Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
Menahga Public School District No. 821
Monday, October 19, 2026, 6:30 PM, HS Media Center

The October 19, 2026 regular meeting of the Menahga Public School board called to order by Chair Howard at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Mission and Vision Statement.

Board members present: Katie Howard, Andrea Haverinen, Cherie Peterson, and Sara Makela. Others present: Business Manager Dana Kennedy, ES Principal Steph Mercil, HS Principal Michelle Koch, Assistant Principal John Hedstrom and Superintendent Jay Kjos.

One or more Board Members attending virtually: Julia Kicker and David Treinen

MOTION BY Cherie Peterson SECONDED BY Julia Kicker VOTE carried unanimously to adopt the agenda as amended.

Chris Lake gave an update on Pathways, Makerspace, and STEAM with a tour of the classroom.

Toby Weston gave an update on Industrial Tech Classes with a tour of the classroom.

Carrie Johnson presented the CESO Transportation Operational Assessment.

MOTION BY Sara Makela SECONDED BY Cherie Peterson VOTE carried unanimously to hire MSBA with the Comprehensive Superintendent Search.

David Lindquist gave an update on ways to tighten up internet use.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE carried unanimously to approve the following consent items:
1. September 28, 2026 special meeting minutes; September 21, 2026 regular meeting minutes;
2. Activity fund and monthly claims in the amount of $228,322.00
3. Consider 2026-2027 coaching/advisor recommendations:
    - 3.1. Head Baseball Coach, Randy Thompson, step 10;
    - 3.2. Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, John Hedstrom, step 10;
    - 3.3. Assistant Softball Coach, Alexa Mann, step 3;
    - 3.4. Assistant Softball Coach, Erika Jensen, step 3;
    - 3.5. Junior High Softball Coach, Sara Kinyoun, step 3;
    - 3.6. Head Track Coach, Tom Smith, step 10;
    - 3.7. Assistant Track Coach, Ed Heltunen, step 6;
    - 3.8. Assistant Track Coach, Thor Johnson, step 3;
    - 3.9. Varsity Knowledge Bowl Advisor, Tanya Carney, step 5;
    - 3.10. Junior High Knowledge Bowl Advisor, Dan Besonen, step 9;

3.11. Art League Advisor, Tiffany Besonen, step 10;
3.12. Assistant Golf Coach, Alayna Day, step 2;
3.13. Assistant Golf Coach, Becca Pulju, step 5;

4. Consider staffing recommendations:
   4.1. District Receptionist, Sue Tolkkinen, step 2;
   4.2. Paraprofessional, Vera Simonson, step 1;
5. 2026-2027 Cooperative Agreement for Boys Hockey
6. National Insurance Services Renewal;

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Julia Kicker VOTE 5-0-1 with David Treinen abstaining to approve the Kenmark Invoice in the amount of $68.00 as presented.

MOTION BY Andrea Havereinen SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE carried unanimously to approve the seniority lists for the 26-27 school year, as presented, for EMM Licensed Staff and EMM Paraprofessional Staff.

MOTION BY Cherie Peterson SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE carried unanimously to approve the Clerical Employees' Handbook as presented.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Cherie Peterson VOTE carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Julia Hillukka, Paraprofessional with Menahga Public Schools, effective October 23, 2026. We thank Julia for her 8 years of dedicated service to the students of our school.

MOTION BY David Treinen SECONDED BY Sophia Keranen VOTE carried unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from Sophia Keranen, Paraprofessional with Menahga Public Schools, effective October 15, 2026. We thank Sophia for her dedicated service to the students of our school.

The following resolution was introduced by Andrea Haverinen

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, MS 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education."; and

WHEREAS, MS 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. *Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full.";*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Menahga Public School Dist 821 gratefully accept the following donations as identified below:

$500.00 to 5th grade Coffee Shop from Gateway Lions Club;
$500.00 to After School Art League from Gateway Lions Club;
$500.00 to FFA Nationals from Gateway Lions Club;
$150.00 to Volleyball from Lamb-Weston/RDO Frozen;

Resolution seconded by Sara Makela

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:
voting aye: Andrea Haverinen, David Treinen, Cherie Peterson, Sara Makela, Julia Kicker, and Katie Howard.
voting nay: none
absent: none
Whereupon, said resolution was declared duly adopted.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Julia Kicker VOTE carried unanimously to vote for nominees as listed on MSDLAF+ proxy letter.

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Sara Makela VOTE carried unanimously to vote for nominees as listed on MSBAIT proxy letter.

Chair Howard called for the election to be canvassed on
(Timeline: 3 to 10 days after election)
Day: Monday
Date: November 9, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Conference Room

MOTION BY Andrea Haverinen SECONDED BY Cherie Peterson VOTE carried unanimously to adjourn the October 19, 2026 regular meeting of the Menahga Public School board at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,