Member _____ introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE JAMES MADISON SCHOOL

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.51, subdivision 5, and after publication of due notice, the School Board held a public hearing, at 5:30 p.m. on October 26, 2026, on the proposed closing of James Madison School, located at S. 13th Avenue, Virginia, Minnesota 55792;

WHEREAS, during the public hearing the Administration of the School District presented the necessity and practicability of the proposed closing of James Madison School;

WHEREAS, before, during and after the public hearing, the public was invited to provide testimony for and against the proposed closing of James Madison School; and

WHEREAS, no testimony or other evidence was presented against closure of James Madison School;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2909 as follows:

1. The following findings are adopted from the public hearing:

   a. There is no current or foreseeable educational need for the existing James Madison School building due to construction of the Laurentian Elementary School and the new North Star Elementary School buildings;

   b. The new elementary school buildings are safer buildings, with more usable space and with more modern equipment than available at James Madison School;

c. The newly constructed and other elementary school buildings operated by School district will provide enhanced instructional services the James Madison School cannot;

d. There are large and costly facility and safety projects required to maintain the James Madison School building and there is a significant cost savings to the school district from closing the James Madison School building.

e. James Madison School building is currently vacant.

2. The closing of James Madison School is necessary and proper.

3. James Madison School shall be closed, effective October 27th, 2026, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

4. The James Madison School building will be closed and is to be vacated, effective October 27, 2026.

5. The Superintendent is directed to make all necessary arrangements to close and secure James Madison School and to transfer records, salvageable equipment and materials to other locations as deemed appropriate.

Member _____ seconded the foregoing Resolution and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: _____.

And the following voted against the same: _____.

And the following were absent: _____.

Whereupon said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
Rock Ridge Public Schools In the Matter of the Proposed Closing Of James Madison School

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A public hearing on the proposed closing of James Madison School ("James Madison School") by Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools ("School District") was held on October 26, 2026.

The hearing was conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.51, subdivision 5. Information regarding the proposed school closing was presented by School District Administration. All individuals wishing to speak and offer evidence in favor of, or in opposition to, the proposed closing were given the opportunity to testify during the hearings.

FINDINGS

1. James Madison School, located at 1201 S. 13th Ave. Virginia, Minnesota, sits on an approximate 5-acre site. James Madison School is a 95,000 square foot building built in 1925, 1953, 1955, and 1996.

2. James Madison School had enrollment capacity of 500 based on an average classroom size of 25 for grades K-6.

3. James Madison School is currently not in operation.

4. The School District has a history of studying and planning for its facility needs, including maintenance and energy improvement projects.

5. The funding available for maintenance projects is highly inadequate to keep the buildings in good working order. State funding requires periodic public referendums in order to obtain funding for much needed maintenance as well as adapting facilities to the changing needs of educational programming. Public

School funding is closely tied to enrollment. As the enrollment drops each year, operating funds for the School District decline.

6. The School District has needed to enact regular budget cuts over the last ten years.

7. Closing James Madison School and consolidating the School District's elementary schools are expected to save the School District $1,000,000 in building operations costs.

8. The educational benefits of closing James Madison School include moving students into a new, state-of-the art facility.

9. The School District published notice of the school closing hearing in the official school newspaper.

10. At the hearing, the School District administration presented documentary evidence regarding the proposed closure of James Madison School. Specifically, the following documents were referenced and provided: (See attached documents provided by the Superintendent.)

11. The School Board has fully considered this evidence prior to reaching any conclusion or adopting any resolution regarding the closure of James Madison School.

12. At the hearing, members of the public were allowed to present testimony for and against the proposed school closures. The School Board has considered all comments by members of the public prior to reaching any conclusion or adopting any resolution regarding the closures of James Madison School.

CONCLUSIONS

The closure of James Madison School is necessary and practicable. The School District has complied with the procedural requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.51, subdivision 5, for the purpose of closing James Madison School.