

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #656  
District Policy Committee Meeting  
September 2, 2025 - 3:45 pm  
Faribault Public Schools  
710 17th Street SW  
Faribault, MN 55021

MINUTES

Members present: Jamie Bente, Casie Steeves, Natalie Fashant, Linda Moore, Nick Jurrens, Tara Luettel, Nate Molitor, and Wendy Susen. Absent: none. Others in attendance: Jami Kenney.

I. The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Bente at 3:45 p.m.

- A. Determination of a quorum
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Moved by Luettel, seconded by Molitor, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

III. Review of Policies

A. Moved by Susen, seconded by Molitor, to approve sending Policy 203.5: School Board Meeting Agenda with no changes to the school board. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Moved by Luettel, seconded by Molitor, to approve sending Policy 205: Open Meetings and Closed Meetings with no changes to the school board. The motion passed unanimously after discussion, 7-0.

Natalie Fashant arrived at 3:52 p.m.

C. Moved by Susen, seconded by Bente, to approve sending Policy 209: Code of Ethics to the school board. The motion passed after discussion, 7-1 (with Molitor, Jurrens, Steeves, Bente, Fashant, Susen, and Luettel voting in favor, and Moore voting against).

D. Moved by Fashant, seconded by Luettel, to approve sending Policy 210: Conflict of Interest with no changes to the school board. The motion passed, unanimously, 8-0.

IV. Revision of Policies

A. Moved by Susen, seconded by Jurrens, to approve sending revisions to Policy 425: Staff Development to the school board. The motion passed after discussion, 7-1 (with Molitor, Jurrens, Steeves, Bente, Fashant, Susen, and Luettel voting in favor, and Moore voting against).

- Description: MSBA: Clarifies whether the board or the school administration appoints staff development committee members and removes the 2024-25 paragraph
- Detailed explanation of revisions from MSBA:  
We made this revision because we had received some questions about the meaning of “establish” a committee. The paragraph that was revised is not part of Minnesota law: at the time that the policy was first created, MSBA created the paragraph. In light of the membership of the advisory committee (as stated in Minnesota Statutes 122A.60), this committee seems similar to other committees of staff and others in which the administration creates a process for naming members. Thus, we recommend a similar process (because administrators tend to know more about potential committee members generally).

With this said, your board can keep the original approach and the board can make the appointments. If it chooses to do so, it will take board action to replace committee members (if one resigns, etc.).

B. Moved by Molitor, seconded by Fashant, to approve sending revisions to Policy 512: School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities to the school board. The motion passed after discussion, 7-1 (with Molitor, Jurrens, Steeves, Bente, Fashant, Susen, and Luettel voting in favor, and Moore voting against).

- Description: MSBA: Removes language potentially at odds with Minnesota Statutes 121A.80 (Student Journalism; Student Expression)
- Detailed explanation of revisions from MSBA:  
When the Minnesota legislature passed the student journalism law ([Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.80](#)) in 2024, we engaged in substantial discussions about retaining sentences regarding the district’s authority. Subdivision 3 of the law reflects the final agreement:

**Subd. 3. *Unprotected expression.***

*(a) This section does not authorize or protect student expression that:*

*(1) is defamatory;*

*(2) is profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating;*

*(3) constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;*

*(4) violates federal or state law;*

*(5) causes a material and substantial disruption of school activities; or*

*(6) is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action on school premises or the violation of lawful school policies or rules, including a policy adopted in accordance with section [121A.03](#) or [121A.031](#).*

*(b) Nothing in this section authorizes the publication of an advertisement by school-sponsored media that promotes the purchase of a product or service that is unlawful for purchase or use by minors.*

*(c) A school or district must not authorize any prior restraint of school-sponsored media except under this subdivision.*

Turning to deletion of the word “expresses,” we discussed situations in which a student journalist may be writing to report on or expose such speech. Similarly, a student journalist may be writing to take a stand against such speech. In both cases, the word “expresses” could be read as prohibiting a student journalist in those situations.

C. Moved by Fashant, seconded by Moore, to approve sending revisions to Policy 803.4: Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials to the school board. Moved by Bente, seconded by Moore, to table the policy until October 7, 2025, pending legal review. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

- Description: Changes suggested by FPS

**V. New Policies**

A. Moved by Luettel, seconded by Fashant, to approve sending New Policy 599: Social Media Policy to the school board. The motion passed unanimously after discussion, 8-0.

**VI. Next Meeting: October 7, 2025**

VII. Moved by Luettel, seconded by Jurrens, to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

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Jami Kenney

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