

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
APRIL 20, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenny Frenzel, Jack Aakhus, Ann Long Voelkner, Dave Wall
Todd Haugen and Superintendent Jeremy Olson

Jacobi Burmeister Pater – Student Representative
Mckenzie Edevold – Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anna Manecke

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:30 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brain Eastling – Bemidji School District Bus Drivers and Contract

REQUEST TO REMOVE TOPIC(S) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from the March 16, 2026, March 17, 2026, March 24, 2026, March 26, 2026, and March 30, 2026, School Board Meetings
- B. Bills Totaling: \$4,939,318.66
- C. Certified Confirmation of Resignation
- D. Non-Certified Staff Resignations
- E. Request for Extended Leave – Kristina VanWilgen-Hammitt
- F. Field Trip Request — VEX Robotics
- G. Request to Submit Grant — Lincoln Elementary

SPECIAL TOPICS

Bemidji High School “State of the School and Graduation”

Bemidji High School presented on their career and college readiness and senior timelines for the class of 2027.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Jacobi Burmeister Pater and Mckenzie Edevold reported on graduation, the teacher contract, many activities and awards nights happening in May, and MCA testing.

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

There were no participants in listening session.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations, \$6,300 to Bemidji Area Schools from Jack Aakhus, \$1,500.00 to JROTC from LTC (R) David Goetz, \$1,000 to JROTC from the American Legion Post 14, \$ 1,300 to the Horace May Library from Friends of the Library, \$1,000 to the Horace May Library from North Country Snowmobile Club, and \$500 from the Bemidji Lions Club Foundation to the Sign Language Club.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2025 Graduation Rates

Colleen Cardenuto presented on the 2025 graduation rates. There was an increase in all areas from the 2024 graduation rates.

ACTION ITEMS

Potential Reductions and Additions to Programs and Positions

Jenny Frenzel introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION DISCONTINUING AND REDUCING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 adopted a resolution on December 15, 2025, directing the administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and positions; and

WHEREAS, said recommendations have been received and considered by the School Board;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, that the following positions be discontinued:

1. 1.00 FTE Physical Education
2. 1.00 FTE Mathematics
3. 1.00 FTE English

4. 1.00 FTE Science
5. 7.00 FTE Elementary Education
6. 3.00 FTE Special Education
7. 1.80 FTE K-8 Specialists

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Dave Wall and upon vote being taken, the following voted in favor: Dave Wall, Ann Long Voelkner, Jack Aakhus, Jenny Frenzel and Todd Haugen

and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Jack Aakhus introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION INCREASING POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 adopted a resolution discontinuing positions, and

WHEREAS, recommendations for a staffing addition has been received and considered by the School Board;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, that the following position be added:

1. 1.00 FTE Special Education

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Jenny Frenzel and upon vote being taken, the following voted in favor: Dave Wall, Ann Long Voelkner, Jack Aakhus, Jenny Frenzel and Todd Haugen and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Resolution Relating to the Terminations and Nonrenewal of Contracts

Dave Wall introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACTS OF JULIA ANDERSON, LINDSEY BLAKE, OLIVIA ESTEY, JOHN KOVACH, KELSIE KVERNO, MEGAN MCKINNON, SEAN O'NEIL, KATELYN RIEDER, AND NATHAN WOLLAK.

WHEREAS, Julia Anderson, Lindsey Blake, Olivia Estey, John Kovach, Kelsie Kverno, Megan McKinnon, Sean O'Neil, Katelyn Rieder, and Nathan Wollak are Tier 1 or probationary teachers in Independent School District #31,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 that pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 5, the teaching contracts of **Julia Anderson, Lindsey Blake, Olivia Estey, John Kovach, Kelsie Kverno, Megan McKinnon, Sean O'Neil, Katelyn Rieder, and Nathan Wollak** are hereby terminated at the close of the 2025-2026 school year on June 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that written notice be sent to said teachers regarding termination and nonrenewal of their contracts as provided by law, and that said notice be substantially in the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION AND NONRENEWAL

Dear:

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, held April 20, 2026, a resolution was adopted by majority roll call vote to terminate your contract at the end of the current school year on June 1, 2026, and not to renew your contract for the 2026-2027 school year. Said action of the Board was taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 5.

You may officially request that the School Board give its reasons for the nonrenewal of your teaching contract.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL BOARD OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31

Clerk of the School Board

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Jenny Frenzel and upon vote being taken, the following voted in favor: Dave Wall, Ann Long Voelkner, Jack Aakhus, Jenny Frenzel and Todd Haugen and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Approval of Special Education Extended School Year Programs and Summer Hours

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2026 Special Education Extended School Year Programs and summer hours.

Tentative Agreement with the Bemidji Education Association (BEA) for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School Years

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of SBR 200-10-1, employment agreement between Independent School District No. 31 and the Bemidji Education Association for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Staff Development Fund Transfer

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to transfer all of the 2% staff development reserve funds to the general fund for 2025-2026 and to transfer all of the 2% staff development reserve funds to the general fund for 2026-2027.

Approval of Revised 2025-2026 School Calendar

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to accept the revised 2025-2026 School Calendar.

Approval of Revised 2026-2027 School Calendar

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to accept the revised 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Approval of 2027-2028 School Calendar

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to accept the 2027-2028 School Calendar.

Approval of Online School

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to approve funds to start an online school.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Regular School Board Meeting, May 18, 2026, 6:30 PM, District Office Board Room

OTHER

Recognize Winter State Participants

Winter state participants were listed.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Olson shared about Kindergarten registration, increase in reading scores and school finances.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn the meeting. Time: 7:44 p.m.

Jenny Frenzel, Clerk

Date Approved

Todd Haugen, Chair

Date Approved