MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
OCTOBER 19, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, Dave Wall, Jenny Frenzel, Ann Long Voelkner, Todd Haugen and Superintendent Jeremy Olson
Finn Jorgensen – Student Representative
Jacobi Burmeister Pater – Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:30 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was a motion by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by Ann Long Voelkner and Jenny Frenzel to remove action item D, the approval of letter to be submitted to MSHSL concerning bylaw amendment for participation eligibility from the agenda. Motion Fails.

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, Dave Wall, Todd Haugen to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael Meehlhause – MSHSL Bylaw Amendment
Colleen Bakken – Proposed letter to MSHSL from Bemidji District 31 Schools

REQUEST TO REMOVE TOPIC(S) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to approve the following items:

A. Minutes from the September 21, 2026 School Board Meetings
B. Current Bills Totaling: $3,716, 872.49
C. Certified Staff Resignation
D. Non-Certified Staff Resignations
E. Certified Staff Appointments
F. Lane Advancements
G. Assurance of Compliance
H. Request to Submit Grant: Elementary Libraries
I. Request to Accept Grant: Northern Elementary

SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION

Indian Education teachers Jamie Copenace and Jacquelyn Cabarrubia presented about the American Indian education in our schools and how they are incorporating Ojibwe into the classrooms. At Bemidji Area Schools 27% of students are American Indian or two or more races. They spoke about how every student matters and held in high regard. We are trailblazing to pave a path to create learners, meeting them where they are at. They are adding the language component to everything that they do.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Finn Jorgensen spoke about academic milestones, counseling and career academies, and college night. Jacobi Burmeister spoke about fall sports wrapping up and the MSHSL letter.

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

There were no participants in listening session.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations, $1,000 from Dennis and Debra Bartz for Cross Country transportation.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Assessment Results
Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services reviewed the 2025-2026 testing results.

Class Size Report

The class size report was presented to the Board. There are eight classes at the high school over board policy. There are no classes over policy in the elementary or middle school grades.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution of School Board Supporting form A Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation

Jack Aakhus offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION OF SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTING FORM A APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts;

WHEREAS, the Bemidji Area Schools School Board recognizes the value of student participation in extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist schools in recognizing, promoting, and funding extracurricular participation by high school students in athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bemidji Area Schools School Board supports the school's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM A grant to offset student activity fees.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Dave Wall, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Ann Long Voelkner, Anna Manecke, Dave Wall, Jack Aakhus, Jenny Frenzel and Todd Haugen
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Resolution of School Board Supporting form B Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation

Anna Manecke offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION OF SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTING FORM B APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts;

WHEREAS, the Bemidji Area Schools School Board recognizes the value of student participation in extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist schools to provide seminars/training opportunities or support for specific school functions for students/faculty members/officials and others who are involved in athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of Bemidji Area Schools supports the district's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM B grant.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Jack Aakhus and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Ann Long Voelkner, Anna Manecke, Dave Wall, Jack Aakhus, Jenny Frenzel and Todd Haugen
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

2026-2027 Indian Education Policies and Procedures

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to approve the revised 2026-2027 Indian Education Policies and Procedures.

Approval of Letter to be submitted to MSHSL Concerning Bylaw Amendment for Participation Eligibility

The motion was offered by Jack Aakhus, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, Dave Wall and Todd Haugen to approve the signing of the presented letter to the MSHSL.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Regular School Board Meeting, November 16, 2026, 6:30 PM, District Office Board Room

Truth in Taxation Meeting, December 21, 2026, 6:00 PM, District Office Board Room

OTHER

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Olson shared information about the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn the meeting. Time: 7:41 p.m.

_____ _____

Jenny Frenzel, Clerk Date Approved

_____ _____

Todd Haugen, Chair Date Approved