

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

Monday, September 14, 2026 5:30 pm

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Dube Peggy Young
Don Leathers Dan Zielke
Carol McAlister Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Hartman and Cece Kroc

MEETING CALLED

TO ORDER: Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall.

AGENDA APPROVED: A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing was held on a tax abatement request from Bigelow and Lennon Construction (PIN 34.471.0040). A motion was made by Young, seconded by McAlister and carried 4-1 with Leathers voting against the tax abatement.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Superintendent Page recognized several students and staff for their recent achievements and provided an overview of the many events happening throughout the district.

**SCHOOL BOARD
REPORTS:**

McAlister, Leathers, and Dube recognized various events that took place this past month.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
REPORTS:**

Student representatives Lydia Masara and Sam Vortherms provided an update on happenings at AHS.

MINUTES APPROVED: Leathers made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/10/26 and study session minutes of 8/24/26 as printed.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

**PERSONNEL REPORT
APPROVED:**

Leathers made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

Contracts for Approval – San San Aye, ECFE asst, effective 8/11/26; Vanessa Benitez, ECFE Asst, effective 8/11/26; Terry Coleman, food service helper, effective 8/21/26; Madeline Eliason, Mental Health Practitioner, effective 8/10/26; Jessica Freese, ECFE asst, effective 8/11/26; Elen Holdsworth, ECFE asst, effective 8/17/26; JoAnne Hunter, para, effective 9/2/26; Kaylene Jensen, reading intervention teacher, effective 8/12/26; Faith Kallowkoski, SPED para, effective 8/19/26; Caitlyn Krahmer, SPED para, effective 8/17/26; Kyle Leedom, SPED para, effective 8/26/26; Sue Lewis, noon supervisor, effective 8/18/26; Olivia Mix, SPED para, effective 8/24/26; Lezlye Perez, SPED para, effective 8/17/26;

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Suzanne Prihoda, SPED para, effective 8/17/26; and Alyssa Shuster, SPED para, effective 8/17/26

Contract Modification – Sue Severson, food service helper from 3 hours to 3.5 hours/day, effective 8/24/26

Resignations/Retirements – Dee Culbert, food service helper, effective 5/28/26; Gree Ha, custodian, effective 8/14/26; Elen Holdsworth, ECFE asst, effective 8/25/26; Mindy Kenyon, noon supervisor, effective 5/28/26; and Michelle Yanke, nurse, effective 5/28/26

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE PERSONNEL REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

BILLS APPROVED:

Leathers made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 9/14/26.

(A COPY OF THE BILLS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the July 2026 treasurer's report.

(A COPY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

WINTER SPORTS FUNDRAISING APPROVED:

Leathers made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the 2026-27 winter sports fundraising report.

(A COPY OF THE FUNDRAISING REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

REPORTS:

Department/school updates from Superintendent Cabinet members and principals were available for review.

PARENTING RESOURCE CENTER UPDATE:

Parenting Resource Center Executive Director Crystal Vandevender provided an update on current programming and events at the PRC.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP APPROVED:

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the extended field trip by World Language Department to Spain in June 2028.

(A COPY OF THE REQUEST IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

BOYS HOCKEY CO-OP CHANGES APPROVED:

McAlister made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the dissolution of the current boys hockey cooperative sponsorship with Southland and Pacelli and approve the new cooperative sponsorship with Southland, Pacelli, and Lyle High Schools effective with the 2026-27 school year.

AOA AND ALC UPDATES:

Principal Dr. Jessica Cabeen provided an update on the Austin Online Academy and the Austin Alternative Learning Center.

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SEMINAR UPDATE:**

Principal Matt Schmit, BARR Coordinator Angie Taylor, and Packer Profile Seminar Teacher Robin Garcia provided an update on the BARR and 9th grade seminar implementation.

DONATIONS:

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.

(A COMPLETE LIST OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**2026-27 SCHOOL BOARD
GOALS APPROVED:**

Young made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the 2026-27 school board goals.

(A COPY OF THE GOALS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**2026-27 SUPERINTENDENT
GOALS APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the 2026-27 superintendent goals.

(A COPY OF THE GOALS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

DELEGATIONS:

Leathers requested that delegations be moved to the top of the agenda. This will be an item for discussion on the organizational meeting agenda in January.

MEETING REMINDER:

Chair Dube reminded School Board members of special school board meeting scheduled for Monday, September 21, at 5 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by Young, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Daniel Zielke, Clerk