

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

Menahga Public School District No. 821

Monday, August 17, 2026, 6:30 PM, HS Media Center

The August 17, 2026 regular meeting of the Menahga Public School board called to order by Chair Howard at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Mission and Vision Statement.

Board members present: Katie Howard, Andrea Haverinen, Julia Kicker, Cherie Peterson, and Sara Makela.

Others present: Business Manager Dana Kennedy, ES Principal Steph Mercil, HS Principal Michelle Koch, Assistant Principal John Hedstrom and Superintendent Jay Kjos.

David Treinen attended virtually;

MOTION BY Julia Kicker SECONDED BY Andrea Haverinen VOTE carried unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

MOTION BY Sara Makela SECONDED BY Andrea Haverinen VOTE carried unanimously to approve the following consent items:

1. July 20, 2026 Regular meeting minutes; August 5, 2026 Pairing and Sharing meeting minutes;
2. Activity fund and monthly claims in the amount of \$544,464.94
3. Consider Staffing for 2026-2027:
 - 3.1. Paraprofessional Contract, Elijah Ward, step 1;
 - 3.2. Paraprofessional Contract, Halle Wisuri, step 1;
 - 3.3. Assistant Volleyball Coach, Rhea Hillukka, step 1;
 - 3.4. Junior High Volleyball Coach, Sara Kinyoun, step 1;
 - 3.5. Full-time Bus Driver, Casey Fitzpatrick;
 - 3.6. Long Term Substitute, Kim Makela, August 31, 2026 to November 16, 2026;
 - 3.7. Assistant Football Coach, Elijah Ward, step 1;
4. Recommendation from Pairing Committee to Post for a UNC Warriors Girls Wrestling Head Coach
5. Recommendation from Pairing Committee to Continue Cost Savings Utilizing the North/South Directions to Determine which School Provides Transportation and Activities Director Recommendations.
6. Recommendation from Pairing Committee to Create a UNC Warriors Paired Robotics Team and Post for a Robotics Team Coach
7. Recommendation from the Pairing Committee that each School Sets Aside \$15,000 for Future Track Maintenance
8. Johnson Controls Proposal;
9. Ridgewater College PSEO Administration Contract;

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Cherie Peterson VOTE carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Travis Howard, Bus Driver with Menahga Public Schools,

effective July 6, 2026. We thank Travis for his 8 years of dedicated service to the students of our school.

MOTION BY Julia Kicker SECONDED BY David Treinen VOTE carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Tom Niska, Custodian with Menahga Public Schools, effective September 15, 2026. We thank Tom for his 7 years of dedicated service to the students of our school.

MOTION BY Sara Makela SECONDED BY Cherie Peterson VOTE carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Alisha Hendrickson, Assistant Volleyball Coach with Menahga Public Schools, effective June 22, 2026. We thank Alisha for her year of dedicated service to the students of our school.

MOTION BY Cherie Peterson SECONDED BY Julia Kicker VOTE carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Tanya Crook, Head Cook with Menahga Public Schools, effective August 3, 2026. We thank Tanya for her 13 years of dedicated service to the students of our school.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY David Treinen VOTE carried unanimously to approve the following lane change request: Tanya Carney, BA+30 to MA;

The following resolution was introduced by Cherie Peterson

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, MS 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education."; and

WHEREAS, MS 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. *Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full.*";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Menahga Public School Dist 821 gratefully accept the following donations as identified below: \$1,000 to Drama Club and \$2,000 for the Industrial Tech Printer both from the Menahga Education Foundation.

Resolution seconded by Julia Kicker

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

voting aye: Julia Kicker, Andrea Haverinen, David Treinen, Cherie Peterson, Sara Makela, and Katie Howard

voting nay: none

absent: none

Whereupon, said resolution was declared duly adopted.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE carried unanimously to approve the E-Learning Day Plan as presented.

MOTION BY Cherie Peterson SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE carried unanimously to approve the second reading of the 7-12th grade high school student handbook for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

MOTION BY Julia Kicker SECONDED BY Andrea Haverinen VOTE carried unanimously to approve the second reading of the K-6th grade elementary school student handbook for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

MOTION BY David Treinen SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE carried unanimously to approve the second reading and adoption of Policies 417 Chemical Use and Abuse, 501 School Weapons Policy, 505 Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials, and 524.5 Personal Electronic Communication Devices as presented.

MOTION BY Julia Kicker SECONDED BY Cherie Peterson VOTE carried unanimously to adjourn the August 17, 2026 regular meeting of the Menahga Public School board at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,