OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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
Dan Merfeld, North Star Principal

Members Absent:
None

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

II. **APPROVE AGENDA:**
A. UHAN changed the resignation date in Item 4.17 from *November 25 to November 6, 2026 for Mia Koehler* and removed Item 4.7 *Approval of winter coaches* to allow additional time to review and verify the accuracy of the information before bringing it forward for approval at a future meeting. Additions: 6.21 *Resolution to Close The James Madison School*; 6.22 *Discussion on bathrooms*; 6.23 *MSBA Resolution regarding establishing the Office and Director of School Trust Land Management*.
B. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.

III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Paul Peltier – Permanent School Fund.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**: Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by J. WESTBY, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed 6-0-1 with CULBERT-DAHL abstaining.
A. Approval of October 12, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
B. Approval of hire of Derrick Harvey for the Paraprofessional (NSE) position at a rate of $19.97/hour effective November 2, 2026.
C. Approval of hire of Derek Aho for the Assistant Boys Basketball Coach position with a stipend of $5,295 (paid for by RR Basketball Booster Club) for the 2026-2027 school year.
D. Approval of hire of Gavin Dahl for the C-Team Boys Basketball Coach position with a stipend of $4,034 for the 2026-2027 school year.
E. Approval of hire of Jacob Young for the 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach position with a stipend of $3,278 for the 2026-2027 school year.
F. Approval of hire of Kendra Jones for the Assistant Dance Coach position with a stipend of $4,791 for the 2026-2027 school year.
G. Approval of additional duties for the following staff for the 2026-2027 school year: (Leader In Me Site Coordinator, $1,000) Laurie Kuoppala; (After School Supervision, $2,344.90 revised amount) Misty Elliott; (Musical Producer, $2,773) Reda Forsman.
H. Approval of additional duty of Bus Monitor for Karilynn Niska at a rate of pay of $19.97/hour effective October 26, 2026.
I. Approval of overages for the following staff for the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year: (Wolverines Online 0.1 FTE, $6,984.75) August Galloway.
J. Approval of volunteer coaches for the 2026-2027 school year: Jason Soyring (Archery), Thomas Norman (Basketball).
K. Acceptance of resignation of Muriel Deegan from the High School Indigenous Coordinator and Ojibwe Teacher position effective October 12, 2026.
L. Acceptance of resignation of Leah Ryan from the Head Speech Coach position effective October 19, 2026.

M. Acceptance of resignation of Darlene Johnson from the Elementary Indigenous Coordinator position effective October 19, 2026.
N. Acceptance of resignation of Beth Carlson-Spelts from the Early Childhood 3's Teacher effective October 22, 2026.
O. Acceptance of resignation of Charlotte Anwiler from the Paraprofessional position effective October 29, 2026.
P. Acceptance of resignation of Mia Koehler from the Paraprofessional position effective November 6, 2026.
Q. Permission for Noel Schmidt to present on the educational design of the high school at the Educational Spaces Conference in Kansas City, Oct 28-30, 2026 and at the A4LE Learning Scapes on Nov. 6, 2026 in Seattle, WA. The educational design of the high school is attracting nationwide attention because of the design and Career Learning Academies. There is no cost to the school district.
R. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of $2,500 from WA Fisher as part of the Classroom Naming Rights Agreement.

V. **REPORTS:**

A. Bob Voss and Mike Hoag provided updates in the areas of Transportation and Buildings and Grounds included in the District's Strategic Plan.
B. Principal Scott Manni shared information about room uses, how room use is determined, and class sizes at RRHS.
C. Principal Dan Merfeld gave his report about positive events and learning taking place at North Star Elementary in addition to his warm welcome he has received as the new principal.
D. Supt. Schmidt provided survey results from a survey given by the architects of RRHS who wanted input from the staff on how they feel the design of the building is supporting teaching and learning after occupying it for awhile.
E. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. **POLICIES:** Motion to **approve the first reading of the following policies: 506, 722, 806, 208, 402, 410, 423, 503, 507.5, 509, 515, 521, 524, 530, 613, 615, 621, 701, 709, 721** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by L. WESTBY.

A. Motion to **approve the Resolution to Close the James Madison School** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.
B. Discussion was had on some concerns about bathrooms being dirtied by students both intentionally and unintentionally. Administration stated that teachers are taking precautions to make sure students are using the bathrooms properly, and if a bathroom needs custodial attention, custodians have been very quick to attend to it.
C. Motion to **approve the Resolution regarding establishing the Office and Director of School Trust Land Management** made by J. WESTBY, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

A. Motion to **approve the renewal of Consultant Agreement with Costin Group Inc** made by BONNER, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
B. Motion to **submit the name of Tim Riordan as a nomination for the Northeast Service Cooperative Board of Directors which has two four-year term open seats** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed 6-0-1 with RIORDAN abstaining.
C. Motion to **approve the College in the Schools Agreement between Minnesota State, on behalf of Minnesota North College, and ISD 2909 for the 2026-2027 academic year** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

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CHAIR CLERK