

School Board Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2026 6:30 PM Central

Aitkin Public Schools - Media Center
306 Second Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

Jen Burgos: Present
Roland Hill: Present
Cindi Hills: Present
Rev. Dawn Houser: Present
Brian Leitinger: Present
Holly Mindrum: Present
Kassie Peterson: Present
Present: 7.

1. Call meeting to order by the chairperson

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. *Comments from visitors

4.A.

- Comments from visitors must be in relation to Aitkin Public Schools and/or to agenda items.
- We recommend that you sign up at the comment table if you wish to speak. You will be called up in order as listed on the sign-up sheet. When you come forward to comment, please be seated at the comment table facing the Board Members. State your name prior to your comment. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.
- The Board will not engage in any discussion or debate during this comment session. The Board will take the information and find answers as appropriate.
- As part of Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a public board meeting.

5. Approval of agenda - revise or remove as needed

Motion to approve the agenda with the amendment of switching 8.B.1 and 8.B.6 in the agenda order. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

6. Scheduled presentations: (Max. 10 Minutes)

6.A. Student Council Reports
SP Goal 10

7. Old Business:

8. New business:

8.A. Approve consent agenda items as follows:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed.

8.A.1. Approve the following School Board Meeting Minutes:
August 17, 2026

8.A.2. Approve financials for the month of August, 2026:

- Office receipts in the amount of \$2,199,387.41
- Report of expenditures, including \$375,234.56 for bills and \$791,327.46 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Donations in the amount of \$13,627.46.
- Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,100,000.00.
- Employee reimbursements.

8.A.3. Approve Hirings:

8.A.3.a. Leslie Bari - HS Paraprofessional

8.A.3.b. Kelley Knickerbocker- Rippleside Paraprofessional

8.A.3.c. Karissa Escobedo - 4th grade media literacy

8.A.3.d. Roberta Kozelka - Substitute Paraprofessional HS

8.A.3.e. Heidi Duchow - Rippleside .5 Paraprofessional

8.A.3.f. Brittany Nyberg - Substitute Teacher Rippleside

8.A.3.g. Katherine Cirilli - Substitute Teacher HS

8.A.3.h. Ashley Bruns - Bus Paraprofessional/Bus Driver

8.A.4. Approve Resignations:

8.A.4.a. Theresa Hiller-Baty - Rippleside Paraprofessional

8.A.4.b. Kayla Luke - Paraprofessional High School

8.A.4.c. Steve Snyder- Building & Grounds Supervisor

8.A.5. Consider and approve volunteer extracurricular activities

8.A.5.a. Lauren Ratz - Volunteer volleyball coach

8.A.5.b. Mark Jackson - Volunteer volleyball coach

8.A.5.c. Jeremiah Smythe - Volunteer football coach

8.A.6. Consider and approve extracurricular activities

8.A.6.a. Adeline Sanford-Tennis (Girls) Assistant Coach

8.A.6.b. Josh Voller- FFA Advisor

8.A.6.c. Meredith Sander- Honor Society Advisor

8.A.6.d. Meredith Sander- Jr/Sr. Banquet

8.A.6.e. Nedra Henline - Jr/Sr. Prom Co-Chair Advisor

8.A.6.f. Michaela Monson- Jr./Sr. Prom Co-Chair Advisor

8.A.6.g. Scott Miller- BPA Head

8.A.6.h. Jason May - Knowledge Bowl - Head

8.A.6.i. Sean Smith - Knowledge Bowl - Assistant

8.A.6.j. Chancy Nordick - Math League Advisor

8.A.6.k. Kerry Hopperstad- Math League Advisor

8.A.6.l. Dustin Richters- Peer-Helpers Co-Advisor Secondary

8.A.6.m. Lindsey Cline - Peer Helpers Co-Advisor Secondary

8.A.6.n. Scott Miller -Sr Class Advisor

8.A.6.o. Samanth Croatt- Student Council Middle School

8.A.6.p. Amanda Steffens- Student Council Sr High

8.A.6.q. Brianna Tetrick - Annual Advisor

8.A.6.r. Julie Asmus - Math Masters - Grade 5

8.A.6.s. Julie Asmus - Math Masters - Grade 6

8.A.6.t. Brenda Ladd-Continuing Education Chairperson

8.A.6.u. Ashley Norberg - One Act Play

8.A.6.v. Lauren Pankow- Instrument Music -Pep Band

8.A.6.w. Jennifer Johnson- Vocal Music/Musical

8.A.6.x. Sara Warren - International Club advisor

8.A.7. Appoint the Superintendent, Mary Morem, to sign on all bank accounts.

8.A.8. Consider and approve Cloud Renewal Access

8.A.9. Consider and approve electronic background screening

8.B. Discussion Items:

8.B.1. Ehlers- Matthew Hammer, Presale Bond Report

8.B.2. Approve to set Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m. in the AHS Media Center.

Motion to approve the Truth and Taxation Hearing for December 21, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the AHS Media Center. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

8.B.3. Approve the proposed 2026 Payable 2027 Levy at maximum
Motion to approve the proposed 2026 payable 2027 levy at maximum. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

8.B.4. 10 Passenger Ford Van- Discuss and approve
Motion to approve the purchase of a 10 passenger Ford van. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

8.B.5. Discuss Student School Board representatives.
Motion to approve adding two (one junior and one senior) non-voting student board representatives. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Kassie Peterson, Passed.

8.B.6. Discuss the following: Northern Lakes Hockey Proposal
Application for Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship
Application for Cooperative Sponsorship
Motion to approve the disillusion of the current coop for Northern Lights hockey. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.
Motion to approve entering into a new coop with for Northern Lights hockey with all the current districts with the addition of McGregor. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

9. Administrative reports:

9.A. Board Members Reports:

9.B. Committee Reports:

9.B.1. Policy Committee Meeting, September 21, 2026 - 1st Reading

9.B.1.a. Policy 110 - Therapy Animals

9.B.1.b. Policy 412 - Expense Reimbursement

9.B.1.c. Policy 503 - Student Attendance

9.B.1.d. Student Medication and Telehealth

9.C. Principal's Report:

Ms Leah Olk - Rippleside Elementary School

Ms. DeMars, Aitkin High School

SP Goal 10

9.D. Community Education - Nedra Henline

SP Goal 10

9.E. Superintendent's report:

9.E.1. Enrollment Update

9.E.2. Other:

9.F. Upcoming meetings: School Board Meeting October 19, 2026 6:30 PM
Policy Meeting -October 21, 2026- 5:00

10. Other:

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:45pm. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Roland Hill, Passed.

Recorded by Amber Kulig

Kassie Peterson

Dated: 10/19/26
