

Independent School District 834 – Stillwater Area Public Schools
Stillwater Middle School, 523 Marsh St W, Stillwater, MN 55082
Organizational Meeting, Tuesday, January 7, 2025 5:30 PM

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Roll Call: Present: Sarah Grcevich, Katie Hockert, Pete Kelzenberg, Chris Lauer, Robert Parker, Alison Sherman, Andrew Thelander
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Oath of Office: Newly-elected board members Sarah Grcevich, Katie Hockert and Robert Parker were sworn into office. Grcevich and Parker are new members, while Hockert is in her second term.
- V. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Sherman and seconded by Thelander, Carried 7-0.
- VI. Board of Organization.
 - A. Election of Chair - Thelander nominated Sherman as Board Chair. Sherman received 7 votes: Grcevich, Hockert, Lauer, Kelzenberg, Parker, Sherman, Thelander. Sherman accepted the nomination.
 - B. Election of Vice Chair - Hockert nominated Thelander as Vice Chair. Thelander received 7 votes: Grcevich, Hockert, Lauer, Kelzenberg, Parker, Sherman, Thelander. Thelander accepted the nomination.
 - C. Election of Clerk - Kelzenberg nominated Hockert as clerk. Hockert received 7 votes: Grcevich, Hockert, Lauer, Kelzenberg, Parker, Sherman, Thelander. Hockert accepted the nomination.
 - D. Election of Treasurer - Hockert nominated Kelzenberg as Treasurer. Kelzenberg received 7 votes: Grcevich, Hockert, Lauer, Kelzenberg, Parker, Sherman, Thelander. Kelzenberg accepted the nomination.
 - E. School Board Committee Assignments and Working Groups 2024. The board will review and approve at the next board meeting.
 - F. Establish Board Member Salary. Board members will continue to receive an annual salary of \$5,339. The elected board chair will receive \$5,972. They will review salaries in 2026.
 - G. Review Policy 209 - Code of Ethics. The board reviewed Policy 209-Code of Ethics as part of the annual review process.
- VII. Consent Agenda: A. Payment of Invoices, December 14, 2024 - January 3, 2025; B. Designate District Depositories of Major Accounts; C. Resolution Authorizing Use of Facsimile Signature; D. Resolution Authorizing Administration to Develop Specifications and Solicit Bids; E. Resolution Authorizing Chief Financial Officer/ Supervisor of Financial Services and District Accountant to Make Electronic Fund Transfers; F. Designate Official Publication; G. Resolution Authorizing Administration to lease, purchase, and contract for goods and services; H. Resolution Authorizing Administration to Utilize Joint Purchasing Agreements; I. Designate Deputy Board Treasurer and Deputy Clerk; J. Designation of an Identified Official with Authority for Education Identity Access Management. Motion made by Sherman and second by Lauer, Carried 7-0.
- VIII. Strategic Direction A: Ensure the Learning Process is Adaptable to Meet Individual Student Needs, Foster a Safe, Welcoming and Inclusive Environment for All Staff and Students.
 - A. Lake Elmo Elementary Building Update. Principal Katy Pupungtoa provided an update to the school board about the work underway to improve learning outcomes for Lake Elmo students. In the presentation, she outlined several strengths of the program, as well as some challenges and opportunities in the areas of consistent staffing, curricular support, vertical alignment, student-teacher ratios and professional development. Board members receive an update from a different school at each of their monthly study sessions.
- IX. Strategic Direction B: Foster a Safe, Welcoming and Inclusive Environment for All Staff and Students. Nothing to report.
- X. Strategic Direction C: Utilize Systems and Align Resources in an Efficient Manner to Support Learning.
 - A. New Lake Elmo Elementary Earth Work Bid. School board members approved bids for

earth work at the site of the new Lake Elmo Elementary. The project is funded by the 2024A School Building Bonds, which was approved by voters in the 2023 bond request, and Long-Term Facility Maintenance funds. The project is scheduled to break ground in the spring of 2025 and be completed by the start of the 2026-27 school year. Motion by Sherman and second by Thelander, Carried 7-0.

- XI. Strategic Direction D: Develop Strong Partnerships with the Communities We Serve.
 - A. 2025 Legislative Platform. Each year, the board approves a legislative platform, which members share with local legislators to express needs within the school district. The top priorities for this year are education funding; student behavior and support; and assessments.
- XII. Closed Session. Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and Minnesota Statute 13D.05(b) and 2(a)(3) the board moved to a closed session to receive confidential legal advice on pending litigation involving a student . Motion by Sherman to move to a closed session at 6:44 p.m. and second by Hockert, carried 7-0. Present: Board Members Grcevich, Hockert, Kelzenberg, Lauer, Parker, Sherman, Thelander, Superintendent Funk, Paul Lee and Mick Waldspurger (legal). Motion by Sherman to move to the open session at 7:18 p.m. second by Parker, carried 7-0.
- XIII. Resolution. No action was taken.
- XIV. Adjourn
 - A. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Hockert, Board Clerk