESTBY, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

CHAIR

CLERK