

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026, 6:00 P.M.
ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 WOLVERINE WAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Members Present:

Jennifer Bonner	Tim Riordan
Nicole Culbert-Dahl	John Uhan
Brandi Lautigar	Lisa Westby

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent
Stephanie Aagenes, Special Education Director
Scott Manni, RRHS Principal
Andrea Lintula, Business Manager

Members Absent:

Jodi Westby

- I. Chair UHAN called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:**
 - A. UHAN added Administration Items: *6.6 Considering changing one student-athlete's violation consequence from Rock Ridge's Bylaw 205 to MSHSL recommendation; 6.7 Consider approval of wrestling co-op with Cherry (and possibly Northwoods and Mesabi East); and 6.8 Consider approval of alpine ski co-op with Ely.*
 - B. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** None.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
 - A. Approval of September 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
 - B. Approval of hire of Samantha McIntyre for the Paraprofessional (LLC) position at a rate of \$20.72/hour effective September 21, 2026.
 - C. Approval of hire of Brady Peterson for the Paraprofessional (NSE) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 21, 2026.
 - D. Approval of hire of Kathleen Martz for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 23, 2026.
 - E. Approval of hire of Alexandra Flannigan for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 29, 2026.
 - F. Approval of hire of Teresa Knaffla for the Wolverine Care Staff position at a rate of \$15.00/hour effective September 29, 2026.
 - G. Approval of additional duties for the following RRHS staff for the 2026-2027 school year: (After School Supervision, \$3,026 each) Ethan Stachovich, Abby Warner, Emily Heitke, Misty Elliott, Sean Streier, Paul Brainard; (Cafeteria Supervision, \$3,026 each) Stephanie Stefanich, Aimee Krebs, Terri Kowalski, Mike Kowalski, Kyle Hammer, Tara Fierke, Steph Lutzka, Betty Parker, Tara Peshel, Dawn Savela, Paul Brainard, Elisa Boe, Troy Caddy, Jill Oja, Evan Friedlieb; (Before School Supervision, \$3,026) Lindsay Engel, Brandon Borich, Don Galloway, August Galloway.
 - H. Approval of additional duty of Wolverine Care Staff for Michalina Littler at a rate of \$15.00/hour effective September 29, 2026.
 - I. Approval of volunteer coaches for the 2026-2027 school year: (Archery) Matt Luoma
Jennifer Soyring, Benjamin Dall, Justine Herberg, Matthew Herberg; (Cross Country) Emily Bruun.
 - J. Approval of transfer of Paraprofessional Allison Polacec from the Rock Ridge Life & Learning Center to North Star at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective August 17, 2026.
 - K. Correction of start date for Paraprofessional BreeAnna Scinto from September 2, 2026 to September 1, 2026.

- L. Correction of start date for Paraprofessional Cassondra Weber from September 8, 2026 to August 31, 2026.
- M. Correction of start date for Indigenous Education Elementary Coordinator, Darlene Johnson, from September 15, 2026 to September 17, 2026. The position title also changed from Advisor to Coordinator.
- N. Acceptance of resignation of Petra Benz from the Paraprofessional position effective September 1, 2026.
- O. Acceptance of resignation of Kara Starkovich from the Paraprofessional position effective September 29, 2026.
- P. Acceptance of resignation of Adam Nori from the Student Support position effective September 30, 2026.
- Q. Approval of lane change for Nina Sporich from Step 8 MA to Step 8 MA+10 effective September 9, 2026.
- R. Acceptance and appreciation of a grant in the amount of \$12,449 from CommunityGiving on behalf of the Rock Ridge Education Fund of Virginia Community Foundation to provide educational opportunities for students of ISD 2909.
- S. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of school supplies from St. Marks Lutheran Church to help meet the needs of students at Laurentian Elementary.
- T. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of school supplies from United in Christ Lutheran Church to help meet the needs of students at Laurentian Elementary.

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V. **REPORTS:**

- A. Eveleth Mayor Adam Roen provided an update on the City of Eveleth's plans for the former school site in Eveleth.
- B. Special Education Director Stephanie Aagenes gave an update regarding the opening of the Life & Learning Center and the progress made in the first month of school.
- C. RRHS Principal Scott Manni provided updated student numbers and percentages of students enrolled in PSEO and CIS classes this year vs last school year.
- D. Supt. Schmidt shared that the Deep Winter Greenhouse construction has started and that some students in Greg Foster's Industrial Tech classes will be instrumental in the building of it beginning in the spring. Following discussion about a potential 4-day school week, the Board approved moving forward with forming committees and engaging interested individuals to gather information and explore the various aspects of a possible transition.
- E. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by RIORDAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to **certify the 26 Payable 27 levy at maximum** made by RIORDAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to **approve the meeting date of December 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM to conduct the Truth in Taxation meeting** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. No nominations were submitted for the ballot for a seat on the RAMS Board of Directors.
- D. Motion to **approve the Early Childhood Initiative 2026-2028 Subcontract Agreement between Northland Foundation and ISD 2909** made by BONNER, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Motion to **approve the Northeastern Minnesota Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Provider Outreach and Support Initiative 2026-2027, a subcontract agreement between Northland Foundation and ISD 2909** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Motion to **amend student-athlete's violation consequence under Rock Ridge Bylaw 205 to align with the MSHSL recommendation due to exceptional circumstances, reducing the suspension**

from nine missed games to six missed games made by L. WESTBY, seconded by BONNER.
Motion passed unanimously.

- G. Motion to **approve the wrestling co-op with Cherry (and possibly Northwoods and Mesabi East)** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.
- H. Motion to **approve the alpine skiing co-op with Ely** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. **TEACHER STAFFING:**

- A. Motion to **approve hiring a 5th grade teacher at Laurentian Elementary to meet the needs of large class sizes in that area** made by UHAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to **approve hiring a 0.5 FTE 1st grade teacher at Parkview Elementary to assist in the areas of math and reading and to make use of Title II Funds available to ISD 2909** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

CHAIR

CLERK