

School District 197
West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2026
ISD 197 District Office, Mendota Heights, MN

A meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 197 was held on Monday, March 16, 2026 beginning at 5:00 p.m. pursuant to due notice.

The meeting was called to order by current Chair Larsen at 5:00 p.m. The following School Board members were present: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz. School Board members absent: Marcus Hill, Byron Schwab. Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog was absent. Student representative Rhys Walsh was present.

Also present for the meeting were: Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent; Sara Lein, Director of Special Programs; Sara Blair, Director of Communications; Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources.

Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve the agenda as presented.

*Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz
Nay: none*

The motion carried (5-0)

Consent Agenda

It was moved by and seconded by to approve the consent agenda items as amended:

- Approval of the March 2, 2026 School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Personnel Recommendations
- Approval of December 2025 Accounts Payable Report
- Approval of December 2025 Treasurer's Report
- Approval of February 2026 Wire Transfers Report
- Final Reading of Policy 415, Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults
- Administrative Review of Policy 522, Sex Nondiscrimination, Title IX Grievance Procedures and Process

*Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz
Nay: none*

The motion carried (5-0)

Comments to the School Board

There were no comments to the School Board.

Approval of Achievement and Integration (A&I) Budget and Plan

Assistant Superintendent Peter Mau and Educational Equity Coordinator Kevin Sheridan presented the district's Achievement and Integration (A&I) Plan and Budget, outlining how state funding will support efforts to increase student achievement, strengthen racial and economic integration, and expand equitable opportunities for students. The plan allocates approximately \$1.14 million in A&I funding, with at least 80% dedicated to direct student services and the remaining funds supporting professional development and administrative costs.

Administrators reviewed the three-year Achievement and Integration Plan for 2026-2029, developed with input from district advisory groups, the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC), and a multidistrict collaboration council that includes St. Paul Public Schools and South St. Paul Public Schools. Major initiatives supported through the plan include Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programming, Parent Academy, cultural liaison services, translation and interpreting support, magnet school programming, and culturally responsive professional development. The plan establishes measurable goals to increase academic achievement for students of color, promote inclusive school environments where students respect diverse identities and backgrounds, and expand access to teachers trained in culturally responsive practices.

It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve the Achievement and Integration (A&I) Budget and Plan as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz

Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0)

Wellness Committee Update

Members of the Wellness Committee presented an update from the group highlighting ongoing efforts to support student and staff health through nutrition, physical activity, and wellness initiatives. District leaders reviewed the Local School Wellness Policy requirements, including the federally mandated triennial assessment currently underway and the next policy review scheduled for June 2026. The presentation also highlighted partnerships and grants supporting wellness efforts, including funding for ADA playground equipment, locally sourced food in school meals, bike infrastructure improvements, and dental health programs. Child Nutrition updates included the addition of new menu items, vegetarian options, and continued compliance with USDA Smart Snack guidelines. Staff also shared examples of school-based wellness activities across the district, such as Bike- and Walk-to-School events, Girls on the Run, staff wellness challenges, and mental health presentations. Looking ahead, the district plans to focus on meeting upcoming federal nutrition standards, expanding ADA access to outdoor physical activity, increasing biking opportunities, and strengthening student health initiatives such as vaping prevention and dental health engagement.

First Reading of Policy 722, Public Data Requests

Sara Blair, Director of Communications, presented a first reading of Policy 722, Public Data Requests, which outlines the district's procedures for responding to requests for public data in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. District administration reported that the policy was reviewed and continues to align with current district processes and procedures. Updates based on the Minnesota School Boards Association model policy include the addition of Section IV.C, minor language revisions, and the inclusion of a resources section. The policy establishes guidelines for submitting written requests for public data, outlines how the district will respond to requests, and clarifies responsibilities related to the handling and protection of government data. It also identifies the superintendent as the responsible authority for data practices and describes procedures for individuals requesting access to data about themselves. Given no substantive changes were recommended, the policy will return to the Board for a second reading on the consent agenda.

Approval of 2025-2027 Agreement between School District 197 and Classified Management Group

Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources, presented the 2025-2027 agreement between School District 197 and the Classified Management Unit, which represents approximately 30 employees in middle-level management positions requiring supervisory and confidential responsibilities. The agreement is intended to support the district's ability to attract and retain qualified management staff. The proposed contract includes salary increases of 1.25% in the first year and 1.75% in the second year, along with updates to health insurance benefits effective July 1, 2026, including adjustments to copays, deductibles, and prescription rates. The district contribution toward insurance remains at 95% for single coverage and 80% for single-plus-one and family coverage. Additional changes include a \$700 increase to the TSA contribution and an increase in the performance incentive cap from \$2,500 to \$3,500, along with minor language updates.

It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Ms. Walz to approve the 2025-2027 Agreement between School District 197 and Classified Management Group as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz

Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0)

Approval of School Board Goals Cadence and Timing

Jon Vaupel, School Board Vice-Chair/Clerk, presented a recommendation from the Planning Committee regarding the timing and cadence of the Board's annual goal-setting process. The Board had transitioned in 2022 from a school-year goal cycle to a calendar-year cycle to allow newly elected members to approve goals they would help implement. After several years of experience with the revised approach, the Planning Committee reported that completing one set of goals while simultaneously drafting the next, during the start of the legislative session and other governance responsibilities, has made the process less practical. The committee noted that the previous school-year model allowed time during the summer for reflection and development of new goals, better aligning with the district's operational rhythm. The committee recommended returning to a school-year goal-setting cycle beginning with the 2026-27 school year, including a brief pause in the goal-setting process between the end of the current calendar-year goals in 2025 and the launch of the new cycle.

It was moved by Mr. Aune and seconded by Ms. Steele to approve the School Board Goals Cadence and Timing as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz

Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0)

Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Aune to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz

Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0)

The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting of Independent School District 197 will be Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the City of Mendota Heights Council Chambers, 1101 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights, MN. *Please refer to the district website for possible changes to any meeting times/locations.*

Upon approval by the School Board, official minutes will be available at the District Office, 1897 Delaware Avenue, Mendota Heights, and on the district website. The full meeting materials are available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the school district and on the district website.

Sarah Larsen
School Board Chair

Jon Vaupel
School Board Clerk