



Independent School District #883

Organizational Meeting

January 5, 2026

Chair Gordee called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Roll Call

Members present: *Gordee, Johnson, Morgan, Hillstrom, and Sjodin*. Also present were Director of Business Operations Mike McNulty, Administrative Assistant Courtney Neibert, and Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover.

CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE & SCHOOL BOARD

The board members conducted the School Board Member Oath of Office.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Johnson seconded by Morgan to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS

School Board members were elected as the officers as follows:

- **Chair:** Jessica Johnson. Gordee motioned to nominate Johnson as Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Elected by Acclamation.
- **Vice Chair:** Eric Gordee. Hillstrom motioned to nominate Gordee as Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Elected by Acclamation.
- **Clerk:** Jamie Hillstrom. Gordee motioned to nominate Hillstrom as Clerk. Hearing no other nominations, Elected by Acclamation.
- **Treasurer:** Chris Morgan. Sjodin motioned to nominate Morgan as Treasurer. Hearing no other nominations, Elected by Acclamation.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

- **Renewal of Memberships:** Gordee motioned, seconded by Morgan to renew the following district memberships for the 2026-27 school year as presented. Motion passed unanimously
 - AMSD Member since 2015
 - CMERDC Member since 1981
 - MN Rural Education Association (MREA) Member since 2014
 - MN School Board Association Member for many decades (no record found on start date)
 - Resource Training and Solution Member since 1992
 - Schools Advocating for Fair Funding Member since 1979
- **Board Committee Assignments:** The Board discussed and assigned the various committees and assignments. Morgan motioned, seconded by Sjodin to assign the following Committee Assignments for the 2026-27 school year. Motion passed unanimously
 1. Finance Committee - (3) Morgan, Hillstrom, Sjodin
 2. Policy Committee - (3) Gordee, Hillstrom, Praska
 3. District Operations - (3) Gordee, Morgan, Johnson
 4. Negotiations - (3) Johnson, Sjodin, Praska
 5. Facilities Committee - (2) Johnson, Morgan
 6. Continuing Education Committee - (2) Sjodin, Hillstrom
 7. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee - (2) Praska, Hillstrom
 8. Community Education Advisory Board - (2) Morgan, Gordee
 9. Committee At-Large - (3) Johnson, Hillstrom, Sjodin
 10. Communications Committee - (3) Gordee, Hillstrom, Sjodin
 11. Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) - (2) Sjodin, Hillstrom
 12. Chamber Committee - (2) Hillstrom, Gordee
 13. Legislative/MSBA Delegate Assembly - (2) Hillstrom, Gordee
 14. Association of Metro School Districts - (2) Gordee, Johnson
 15. Meeker & Wright Special Education Cooperative - (2) Johnson, Sjodin
 16. Northwest Suburban Integration School District - (2) Gordee, Morgan, Praska
 17. Schools Advocating for Fair Funding (SAFF) - (1) Hillstrom
 18. Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) - (1) Praska

EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS

- Hillstrom motioned to **Delegate the Statutory Duties of Clerk to the Executive Assistant.** This includes keeping the book of minutes of all district school board meetings, and preparation of reports that shall include the condition and value of school district property, receipts, and disbursements in detail and such other financial matters that may be called for by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. Gordee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Morgan motioned to **Delegate the Statutory Duties of Treasurer to the School District CFO.** This includes depositing funds of the district in the official depository and preparing the monthly treasurer's report. Hillstrom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Morgan motioned to approve a **Resolution Authorizing the School District CFO or Superintendent to Make Deposits, Pay Expenses, Invest and Transfer Funds in the best interest of the district**. This includes the authority to invest and wire funds issue checks between board meetings to pay bills so as to be eligible for discounts, deadlines, etc., with payment of the same to be approved by the school board at the next meeting at which payments of claims are approved. The motion for the adoption of the resolution was duly seconded by Member Sjodin. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Hillstrom, Sjodin, Johnson, Gordee, Morgan. And the following voted against: None. Resolution passed.
- Hillstrom motioned to approve a **Resolution Authorizing the Use of Facsimile Signatures on payroll and voucher checks** in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Statutes 47.41 and 47.42 by roll call. The motion for the adoption of the resolution was duly seconded by Member Morgan. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Hillstrom, Sjodin, Kneeland, Gordee, Morgan. And the following voted against: None. Resolution passed.
- Sjodin motioned to approve the **Compensation for School Board Members**. Morgan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Designating Time and Place of meetings.** All School Board meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held in the District Office Board Room. The official posting place for school board meeting notices is in the hallway glass cases by the entrance to the district office. The board meets on the third Monday of the month for regular meetings starting at 5:30 pm unless otherwise stated. The following changes were discussed and implemented.

2026

January 5, 2026	Organizational Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
January 21, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MLK Jr. Day</i>)
January 21, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
February 2, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
February 18, 2026	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to President's Day</i>)
March 16, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
March 16, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
April 6, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
April 20, 2026	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
May 18, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
May 18, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
June 15, 2026	Work Session - 5:00 p.m. - Superintendent Evaluation
June 15, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
July 20, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
July 20, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
August 3, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
August 17, 2026	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
September 14, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
September 14, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
October 5, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.

October 19, 2026	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
November 23, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MREA summit</i>)
November 23, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MREA summit</i>)
December 7, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
December 21, 2026	Regular Meeting (Truth in Taxation Hearing) - 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

2027

January 4, 2027	Organizational Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
January 20, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MLK Jr. Day</i>)
January 20, 2027	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
February 1, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
February 17, 2027	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to President's Day</i>)
March 15, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
March 15, 2027	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
April 5, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
April 19, 2027	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
May 17, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
May 17, 2027	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
June 14, 2027	Work Session - 5:00 p.m. - Superintendent Evaluation
June 14, 2027	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Gordee motioned, seconded by Hillstrom, to approve the time and place of meetings as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Designating Official Media Outlet.** Gordee motioned, seconded by Johnson, to designate the Wright County Journal Press as the official media outlet. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Designating Official Depositories.** Hillstrom motioned, Morgan seconded, the following as the designated official depositories of the District:
 - Bankwest, Rockford
 - PMA Securities, Inc.
 - Associated Bank

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Designating Legal Counsel.** The board needs to designate official legal counsel for the school district with an option to seek advice outside of area in times of litigation. It is recommended to have firms:
 1. Kennedy & Graven
 2. Ratwik, Roszak and Maloney P.A.
 3. Squires, Waldspurger & Mace, P.A.

Persons authorized to contact legal counsel include the Board Chair and the Superintendent.

Sjodin motioned to approve the official legal counsel as presented. Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayors, City Administrators and Legislators Roundtable: Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the District Office Board Room

MSBA Conference: January 15 & 16, 2026 at 8:00 am at the Minneapolis Convention Center

Board of Education Work Session: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the District Office Board Room

Gordee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*Courtney Neibert
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom
Clerk*