School District 197
West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2026
ISD 197 District Office, Mendota Heights, MN

A meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 197 was held on Monday, November 9, 2026 beginning at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to due notice.

The meeting was called to order by current School Board Chair Larsen at 6:00 p.m. The following School Board members were present: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill. Sarah Larsen, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz. School Board members absent: Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele. School Board student representatives Aubrey McMahon and Clara Rebhan were present. Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog was present.

Also present for the meeting were: Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent; Cari Jo Drewitz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Sara Lein, Director of Special Programs; Brian Schultz, Director of Finance; Sara Blair, Director of Communications; Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources; Mark Fortman, Director of Operations.

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Aune and seconded by Mr. Vaupel to approve the agenda as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz
Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0).

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Ms. Walz to approve the consent agenda items as presented:

- Approval of the October 26, 2026 School Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Personnel Recommendations
- Administrative Review of Policy 516.5: Overdose Management
- Administrative Review of Policy 702: Accounting
- Administrative Review of Policy 703: Annual Audit
- Second Reading of Policy 806: Crisis Management
- Approval of Gifts to the District
- Approval of September 2026 Accounts Payable Report
- Approval of September 2026 Treasurer's Report
- Approval of October 2026 Wire Transfers Report

Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz
Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0).

Approval of Resolutions Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District Elections
Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog presented the results of the November 3, 2026, School District General and Special Elections for formal canvassing by the School Board. The general election included three School Board seats, with 25,041 ballots cast and a voter turnout of 76.49%, resulting in the election of Sarah Larsen, Marcus Hill, and Jon Vaupel to four-year terms beginning in January 2027. The special election included a capital

project levy authorization, which passed with 13,782 votes (63.2%) in favor and 8,013 votes (36.8%) against. The Board was asked to approve the resolutions canvassing the election results and authorizing the issuance of Certificates of Election to the three elected School Board members.

It was moved by Mr. Aune and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the Resolutions Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District Elections as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz
Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0).

Student Representatives' Report
Student School Board Representatives Clara Rebhan and Aubrey McMahon provided updates on activities and accomplishments across district schools. Elementary highlights included Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, outdoor learning experiences, community events, and student-led initiatives, while both middle schools participated in Unity Day activities and collaborative musical performances. At Two Rivers High School, students celebrated successful fall athletic seasons, participated in academic and musical events, and recognized Hispanic Heritage Month through student-led cultural presentations and performances. The representatives emphasized the variety of opportunities available for students to engage in learning, celebrate diverse cultures, and build connections throughout the district.

Recognitions
The School Board recognized individuals for their contributions to student opportunities, leadership, and community partnerships. Child Nutrition Supervisor Sabrina Kintz and Child Nutrition Manager Jeff Wolfer shared how Moreland Elementary student Connor Millerbernd's petition led to pretzel buns being added to the school lunch menu and expressed enthusiasm for increased student engagement in the district's meal program. Two Rivers High School senior Colton Hamiel was recognized for participating in a student panel at the launch of the Minnesota Aerospace Skilled Technical Workforce Hub, building on his aviation experience and internship through TriDistrict CAPS. The Board also recognized Frank Hanzal, owner of CBL Floors, for his partnership in developing *Hired! Landing a Job at 14+ Years*, an after-school program designed to help eighth-grade students develop employment readiness skills.

Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog expressed appreciation to the School District 197 community for approving the capital projects levy with 63% of the vote, emphasizing its importance in providing financial stability and supporting students and staff. He congratulated newly elected School Board members Sarah Larsen, Jon Vaupel, and Marcus Hill, and thanked candidate Dwight Larson for his willingness to serve. In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, he highlighted the district's American Indian Education Program and its commitment to supporting more than 160 American Indian students and their families. He also celebrated the opening of an inclusive playground addition at Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School and shared information about upcoming Kindergarten Showcase events for families preparing for the 2027-28 school year.

Site Report: Friendly Hills Middle School
Friendly Hills Middle School Principal Chris Hiti and Associate Administrator Kira Fischler presented the school's annual site report, highlighting its mission to prepare, challenge, and empower every student. They shared points of pride centered on a collaborative school community, diverse learning experiences, and opportunities for students to engage beyond the classroom through field trips, guest speakers, and Lunch and Learn activities. The presentation emphasized instructional approaches that support interactive, individualized, and exploratory learning experiences. Looking ahead, the school identified continued priorities in science, mathematics, reading, student engagement, and hands-on learning opportunities that encourage curiosity and skill development.

Site Report: Somerset Elementary

Somerset Elementary School Principal Amy Kujawski presented the school's annual site report, highlighting progress in literacy, mathematics, and writing instruction aligned with the district's Strategic Framework. She reported successful implementation of the Magnetic early literacy curriculum, with students demonstrating 90% or higher mastery in phonemic awareness on the aReading assessment, along with relatively stable mathematics proficiency and improved writing scores among multilingual learners. The school also highlighted implementation of the Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) writing model and the Reveal mathematics curriculum. Looking ahead, Somerset will focus on evidence-based reading interventions, reading fluency in grades 2-4, continued implementation of SRSD writing strategies, strengthened mathematics instruction through student discourse, and relationship-building practices through the Ready for Rigor framework.

Approval of 2026-2027 Strategic Implementation Plan

Cari Jo Drewitz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, presented the 2026-27 Strategic Implementation Plan for formal School Board approval. The plan supports the district's long-term Strategic Framework, adopted in 2020, and fulfills requirements outlined in Minnesota Statute 120B.11 regarding comprehensive planning to improve teaching and learning. The district's strategic planning process includes adoption of the Strategic Framework, an Annual Report evaluating progress toward established goals, and an annual implementation plan identifying actions to advance those goals. The implementation plan was previously presented at the October 26 work session, and the Annual Report scheduled for further review at the November 23 work session.

It was moved by Mr. Vaupel and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve the 2026-2027 Strategic Implementation Plan as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz
Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0).

Approval of Revised 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Draft Academic Calendars

Cari Jo Drewitz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, presented the final 2027-28 and draft 2028-29 district academic calendars, developed in collaboration with the Meet and Confer Committee. Both calendars maintain 169-170 student instructional days and 185 teacher days while balancing instructional needs, professional development, operational considerations, and religious and cultural observances. The 2027-28 calendar includes a change moving the October professional development day from October 1 to October 11, while the 2028-29 draft places professional development and collaboration days consecutively in April. The calendars were previously reviewed at the October 26 School Board work session.

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve the Revised 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Draft Academic Calendars as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz
Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0).

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Aune and seconded by Mr. Hill to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz
Nay: none

The motion carried (5-0).

The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting of Independent School District 197 will be Monday, November 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. It will be held in the School District 197 District Office Training Room, 1897 Delaware Avenue, Mendota Heights. *Please refer to the district website for possible changes to any meeting times/locations.*

Upon approval by the School Board, official minutes will be available at the District Office, 1897 Delaware Avenue, Mendota Heights, and on the district website. The full meeting materials are available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the school district and on the district website.

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Sarah Larsen	Jon Vaupel
School Board Chair	School Board Clerk