INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #656
Regular School Board Meeting
August 17, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Faribault Public Schools
710 17th Street SW
Faribault, MN 55021

MINUTES

Members present: John Bellingham, Lynda Boudreau (arrived at 5:49 p.m.), Candace Knudson (arrived at 5:56 p.m.), Linda Moore, Casie Steeves, Chad Wolff, and Superintendent Jamie Bente. Members absent: Jerry Robicheau. Other attendees included administrators, staff, and members of the public.

. Call to Order
A. Determination of a Quorum Present
B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Steeves, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

III. Recognition, Awards, and Presentations
A. No Tummies Left Behind Recognition
Presenter: Ms. Ella Bettner
B. Summer Construction Project Overview Presentation
Presenter: Barbie Roessler, Director of Finance and Operations, and Kain Smith, Director of Buildings & Grounds/Health & Safety
Lynda Boudreau arrived at 5:49 p.m.
C. MN Permanent School Fund Presentation
Presenter: Barbie Roessler, Director of Finance and Operations
Candace Knudson arrived at 5:56 p.m.

IV. Items of Information
A. Reports from School Board Members Moore, Steeves, and Wolff
B. Report from Superintendent Jamie Bente

V. Public Comment - None

VI. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Knudson, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.
A. Minutes - July 20, 2026, and August 3, 2026
B. Employment
C. Additional Assignments/Other
D. Authorization of Payments, Transfers, and Investment Accounts
E. Retirements

VII. District Advisory Committee - No report

VIII. Policy Committee
A. Policy Committee Minutes report from Linda Moore and Casie Steeves

B. First Reading of revisions to policies

1. Policy 208: Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies
2. Policy 402: Disability Nondiscrimination Policy
3. Policy 423: Employee/Volunteer – Student Relationships
4. Policy 507.5: School Resource Officers
5. Policy 509: Enrollment of Nonresident Students
6. Policy 521: Student Disability Nondiscrimination
7. Policy 524: Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and form
8. Policy 613: Graduation Requirements
9. Policy 621: Literacy and the READ Act
10. Policy 709: Student Transportation
11. Policy 722: Public Data Requests

IX. Other Committees

A. Finance Committee report from Lynda Boudreau

B. Facilities Committee report from Linda Moore

X. Other Matters

A. Moved by Steeves, seconded by Wolff, to consider approval of the 2026-27 School Resource Officer. The motion passed unanimously after discussion, 6-0.

B. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Knudson, to consider approval of the River Bend Nature Center contract for FY 2026-2027. The motion passed unanimously after discussion, 6-0.

C. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Boudreau, to consider approval of the SCRS/ABE Partnership Agreement Contract. The motion passed after discussion, 5-1 (Boudreau, Bellingham, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against).

D. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Steeves, to consider approval of the 2026-27 Superintendent Goals and Rubric. Moved by Moore, seconded by Knudson, to amend the goals by removing "Reading, Science of READ Act Expectations, and district curriculum" and replace with "expectation that each and every student will succeed." The amendment failed by roll-call vote after discussion, 1-5 (Moore voted in favor; Boudreau, Bellingham, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted against). The main motion passed after discussion, 5-1 (Boudreau, Bellingham, Knudson, Steeves, and Wolff voted in favor; Moore voted against).

XI. Dates to Remember

- September 10, 2026, 7:45 a.m. - Facilities Committee
- September 14, 2026, 4 p.m. - District Advisory Committee
- September 14, 2026, 5:30 p.m. - Board Work Session
- September 21, 2026, 7:30 a.m. - Finance Committee
- September 24, 2026, 12:30 p.m. - District Wellness Committee
- September 28, 2026, 5:30 p.m. - Regular Business Meeting

XII. Moved by Wolff, seconded by Steeves, to move to a closed session at 6:56 p.m., as permitted by Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(d), to discuss Crisis Management Procedures. The motion passed unanimously.

Attendance: John Bellingham, Candace Knudson, Linda Moore, Casie Steeves, Chad Wolff, Superintendent Jamie Bente, Morghan Park, Health and Safety Manager, and Kain Smith, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

XIII. Moved by Boudreau, seconded by Knudson, to reconvene and adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

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Casie Steeves, Clerk
Approved: September 28, 2026