OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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
Nicole Culbert-Dahl
Brandi Lautigar
Tim Riordan
John Uhan
Jodi Westby
Lisa Westby

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent
Scott Manni, RRHS Principal
Sheena Stefanich, Parkview Principal

Members Absent:

None

I. Chair UHAN called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. **APPROVE AGENDA:**

A. UHAN removed Policy 721 for further examination by the Business Office.
B. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.

III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** None.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**: Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Approval of September 28, 2026 regular meeting minutes
B. Approval of hire of Kadie Peterson for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of $19.97/hour effective September 28, 2026.
C. Approval of hire of Mandy Johnson for the On Call Event Support Specialist position at a rate of $25/hour effective September 26, 2026.
D. Approval of hire of Lola Tourigny for the Paraprofessional (RRHS) position at a rate of $19.97/hour effective October 1, 2026.
E. Approval of hire of Muriel Deegan for the High School Indigenous Education Coordinator and 0.5 FTE Ojibwe Teacher positions with a salary of $44,528.40 (Step 3 BA) prorated effective October 5, 2026.
F. Approval of transfer of Marissa Mast from Student Support to Paraprofessional (NSE) effective October 1, 2026.
G. Approval of transfer of Paraprofessional Samantha McIntrye from 29 hours/week to 27.5 hours/week effective October 5, 2026
H. Correction of transfer start date of Paraprofessional Allison Polacec from August 17, 2026 to September 16, 2026.
I. Approval of additional duties for the following staff for the 2026-2027 school year: (Leader In Me Site Coordinator, $1,000) Anita Tyminski; (Community Education Elementary Cross Country Coordinator, $1,500) Troy Caddy; (Youth In Action Coordinator, $1,500) Jill Oja
J. Approval of overages for the following staff for the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year: (ALP 0.1 FTE, $9,132.40) Paul Brainard; (Wolverines Online 0.1 FTE, $9,132.40 each) Tony Norland, Mike Kowalski, Sheila Takanen, Betty Parker, Liam Conger; (Wolverines Online 0.1 FTE, $8,726.80) Troy Caddy, Terri Kowalski, Stephanie Lutzka
K. Approval of voluntary coaches for the 2026-2027 school year: Jeffrey Evenson (Archery), Amy Kvaternik (Volleyball)
L. Acceptance of resignation of Joe Golden from the Indigenous Education High School Advisor position effective October 13, 2026.

M. Termination of employment of Teresa Knaffla from the Wolverine Care position effective October 5, 2026.
N. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation from Allison Kreibich in the amount of $4,500 for the #RockRidgeRising Campaign - Varsity Baseball scoreboard.
O. Acceptance and appreciation of a grant in the amount of $13,871.41 from the Rock Ridge Wolverine Fund of Virginia Community Foundation in support of co-curricular activities of ISD 2909 by MSHSL.
P. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of snacks from Gethsemane Lutheran Church for the students of Parkview Elementary.

V. **REPORTS:**

A. Special Education Teacher, Amanda Rasmussen, provided information about the MDE program called the "Dream Catcher Project" which is a free program that partners Indigenous Education and special educators in better meeting the unique needs of Indigenous Education students.
   1. Motion to **utilize the Dream Catcher Project at Rock Ridge** made by BONNER, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
B. RRHS Principal Scott Manni announced the School Board Candidate Forum that will be hosted by the RR National Honor Society and livestreamed by our RR Broadcast Team on Oct. 19 at 6:30 PM. Parent Shelly Babiracki spoke about her daughter's positive experience taking CIS courses and how it has benefited her in college. Students Ryley Flaschberger and Kaleb Dickinson shared their Parking Lot Capstone Project initial findings and proposed resolutions to the parking lot congestion at RRHS at the end of a school day.
C. Supt. Schmidt reminded everyone of the Permanent School Fund question on the upcoming November 3 ballot and to be sure to vote. Open enrollment information will be provided at the next board meeting.
D. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. **POLICIES:** Motion to **approve the first reading of the following policies: 506, 722, 806, 625, 208, 402, 410, 423, 503, 507.5, 509, 515, 521, 524, 530, 613, 615, 621, 701, 709** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by L. WESTBY.

VII. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

A. Motion to **approve the Proxy Statement from the Minnesota School Boards Association Insurance Trust** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
B. Motion to **approve the Cooperative Agreement between St. Louis County, City of Eveleth and ISD 2909** made by CULBERT-DAHL, 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 Resolution of Governing Board Supporting Form A Application to MSHSL Foundation** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. **TEACHER STAFFING:**

A. Principals Sheena Stefanich and Angie Williams provided an update on teacher reassignments and openings due to shifting.
B. Motion to **approve hiring a 1.0 FTE first grade teacher for Parkview Elementary using Title II funds instead of a 0.5 FTE hire (additional funds were carried over from previous school year making it possible for a 1.0 FTE hire)** made by UHAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:33 P.M.

_____ _____

CHAIR CLERK