

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

Menahga Public School District No. 821

Monday, September 21, 2026, 6:30 PM, HS Media Center

The September 21, 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, Sara Makela, and David Treinen.

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

One or more Board Members attending virtually;

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Julia Kicker VOTE carried unanimously to adopt the agenda as amended with the removal of 8.3 and 15 in its entirety and move to a later work session.

8.3. Consider Staffing for 2026-2027:

- 3.1. Full-time Head Cook and Concessions Manager, David Pearson;
- 3.2. POS Clerk, Ramona Johnson;
- 3.3. Full-time Kitchen, Gia Duclos;
- 3.4. Full-time Kitchen, Samantha Rasmussen;
- 3.5. Full-time Bus Driver, Kevin Nickolauson;
- 3.6. Part-time Custodian, Trena Kallinen;
- 3.7. Long Term Substitute, Amy Hawn, September 14, 2026 to November 24, 2026;
- 3.8. Paraprofessional, Isabel Ellingson;
- 3.9. Paraprofessional, Alyssa Little;
- 3.10. Paraprofessional, Ellen Grangroth;
- 3.11. Online Speech-language Pathologist, Casey Brudvik;
- 3.12. FCCLA Advisor, Jolene Harris, step 4;
- 3.13. BPA Advisor, Randy Thompson, step 4;
- 3.14. NHS Advisor, Tim Wurdock, step 2;
 - 3.14.1. NHS Co-Advisor, Ashley Lynn, step 2;
- 3.15. FFA Advisor, Maria Ness, step 10;
- 3.16. HS Student Council Advisor, Sara Kinyoun, step 2;
 - 3.16.1. HS Student Council Co-Advisor, Logan Gerdes, step 1;
- 3.17. Elementary Student Council Advisor, Molly Peterson, step 10;
- 3.18. Senior Class Advisor, Ali Schmitz, step 2;
 - 3.18.1. Senior Class Co-Advisor, Baileigh Baumgart, step 1;
- 3.19. Junior Class/Prom Advisor, Rilee Michaelson, step 2;
 - 3.19.1. Junior Class/Prom Co-Advisor, Tori Komulainen, step 2;

- 3.20. Yearbook Advisor, Shalom Crook, step 1;
- 3.21. Spelling Bee Advisor, Laura Takkunen, step 3;
- 3.22. Speech Coach, Michelle Koch;
- 3.23. One Act Play Advisor, Tanya Carney, step 5;
- 3.24. Drama Club Advisor, Tanya Carney, step 4;
- 3.25. Band Advisor, Beth Hahn, step 10;
- 3.26. Vocal Music Advisor, Logan Gerdes, step 2;
- 3.27. Special Olympics Advisor, Isaiah Hahn, step 10;
 - 3.27.1. Special Olympics Co-Advisor, Brad Schultz, step 10;
- 3.28. Online Speech-language Pathologist, Katrina Loy;
- 3.29. Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, Taija Pinoniemi, step 2;
- 3.30. Part-time Paraprofessional, Kevin Nickolauson;
- 3.31. Online Special Education Case Manager, Sue Miller;
- 3.32. Online Special Education Case Manager, Jana Timm;
- 3.33. Technology Coordinator Handbook, David Lindquist;
- 3.34. Community Education Assistant, Mary Weaver;
- 3.35. Food Service Bookkeeper, Peggy Hillukka;
- 3.36. POS Clerk, Joyce Kallinen;

15. FULLMIND CONTRACT

MOTION BY _____ SECONDED BY _____ VOTE
to approve the Fullmind Contract in the amount of \$35,290.80 as presented.

Logan Torma shared on the Mini Football Camp.

Andrea Haverinen presented on the Permanent School Trust Fund.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY David Treinen VOTE carried unanimously to close for the discussion of Safety and Security per closed meeting law: Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(d) at 6:50 p.m. The public portion of the meeting reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen
to remove the following from the consent agenda:
4. School Nutrition Consultant Program Agreement;

MOTION BY Julia Kicker SECONDED BY Andrea Haverinen VOTE carried unanimously to approve the following consent items:
1. August 17, 2026, regular meeting minutes; September 14, 2026, policy meeting minutes;
2. Activity fund and monthly claims in the amount of \$322,468.22
5. FY27 Wadena County Family Services Collaborative Joint Powers Agreement;

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE 5-0-1 with David Treinen abstaining to approve the Kenmark Invoice in the amount of \$2,510.00 as presented.

MOTION BY Cherie Peterson SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE 5-0-1 with David Treinen abstaining to approve the Kimball Midwest Invoices in the amount of \$596.00 as presented.

CESO presented their Audit Report.

Recess at 8:07 p.m.

Resumed at 8:13 p.m.

Chair Howard set the following for the Truth and Taxation Hearing: (Time not before 6:00 p.m. This can be part of the regular board meeting.)

Day: Monday

Date: December 14, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: HS Media Center

MOTION BY Katie Howard SECONDED BY Andrea Haverinen VOTE carried unanimously to hereby certify the Proposed 2026 Payable 2027 tax levy at the maximum, with it being understood that the final levy certification and current year budget review will occur during the regular December board meeting.

MOTION BY David Treinen SECONDED BY Julia Kicker VOTE carried unanimously to approve the purchase of up to five bus cameras not to exceed \$18,000.00 as amended.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Julia Kicker VOTE carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Sue Hodgden, kitchen staff with Menahga Public Schools, effective August 23, 2026. We thank Sue for her 6 years of dedicated service to the students of our school.

MOTION BY Cherie Peterson SECONDED BY David Treinen VOTE carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Samantha Pfeifer, Paraprofessional with Menahga Public Schools, effective August 31, 2026. We thank Samantha for her year of dedicated service to the students of our school.

MOTION BY Julia Kicker SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE carried unanimously to approve the following lane change request:

Paige Pietila, BA to MA;

Alicia Eischens BA+10 to BA+20;

MOTION BY Sara Makela SECONDED BY Cherie Peterson VOTE 5-1-0 with David Treinen against to accept the letter of resignation from Jason Kjos, Superintendent, effective June 30, 2027. We thank Jason for his 5 years of dedicated service to the students of our school.

The following resolution was introduced by Andrea Haverinen

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:
\$500 from West Fraser, Inc to the FFA Chapter;

Resolution seconded by Julia Kicker

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

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

voting nay: none

absent: none

Whereupon, said resolution was declared duly adopted.

MOTION BY Katie Howard SECONDED BY Julia Kicker VOTE carried unanimously to approve the District Curriculum Review and Renewal Process as presented.

MOTION BY David Treinen SECONDED BY Cherie Peterson VOTE carried unanimously to adjourn the September 21, 2026 regular meeting of the Menahga Public School board at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,