OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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
Willie Spelts, School to Work/Fundraising Coordinator/ Community Education Director
Sheena Stefanich, Parkview Elementary Principal

Members Absent:

None

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

II. **APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the agenda** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.

III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Members and coaching staff of the Rock Ridge Girls Tennis Team were in attendance and honored for their Class AA State Championship for the second year in a row.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**: BONNER requested to pull the hiring of winter coaches and volunteers (Item 4.10) for discussion. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda without Item 4.10** made by BONNER, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Approval of October 26, 2026 special meeting minutes.
B. Approval of October 26, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
C. Approval of hire of Janine Pecha for the Paraprofessional (NSE) position at a rate of $19.97/hour effective November 2, 2026.
D. Approval of hire of Devin Whaley for the Paraprofessional (RRHS) position at a rate of $19.97/hour effective November 2, 2026.
E. Approval of hire of Nathan Redding for the Part-time Bus Driver position at a rate of $25.14/hour effective November 2, 2026.
F. Approval of hire of Alex Gunderson for the Paraprofessional (NSE) position at a rate of $19.97/hour effective November 2, 2026.
G. Approval of hire of Breanna Peterson for the Playground/Lunch Aide (LES) position at a rate of $17.00/hour effective November 10, 2026.
H. Approval of hire of Sayer Payne for the Rock Ridge Community Education Elementary Boys Basketball Coordinator with a stipend of $1,500 for the 2026-2027 school year.
I. Approval of hire of Kate Putnam for the Rock Ridge Community Education Elementary Volleyball Coordinator with a stipend of $1,500 for the 2026-2027 school year.
J. Approval of additional duty of Paraprofessional (LES) for April Stupca at a rate of $19.97/hour effective November 10, 2026.
K. Approval of additional duty of Rock Ridge Community Education Elementary Girls Basketball Coordinator for Troy Caddy with a stipend of $1,500 for the 2026-2027 school year.
L. Approval of additional duty of Special Education Home-based Teacher (RRHS) for Amber King at a rate of $42.00/hour effective October 26, 2026.
M. Approval of volunteer coaches for the 2026-2027 school year: Joseph Bissonette (Archery), Spencer Oates (Archery), Russell Rask (Archery), Jeff Torrel (Boys Hockey), Tracey Oates (Archery), Chad Larson (Alpine Ski), Benji Neff (Alpine Ski).

N. Approval of transfer of Hayden Niles from Lunch/Playground Aide to Paraprofessional (NSE) at a rate of $19.97/hour effective October 30, 2026.
O. Approval of transfer of Hayley Halls from the Elementary Music Teacher to the Interventionist (NSE) position with a salary of $51,266.25 effective October 28, 2026.
P. Acceptance of resignation of April Stupca from the Playground Aide position effective November 6, 2026.
Q. Acceptance of resignation of Michaline Littler from the Paraprofessional position effective November 6, 2026.
R. Acceptance of resignation of Paige Markasich from the Paraprofessional position effective November 16, 2026.
S. Acceptance of resignation of Kate Ludwig from the Wolverine Buddy Coordinator position effective October 26, 2026.
T. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of $50 from Raymond and Linda Erickson to the RRHS Tennis Program in memory of Barb Lundberg.

PULLED CONSENT ITEM: *Item 4.10. Approval of hire of winter coaches and volunteer coaches for the 2026-2027 school year (attachment).*

A. Following a brief discussion, RIORDAN requested to remove the hiring of the Head Girls Hockey Coach. Motion to **approve the hiring of winter coaches and volunteers minus the Head Girls Hockey Coach position** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
B. Motion to **approve the hiring of Kassie Strand as the Head Girls Hockey Coach** made by UHAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed 4-3 with RIORDAN, BONNER, and L. WESTBY voting NO.

V. **POSITION OF BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR.**
A. Motion to **accept the resignation of Mike Hoag from the Buildings, Grounds & Maintenance Director position effective November 20, 2026** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
B. Motion to **pay out half of Mike Hoag's accumulated vacation time** made by UHAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed 6-1 with Riordan voting NO.

VI. **REPORTS:**
A. Students Jayden Jackson, 11th grade, and Ava Sherek, 12th grade, presented a donation check of $5,000 to name the RRHS Tech Booth in memory of long-time Rock Ridge Paraprofessional and Theater Director Jeremy Liimatta. The students planned and organized a fundraiser in order to raise the funds.
B. Willie Spelts provided an update in Fundraising and School to Work included in the District's Strategic Plan.
C. Principal Sheena Stefanich shared information about what's been happening at Parkview Elementary.
D. Supt. Schmidt presented a preliminary timeline outlining opportunities for discussion, input, and strategic planning over the next several months regarding a possible transition to a four-day school week. Following discussion, the Board agreed that additional discussion among Board members was needed and scheduled a working session for November 23 at 5:00 PM. The board also requested meetings set up for the AFSCME Labor Management Relations Committee and the Staff Development Committee.
E. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. **POLICIES:** Motion to **approve the final 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.

VIII. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

A. Motion to **approve the 2026 Pay Equity Report** made by BONNER, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Motion to **approve the Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District General Election** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by J. WESTBY. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Motion to **approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Certificates of Election and Directing School Clerk to Perform Other Election Related Duties** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Motion to **approve the nominations for the ARCC Governance Board - Category 1 Superintendent (Mike Cary, Cloquet) and At-Large Finance/Accounting Representative (Kristi Borglund, Cromwell-Wright)** made by UHAN, seconded by L. WeESTBY. Motion passed 6-0-1 with RIORDAN abstaining.

IX. (7:05 PM) **CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, subdivision 2(a)(3), for the purpose of discussing private educational data related to the proposed expulsion of a student.**

X. (7:16 PM) **OPEN SESSION for the purpose of official action regarding proposed student expulsion:** Motion to **approve the Resolution Expelling a Student** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

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CHAIR CLERK