

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

**ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 PROGRESS PARKWAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Members Present:

Jennifer Bonner
Nicole Culbert-Dahl
Tim Riordan

Jodi Westby
Lisa Westby
John Uhan

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent
Stephanie Aagenes, Special Education Director
Sheena Stefanich, Parkview & North Star Elementary Principal
Scott Manni, RRHS Principal
Angie Williams, Laurentian Elementary Principal
Andrea Lintula, Business Manager

Members Absent:

Brandi Lautigar

- I. Chair UHAN called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the agenda** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Molly Peltier – support of Music Task Force proposal and importance of investing in the music program at the younger levels; Cassandra Hainey – requested the board to take action on her submitted letter to them and also concern over coaching issues/non-renewals and the role of the AD in these scenarios; Nissa Evenson – support of Music Task Force proposal and the 0.5 FTE staffing increase in the music department; Orion E. – Rock Ridge music student in support of the Music Task Force proposal; Finley E. – Rock Ridge music student in support of the Music Task Force proposal.
- IV. Abatement and demolition of the James Madison School campus presentation was given by Chelsey Kroells of Kraus-Anderson. Motion to **approve Kraus-Anderson soliciting competitive public bids for James Madison campus abatement and demolition** made by BONNER, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. UHAN removed Items 5.8 through 5.18 for discussion.
 - B. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
 1. Approval of May 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
 2. Approval of hire of the following for the Temporary Seasonal Weed Removal positions at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective May 15, 2026 - August 28, 2026: Emily Houghton, Kari Niska, Ellen Ebben, Angie Williams.
 3. Approval of hire of Summer Day Camp Counselors at a rate of \$15.00/hour effective June 1 - August 28, 2026: Sophie Kranz, Holland Markasich, Makayla Waldron.
 4. Approval of hire of the following for the Extended Year Paraprofessional positions at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective June 9, 2026 - August 13, 2026: Amanda Ostoff, River Galloway, Katherine Purkat.
 5. Approval of additional duty of Extended School Year Paraprofessional at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective June 9, 2026 - August 13, 2026 for the following staff: Cindy Kujala, Kristi Intihar, Jill Christensen, Shannon Schmidtke, Ashley Peters, Dezirae Drumm, Emily Houghton, Anastasia Ebnet, Chanel Kamunen, Breanna Bridgewater.
 6. Approval of hire of Drew Aho for the Head Boys Basketball Coach position with a stipend of \$7,060 for the 2026-2027 school year.

7. Approval of hire of Dahyun Hong for the Orchestra Teacher position with a salary of \$58,270 (Step B MA) effective August 24, 2026.
 8. Approval of unpaid leave of absence request from Elementary Teacher Elizabeth Collins for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years.
 9. Acceptance of resignation of Alexandra Flannigan from the Paraprofessional position effective May 28, 2026.
 10. Acceptance of resignation of Paul Powers from the Paraprofessional position effective May 28, 2026.
 11. Acceptance of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Jeff Ramponi from the Custodian position effective August 31, 2026.
 12. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of a 2006 Mercury MGO to RRHS Automotive Department from Dan and Liz Biondich.
 13. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of \$2,000 from Michelle and Bill Welch Charitable Fund for the Robotics and STEM programs at RRHS.
- C. Following discussion of the pulled items, motion to **approve the following** made by BONNER, seconded by UHAN. Motion passed unanimously.
1. Approval of hire of Nicole Sundt for a 1.0 FTE teaching position TBD with a salary of \$47,598 (Step A BA) effective August 24, 2026.
 2. Approval to call back Alexander Hayes for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 24, 2026 for the 1.0 FTE Ojibwe Teacher position (LES/NSE/PES) with a salary of \$50,163 (Step B BA).
 3. Approval to call back Amanda Spotts for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 24, 2026 for the 0.5 FTE Elementary Music Teacher position (PES) with a salary of \$35,407 (prorated) (Step I BA+10).
 4. Approval to call back Kaitlyn Schreiner for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 24, 2026 for a 1.0 FTE teaching position TBD position with a salary of \$70,725 (Step F MA).
 5. Approval to call back Drew Aho for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 24, 2026 for a 1.0 FTE teaching position TBD position with a salary of \$55,291 (Step D BA)
 6. Approval to call back Gena Flank for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 24, 2026 for a 1.0 FTE teaching position TBD position with a salary of \$57,583 (Step E BA).
 7. Approval to call back Susan Lanyk for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 24, 2026 for a 1.0 FTE teaching position TBD position with a salary of \$86,404 (Step J MA).
 8. Approval to call back Amanda Delich for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 24, 2026 for a 1.0 FTE teaching position TBD position with a salary of \$90,420 (Step J MA+18).
 9. Approval to call back Taryn Greiner for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 24, 2026 for a 1.0 FTE teaching position TBD position with a salary of \$55,291 (Step D BA).
 10. Approval of transfer of Ethan Stachovich from RRHS to the Life & Learning Center as a Bridge to Independence Instructor effective August 24, 2026 with a salary of \$80,792 (Step J BA+20).
 11. Approval of transfer of Special Education Teacher Kortney Rosati from RRHS to North Star Elementary effective August 24, 2026 with a salary of \$76,952 (Step H BA+30/MA).

VI. **REPORTS:**

- A. Principals Williams, Stefanich, and Manni and Special Education Director Stephanie Aagenes discussed the current draft of staff placement for the 2026-2027 school year.
- B. Business Manager Andrea Lintula went over the 2026-2027 preliminary budget.
- C. Supt. Schmidt provided information regarding incoming money from the IRRR. IRRR has extra tax money that they voted to give to schools in the area – the dollar amount based on student enrollment. Rock Ridge will be given approximately \$414,000. What to do with the incoming money is TBD.
- D. Andrea Lintula discussed Rock Ridge’s current substitute teacher daily rate of pay compared to a few neighboring districts. (Rock Ridge currently uses Kelly Services to fill teacher & paraprofessional vacancies.) Motion to **increase the substitute teacher daily rate of pay from \$130/day to \$150/day (flat rate)** made by BONNER, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.

- E. The board discussed the process of a superintendent review and updating yearly goals. Dr. Schmidt will provide goals of his choosing for the board to evaluate. A superintendent evaluation will be sent out and feedback will be discussed at the July regular meeting.
- F. Supt. Schmidt gave updates on the construction of the new roundabout on Progress Pkwy, upcoming literacy training for staff in the fall, the new Life & Learning Center, a renewed push in goals in MCA scores, improving student and staff attendance, discussion on schools that go to 4-days/week which in reality is a loss of 60-120 instructional hours/year and instructional hours do matter.
- G. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by RIORDAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Nicole Culbert-Dahl volunteered to be the school board representative on the Health, Wellness, and School Safety Committee.
- B. Motion to **approve the Music Task Force Plan** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to **approve the Music Task Force request for an additional 0.5 FTE music staffing position for the 2026-2027 school year** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed 5-1 with UHAN voting NO.
- D. Motion to **renew MSBA memberships for FY26 in the amount of \$11,671.00 (Includes ISD membership, BoardBook subscription, and Policy Services subscription.)** made by BONNER, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Motion to **approve the Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy (#26-18)** made by RIORDAN, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Motion to **approve Resolution #26-17 Authorizing the Sale of Property to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Virginia** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by RIORDAN. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.
- G. Motion to **approve the Speech Therapy Agreement between Speech Partners, LLC and ISD 2909 effective for the 2026-2027 school year** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- H. Motion to **renew membership with MSHSL for the 2026-2027 school year** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- I. Motion to **approve the agreement between the College of St. Scholastica, Inc. Department of Occupational Therapy and ISD 2909 for the purpose of providing supervised clinical experiences for occupational therapy students** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- J. Motion to **approve the agreement between UMD Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and ISD 2909 for providing clinical experiences for certain University students effective August 1, 2026 through August 1, 2031** made by BONNER, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- K. Motion to **approve the Services Contract between Arrowhead Regional Computing Consortium (ARCC) and ISD 2909 for FY27** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.
- L. Motion to **approve the Client Consulting Work Order for Stephanie Quagliana (School Psychologist) and Tracy Brown (School Psychologist). (These Work Orders are governed by the terms of the Client Consulting Services Agreement between NOVA Education Consultants and ISD 2909.)** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

CHAIR

CLERK