

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #656

Regular School Board Meeting  
May 18, 2026, 5:30 p.m.  
Faribault Public Schools  
710 17<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Faribault, MN 55021

### MINUTES

Members present: John Bellingham, Lynda Boudreau, Candace Knudson, Linda Moore, Casie Steeves, Chad Wolff, and Superintendent Jamie Bente. Members absent: Jerry Robicheau. Others in attendance were Student Board Representatives Amira Williams and Isse Ali, administrators, staff, and members of the public.

#### I. Call to Order

- A. Determination of a Quorum Present
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Steeves, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

#### III. Recognition, Awards, and Presentations

- A. Student Athletics and Activities
- B. Student Board Representatives
- C. Faribault Area Learning Center (FALC) presentation by Jake Hager, Faribault Area Learning Center Director

#### IV. Items of Information

- A. School Board Members Wolff, Steeves, Knudson, Moore, and Bellingham
- B. Student Board Representatives Amira Williams and Isse Ali
- C. Superintendent Jamie Bente

#### V. Public Comment - None

VI. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Knudson, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

- A. Minutes - April 20, 2026, and May 4, 2026
- B. Employment
- C. Additional Assignments/Other
- D. Authorization of Payments, Transfers, and Investment Accounts
- E. Retirements

Point of privilege by Chair Bellingham to thank the five retirees, noting that he had worked with all of them; collectively, the five retirees had 150 years of quality service at Faribault Public Schools.

VII. District Advisory Committee report by Casie Steeves and Lynda Boudreau

VIII. Policy Committee - No report

A. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Knudson, to approve the second reading of policies with the removal of 515, 530, and 618. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

1. Revisions to Policy 427: Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers
2. Revisions to Policy 615: Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students
3. New MSBA Policy 625: Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

Moved by Steeves, seconded by Bellingham, to approve revisions to Policy 515: Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records. Moved by Moore, seconded by Boudreau, to amend Policy 515 Section VII. B. Private Records Not Accessible to Parent, after 1. e. language, by inserting: "2. The "Responsible authority" must not conceal or deliberately withhold information to a parent regarding a child's request to go by a different name or be recognized as a different gender, or if a child requests or agrees to receive gender affirming care that involves medical interventions including but not limited to: puberty blocking medication, hormonal treatments, or sexual altering surgeries that may result in irreparable harm to the child." The amendment failed on a roll-call vote, 2-4 (Boudreau and Moore voted in favor; Bellingham, Knudson, Steves, and Wolff voted against). The main motion passed by toll-call vote after discussion, 5-1 (Bellingham, Boudreau, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against).

Moved by Wolff, seconded by Steeves, to approve revisions to Policy 530: Immunization Requirements. The motion passed unanimously after discussion, 6-0.

Moved by Bellingham, seconded by Wolff, to approve revisions to Policy 618: Assessment of Student Achievement. The motion passed after discussion, 5-1 (Bellingham, Boudreau, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against). Note: Page 2, Item D, line 3, "and will" does not make sense in the sentence.

#### IX. Other Committees

- A. Finance Committee report by Lynda Boudreau
- B. Community Education Advisory Council by Casie Steeves

Chair Bellingham called for a recess from 6:50 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### X. Other Matters

A. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Knudson, to approve Gifts/Donations - Resolution 26-26. The motion passed by roll call vote after discussion, 5-1 (Bellingham, Boudreau, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against).

B. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Steeves, to consider approval of Resolution 26-27: 2026-2027 Resolution for Membership in the Minnesota State High School

League (MSHSL). The motion passed by roll call vote after discussion, 5-1 (Bellingham, Boudreau, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against).

C. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Boudreau, to consider approval of an Extended Trip Request to New York City. The motion passed after discussion, 6-0.

D. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Bellingham, to consider approval of revisions to the 2026-2027 School Calendar. The motion passed after discussion, 6-0.

E. Moved by Moore, seconded by Boudreau, to consider approval of the 2027-2028 School Calendar. The motion passed, 6-0.

F. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Boudreau, to consider approval of the K-5 English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum. The motion passed after discussion, 5-1 (Bellingham, Boudreau, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against).

G. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Steeves, to consider approval of Resolution 26-28: Probationary teachers to be nonrenewed for the 2026-2027 school year. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote, 6-0.

H. Moved by Steeves, seconded by Knudson, to consider approval of the recommendation for Multi-Function Printer/Managed Print Services. The motion passed unanimously after discussion, 6-0.

I. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Bellingham, to consider approval of the recommendation for the Phone System. The motion passed unanimously after discussion, 6-0.

J. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Bellingham, to consider approval of the recommendation for Food Service Management Company. The motion passed after discussion, 5-1 (Bellingham, Boudreau, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against).

K. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Steeves, to consider approval of FY2026 Final Budget. Superintendent Bente called for a point of clarification to respectfully remind the board that they have one employee, and that is the superintendent, and directed them to Policy 209 section E.10 that states, "present any personal criticisms of employees to the superintendent." The motion passed after discussion, 5-1 (Bellingham, Boudreau, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against).

L. Moved by Moore, seconded by Knudson, to consider approval of FY2027 Agreements with Nerstrand Elementary Charter School. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

- Technology Agreement
- Nursing Agreement
- Custodial Service Agreement

XI. Dates to Remember

- May 21, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. - Adult Education Graduation
- May 28, 2026, at 7:45 a.m. - Facilities Committee
- May 29, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. - ALC Graduation
- May 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. - FHS Graduation Ceremony
- June 1, 2026, 5:30 p.m. - Board Work Session
- June 2, 2026, at 3:45 p.m. - Policy Committee
- June 4, 2026, 11:00 a.m. - FMS 8th-grade graduation
- June 8, 2026, 7:30 a.m. - Finance Committee
- June 11, 2026, at 7:45 a.m. - Facilities Committee
- June 15, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. - Regular Business Meeting

XII. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Knudson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

---

Casie Steeves, Clerk  
Approved: June 15, 2026