

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
AUGUST 17, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, Dave Wall, Jenny Frenzel, Ann Long Voelkner, Todd Haugen and Superintendent Jeremy Olson
Jacobi Burmeister Pater – Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Finn Jorgensen – Student Representative

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:30 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

REQUEST TO REMOVE TOPIC(S) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from the July 20, 2026 School Board Meetings
- B. Bills Totaling: \$6,255,495.14
- C. Release from Contract Requests
- D. Non-Certified Staff Resignations
- E. Certified Staff Appointments
- F. Second Reading of District Policies

SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION

“Machine Tool Expansion Project” Dr. Jason Stanoch spoke about partners that are donating to expand the machine tools available at Bemidji High School. Three laves have been purchased for an amount of \$286,000, through these donations. Andy from Wells Technology spoke about students getting representation of what current equipment is, starting with laves and purchasing CNC machines in the future. The high school is looking into how to build a curriculum that has skill parallels to employment.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Jacobi spoke about the work that the Student Counsel is doing for homecoming, she also spoke about the need for school supplies.

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

There were no participants in listening session.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations, \$500 from the Gene Dillon Family.

ACTION ITEMS

Tentative Agreement with the Bemidji Education Support Professionals Bargaining Unit for 2025-2027

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of the employment agreement between Independent School District No. 31 and the BEBP for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Request for Licensed Staff

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to add 1.0 FTE Elementary Education teacher beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Staffing of Positions

Jenny Frenzel introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO REHIRE KATELYN RIEDER

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for an Art Teacher at Bemidji Middle School., the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 is rescinding the termination of probationary teacher Katelyn Rieder.

BE IT RESOLVED that a teaching contract be issued to Katelyn Rider for the 2026-2027 school year.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and upon roll call vote being taken, the following voted in favor Jenny Frenzel, Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, Ann Long Voelkner, Dave Wall and Todd Haugen, and the following voted against:None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Resolution Regarding Committee's Recommendation Concerning Level III Grievance

Member Jenny Frenzel introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING LEVEL III GRIEVANCE

WHEREAS, the Minnesota School Employees Association ("Union") has appealed a grievance to Level III;

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement between Independent School District No. 31 and the Union provides that a Level III grievance may be heard by the School Board or the Board may designate a committee or a representative(s) of the Board to hear the grievance;

WHEREAS, the Board designated a Committee to hear the grievance;

WHEREAS, the Committee met on July 21, 2026 and heard the grievance;

WHEREAS, the Committee has provided its findings and recommendation to deny the grievance to the Board and the Union, and the Board members have reviewed the same; and

WHEREAS, the Board has also been provided with the documents that were provided to the Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji Area Schools, as follows:

1. The School Board adopts the Committee's findings and recommendation and hereby denies the grievance.
2. The Superintendent is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Union, as well as a copy of the Committee's findings and recommendations.

The motion for the adoption of this Resolution was duly seconded by Dave Wall and upon a vote being taken thereon,

AYES: Jenny Frenzel, Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, Ann Long Voelkner, Dave Wall and Todd Haugen

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Regular School Board Meeting, September 21, 2026, 6:30 PM, District Office Board Room

OTHER

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Olson shared information about the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn the meeting. Time: 7:02 p.m.

Jenny Frenzel, Clerk

Date Approved

Todd Haugen, Chair

Date Approved