

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

Monday, March 10, 2025 5:30 pm

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Dube
Robert Hartman
Cece Kroc
Don Leathers
Carol McAlister
Peggy Young
Daniel Zielke
Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

**MEETING CALLED
TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVED: A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Superintendent Page noted several staff and student recognitions and highlighted several recent and upcoming events.

**SCHOOL BOARD
REPORTS:**

Board members shared information about their participation in various events and provided shoutouts to the students and staff at Neveln for their recent vocabulary parade, kindergarten teachers for their field trip to the Hormel Historic Home, AHS teacher Todd Husfeldt for his presentation to the Chamber on the work-based learning program, Mathmasters qualifiers, and CEO students for their coordination of the Hometown Legends concert.

MINUTES APPROVED: Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/10/25 and special meeting minutes of 2/24/25 as printed.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

**PERSONNEL REPORT
APPROVED:**

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

Administrative Staff:

Contract – Sarah Knudsen, Exec Dir of Special Services, effective 7/1/25

Certified Staff:

Contracts – Kaia Kossman, ABE EL teacher, effective 8/11/25; Jessica Radniecki, SPED teacher .8 FTE, effective 8/11/25; and Emily Sagan, SPED teacher, effective 8/11/25

Requests for Leave – David Brown, social studies teacher, effective 2025-26; Christine Hulsebus, EXCEL teacher, effective 2025-26; Josh McRae, Teacher on Special Assignment, effective 2-25-26; Kailey Synoground,

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ECFE teacher, effective 8/11/25-10/31/25 and 11/1/25 – 5/28/26; and Madison Wagner, teacher, effective 2025-26

Resignations – Aliyah Deluna, teacher, effective 2/27/25; Kaia Kossman, grade 5 teacher, effective 5/30/25; Lisa Row, school psychologist, effective 5/20/25; Rachel Stange, science specialist, effective 5/30/25; and Kijrsten Zahn, music teacher, effective 5/30/25

Retirements – Anne Christopherson, instructional coach, effective 8/25/25; Dwayne Hagan, social studies teacher, effective 5/30/25; Lynn Keenan, counselor, effective 5/30/25; Janene Lunning, grade 2 teacher, effective 5/30/25; Lise Mittag, language arts teacher, effective 5/30/25; Deb Nelson, EL teacher, effective 5/30/25; Christine Peters, grade 3 teacher, effective 5/30/25; Lisa Rueckert, science teacher, effective 5/30/25; and Patty Schafer, grade 5 science teacher, effective 5/30/25

Non-certified Staff:

Contracts for Approval – Ethan Janning, Kids Korner aide, 5 hrs/day, effective 2/17/25; Tamra Naatz, nurse, 7 hrs/day, effective 3/17/25; Tessa Pobanz, SPED para, 6.5 hrs/day, effective 2/18/25; Sandra Sanchez, food service helper, effective 2/24/25; and Arnold Zuniga, SPED para, 7 hrs/day, effective 3/5/25

Changes in Assignment – Matira Balsley, 6.5 hrs/day food service helper at IJ Holton to 6 hrs/day at Ellis, effective 2/20/25; Sandra Sanchez, 4.25 hrs/day food service helper at AHS to 6.5 hrs/day at IJ Holton, effective 2/27/25; Amy Standing, 7 hrs/day 2nd cook to 7.75 hrs/day head cook; and Mariah White, speech asst from Sumner to Sumner/Neveln, effective 2/3/25

Request for Leave – Kimberly Maki, SPED para, effective 2/4/25-3/4/25

Resignations – Adison Chandler, SPED para, effective 2/27/25; Dicky Johnson, SPED para, effective 5/30/25; and Virginia Keith, SPED para, effective 2/13/25

Retirement – Elsa Esquivel-Soto, Success Coach, effective 5/30/25

Lane Advancements – 19 teachers earned lane advances following the 2024-25 mid-year credit review for a total half year increase of \$32,906.

BILLS APPROVED:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 3/10/25.

(A COPY OF THE BILLS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the January 2025 treasurer's report.

(A COPY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

FY25 REVISED BUDGET APPROVED:

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the FY25 revised budget.

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A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the 2026-27 calendar as presented.

**RADON TESTING AND
LEAD-IN-WATER TESTING****REPORT APPROVED:**

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the radon testing report and the lead-in-water report as presented.

NAPAC RESPONSE**APPROVED:**

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke to approve the school board response to the Native American Parent Advisory Committee's January 9 vote of non-concurrence. The response will be sent to committee members and the state's Office of Indian Education.

REPORTS:

Department/school updates from Superintendent Cabinet members and principals were available for review.

BENCHMARK SURVEY**REQUEST APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the request to conduct a benchmark survey with The Morris Leatherman Company for the purpose of gathering community feedback on school district atmospherics, funding priorities, communication effectiveness, and demographic insights. Those survey results will help the district make informed decisions that reflect community values and needs by aligning community input with the facilities assessment findings.

DONATIONS:

A motion was made by Kroc, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

PAULSON TENNIS**COURT BIDS APPROVED:**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg presented the bids received for the Paulson Tennis Courts reconstruction project. A motion was made by Young, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to award the bid and three alternatives to Rochester Sand and Gravel at a total project cost of \$516,674.08.

LTFM 10 YEAR PLAN**REVISIONS APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Zielke, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the revisions to the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan approved in June 2024. Some of the changes to the plan include the following summer 2025 projects (1) Hastings gym floor and painting, (2) Christgau Hall painting, and (3) AHS 3rd floor hallway painting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S**GOALS UPDATE:**

Chairperson Dube provided a report on Superintendent Dr. Page's mid-year progress review regarding his 2024-25 school year goals. The review was held in closed session on February 10, 2025. A copy of the review is

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attached in the official minute book and posted with the school board meeting agenda on the district website.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Young made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 pm.

Cece Kroc, Clerk