

School Board Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2025 5:00 PM Central

Aitkin Public Schools - Media Center
306 Second Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

Jen Burgos: Absent
Roland Hill: Absent
Cindi Hills: Absent
Rev. Dawn Houser: Present
Brian Leitinger: Present
Holly Mindrum: Present
Kassie Peterson: Present
Present: 4, Absent: 3.

1. Call meeting to order by Rev. Dawn Houser

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. *Comments from visitors

4.A.

- Comments from visitors must be in relation to Aitkin Public Schools and/or to agenda items.
- We recommend that you sign up at the comment table if you wish to speak. You will be called up in order as listed on the sign-up sheet. When you come forward to comment, please be seated at the comment table facing the Board Members. State your name prior to your comment. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.
- The Board will not engage in any discussion or debate during this comment session. The Board will take the information and find answers as appropriate.
- As part of Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a public board meeting.

5. Approval of agenda - revise or remove as needed

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

6. Scheduled presentations: (Max. 10 Minutes)

6.A. Student Council Reports

SP Goal 10

No student council representatives present.

6.B. Jennifer Johnson/ Taylor Meeks: Choir/Band Disney Trip - Summer 2026

Ms. Johnson and Mr. Meeks presented information on a proposed band and choir Disney trip for the summer of 2026.

7. New business:

7.A. Approve consent agenda items as follows:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

7.A.1. Approve the following School Board Meeting Minutes: August 18, 2025

7.A.2. Approve financials for the month of August , 2025:

- Office receipts in the amount of \$2,293,043.61.
- Report of expenditures, including \$537,699.01 for bills and \$792,788.98 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Donations in the amount of \$14,834.12.
- Wire transfers in the amount of 1,300,000.00.
- Employee reimbursements.

7.A.3. Approve Resignations

7.A.3.a. Craig Larson - Special Education Teacher - High School

7.A.3.b. Clara Pawlak - Para Professional - Rippleside

7.A.3.c. Sharaya Pearson - Jr. High Basketball Coach

7.A.3.d. Steven Kinzer - Jr. High Basketball Coach

7.A.3.e. Levi Perrine - One Act Play

7.A.3.f. Amber Sinchak - Bus Driver

7.A.4. Approve Hirings:

7.A.4.a. Olivia Lamke - 2025-26 Bus Rider/Paraprofessional

7.A.4.b. Raychel Alcox - 2025-26 Bus Rider/Paraprofessional

7.A.4.c. Joshua Voller - Alt School Science Teacher

7.A.5. Bus Driver/Mechanic Agreement 2025-2027

7.A.6. Custodial Agreement 2025-2027

7.A.7. Approval of virtual speech contract 2025-26 school year

7.A.8. Consider and approve extra-curricular activities

7.A.8.a. Honor Society Advisor- Meredith Sander

7.A.8.b. Jr/Sr Prom Co-Chair Advisor - Michaela Monson

7.A.8.c. BPA Head - Scott Miller

7.A.8.d. Knowledge Bowl - Jason May

7.A.8.e. Assistant Knowledge Bowl - Sean Smith

7.A.8.f. Math League Advisor - Kerry Hopperstad

7.A.8.g. Math League Advisor - Chancy Nordick

7.A.8.h. Peer Helpers - Co-Advisor - Secondary - Dustin Richters

7.A.8.i. Sr. Class Advisor - Scott Miller

7.A.8.j. Peer Helpers Co-Advisor - Lindsey Cline

7.A.8.k. Student Council Advisor - Middle School - Samantha Croatt

7.A.8.l. Student Council Advisor Sr.High - Amanda Steffens

7.A.8.m. Annual Co-Advisor - Brianna Tetrick

7.A.8.n. Annual Co-Advisor - Garrett Tetrick

7.A.8.o. Math Masters Elementary - Grade 5 - Julie Asmus

7.A.8.p. Math Masters Elementary - Grade 6 - Julie Asmus

7.A.8.q. Continuing Education Chairperson - Brenda Besch

7.A.8.r. International Club Advisor - Irma Boerhave

7.B. Discussion Items:

7.B.1. Discussion of Commissioner's Review and Comment for Proposed Referendum

- Summary of the proposed projects to be funded
- Summary of the Commissioner's Review and Comment
- The Commissioner's Review and Comment has been published
- Questions from Board or the public

Motion to approve the Commissioner's Review and Comment for the Proposed Referendum. This motion, made by Kassie Peterson and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed.

Mr. Stifter gave an overview of the Commissioner's Review and Comment for the proposed referendum.

7.B.2. Ehlers - Matthew Hammer — Tax refund options for residents

Matthew Hammer with Ehler's shared information regarding the project financing and tax refund options for residents.

7.B.3. Resolution appointing election judges for November 4, 2025 Special Election

Motion to approve the resolution appointing election judges for the November 4, 2025 Special Election. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leiting, Passed

7.B.4. Approve the proposed 2025 Payable 2026 Levy at MAXIMUM.

Motion to approve the proposed 2025 Payable 2026 Levy at MAXIMUM. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Kassie Peterson, Passed.

7.B.5. Approve to set Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m. in the AHS Media Center.

Motion to approve to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m. in the AHS Media Center. This motion, made by Kassie Peterson and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed.

7.B.6. MOU - School Nurse

Motion to approve the MOU for the school nurse. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Kassie Peterson, Passed.

7.B.7. School Resource Officer - City of Aitkin

Motion to approve the School Resource Officer position for the 2025-26 school year. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitingner, Passed.

7.B.8. Long Term Math Sub - Paul Grams

Motion to approve Paul Grams as a High School Math Long Term Sub for the 2025-26 School year. This motion, made by Kassie Peterson and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed.

8. Administrative reports:

8.A. Board Members Reports:

8.B. Committee Reports:

8.B.1. Ag Meeting, August 11, 2025

8.B.2. Personnel Committee Meeting, September 3, 2025

8.C. Principal's Report:

Mr. Dokken, Rippleside Elementary School

Ms. DeMars, Aitkin High School

SP Goal 10

8.D. Community Education - Nedra Henline

SP Goal 10

8.E. Superintendent's report:

8.E.1. Enrollment Update

8.E.2. Referendum update

Meetings Attended: Waukenabo Township meeting, Quarterbacks Club, Wrestling Club

Scheduled: Lions September 16th, various meetings scheduled for September 23rd and 24th.

8.E.3. School Start

8.E.4. Bus driver shortage/route elimination

8.E.5. State of the Range meeting in Virginia September 17th.

8.E.6. Other:

Mr. Stifter thanked the school board members for their service.

8.F. Upcoming meetings:

September 23, 2025 Safety Committee Meeting, 3:45, District Office

September 24, 2025 Personnel Committee Meeting, 3:45 AHS Media Center

October 20, 2025 School Board Meeting, 6:30 Palisade Community Center

9. Other:

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Kassie Peterson,
Passed.

Recorded by Heather Hipp

Jen Burgos

Dated: 9/15/25