OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD **REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492
Monday, October 12, 2026 5:30 pm
Annex Recital Hall
205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Dube, Robert Hartman, Don Leathers, Carol McAlister, Peggy Young, Dan Zielke, Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cece Kroc

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall.

AGENDA APPROVED: A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with a slight change to the order.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent Page recognized several students and staff for their recent achievements and provided an overview of the many events happening throughout the district.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: Student representatives Sam Vortherms and Lydia Masara provided an update on AHS happenings**.** Lydia also suggested all students be required to have LinkedIn accounts and inquired how we can continue the topic of mental health with the student body.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS: McAlister and Hartman recognized various events that took place this past month, and Leathers shared information on recent referendum activities.

MINUTES APPROVED: Young made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/14/26 and special meeting minutes of 9/21/26 as printed.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

PERSONNEL REPORT APPROVED: Young made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

Contracts for Approval – Quentin Banks, noon supervisor, effective 10/1/26; Diana Camacho, Mental Health Behavioral Aide, effective 10/1/26; Samantha Dahltenburg, noon supervisor, effective 9/23/26; Carlene Deblon, food service helper, effective 9/21/26; Mia Eckert, noon supervisor, effective 11/9/26; Gage Johnson, noon supervisor, effective 8/19/26; Devany Neufeld, Kids Korner childcare aide, effective 9/10/26; Isabella Roe Moseng, Kids Korner childcare aid, effective 9/10/26; and Grace Schara, SPED para, effective 10/5/26

Resignations/Retirements – Anne Hanson, noon supervisor, effective 10/9/26; Rebecca Gullickson, social worker, effective 10/9/26; Michelle Lee, SPED para, effective 9/18/26; Paw Poe, ECFE asst, effective 9/18/26; Kaitlyn Schlack, security para, effective 9/23/26; and Teri Wermager, Community Ed coordinator, effective 1/4/27
Lane Advancements – 30 teachers were approved for 2026-27 full year lane changes at an increase of $118,344.00.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE PERSONNEL REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

BILLS APPROVED: Young made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 10/12/26.

(A COPY OF THE BILLS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED: A motion was made by Young, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the August 2026 treasurer's report.

(A COPY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

REPORTS: Department/school updates from Superintendent Cabinet members and principals were available for review.

MSHSL FORMS A AND B APPROVED: A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the submission of Form A to the MSHSL Foundation for grant consideration. Also, a motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to also approve the submission of Form B to the MSHSL Foundation for possible funding to support leadership initiatives for our coaches and student athletes.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE: Information Services Director Corey Haugen provided an overview of the current enrollment along with information on primary languages, free/reduced numbers, enrollment trends, and an ethnicity summary.

ATTENDANCE IMPACTS OVERVIEW: Corey Haugen provided data on the impact of student attendance on academic performance. He noted higher attendance rates correlate strongly with higher GPAs. There is a noticeable drop in GPA as attendance decreases, particularly below the 80% threshold.

DONATIONS: A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.

(A COMPLETE LIST OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

MEETING REMINDER: Chair Dube reminded School Board members of school board study session scheduled for Monday, October 26, at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

MEETING ADJOURNED: A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm.

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Daniel Zielke, Clerk