

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
JANUARY 5, 2026**

The special meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Long Voelkner, Jenny Frenzel, Jack Aakhus, Todd Haugen, Anna Manecke, Dave Wall and Superintendent Jeremy Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Student Representative: Mckenzie Edevold and Jacobi Burmeister Pater

CALL TO ORDER: (4:30 p.m.)

Approval of Agenda

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by, Todd Haugen, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

Organization of the Board

A. Elections

1. **Chairperson** (Chair Dave Wall Presiding)

Todd Haugen was nominated by Dave Wall, and was duly elected to that office.

2. **Vice Chairperson** – Chairperson Todd Haugen Presiding

Jack Aakhus was nominated by Anna Manecke and Jenny Frenzel was nominated by Ann Long Voelkner, and upon vote being taken, Jack Aakhus was duly elected to that office with a four to two vote.

3. **Clerk**

Jenny Frenzel was nominated by Ann Long Voelkner, and Jenny Frenzel was duly elected to that office.

4. **Treasurer**

Anna Manecke was nominated by Jack Aakhus and was duly elected to that office.

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to authorize Ashley Eastridge, Director of Business Services, to perform the duties of Treasurer of the School Board.

B. Other Organizational Considerations

1. **School Board Member Compensation**

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Todd Haugen, and carried by all in attendance to set the compensation received by School Board Members for the 2026 calendar year at \$525 per month.

2. School Board Chairperson Compensation

The motion was offered by Jack Aakhus, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by Anna Manecke, Ann Long Voelkner, Jack Aakhus, Dave Wall and Todd Haugen to set the compensation received by the School Board Chairperson for the 2026 calendar year at \$675 per year.

3. Table Negotiator Compensation

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to set the compensation received by the School Board Table Negotiators for the 2026 calendar year at \$150 per meeting and \$75 for a half day meeting during the payroll cycle. The Board Chair will be the alternate if needed.

4. Regular Monthly Meetings – Date and Time

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance that the regular meeting of the Board of Education be held on the third Monday of the month, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room. Special Meetings shall be held as needed.

5. Appoint Committee Assignments

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to accept the committee assignment list with Ann Long Voekner replacing Jenny Frenzel on the Curriculum Committee, Jenny Frenzel added to the MSBA Delegate Assembly and Ann Long Voelkner listed as an alternate on the Personnel Committee.

6. Enabling Act

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance establishing the Enabling Act for the guidance of the Superintendent as follows:

- a. to certify payment of membership in state and national organizations whose functions support the educational program;
- b. to certify reimbursement for expenses of School Board Members, the Superintendent, and other school personnel to such state and national meetings as it may seem advisable to attend;
- c. call the officers of the Board as a special committee on ways and means between regular Board Meetings on the Superintendent's own initiative or at the request of a Member of the Board;
- d. to employ/discharge nonlicensed personnel, to certify wages and salaries from payment in accordance with schedules adopted by the Board, and to administer the provisions of the negotiated agreements;
- e. to accept employee resignations when deemed to be in the best interest of District No. 31;
- f. to certify to the officers for their facsimile signatures such items as:
 - (1) payment of items covered by contract with the Board of Education,
 - (2) payment of emergency bills in which it appears that financial loss or hardship will follow if there is a delay in payment,
 - (3) payment of bills carrying penalties or discount,
 - (4) payment of regular or reoccurring bills;

- g. to lease, purchase and contract for goods and services within the budget as approved by the Board, provided that any transaction in an amount of which bids are required must first be specifically authorized by the Board and fulfill all other applicable requirements of Minnesota Statute. Under the provisions of M.S. 123B.52, Subd. 1, the Director of Business Services is also authorized to perform these actions;
- h. to make short-term investments of surplus current funds in legally approved securities. The Director of Business Services is also authorized to perform these actions;
- i. to transfer monies on a continuing basis from a fund receiving a service or supply to another fund granting the services or supply. This authorization shall include only those transfers that are for supplies or services;
- j. to conduct day-to-day operations of the district, not specifically covered above, in accordance with the terms of the Superintendent's contract, Board Policy, and appropriate state and federal statutes;
- k. pursuant to M.S. 123B.02, Subd. 18, the School Board authorizes the Director of Business Services to make payment of claims prior to Board approval and requires that payments made prior to the Board approval be acted upon at the next Board meeting;
- l. delegate the Director of Business Services the authority to make electronic transfers and approve electronic transfers made by other initiators;
- m. to sign grants on behalf of the school district when deemed to be in the best interest of District No. 31;
- n. to delegate the Director of Business Services the authority to refinance existing bonds when deemed to be in the best interest of District No. 31;
- o. to authorize the Director of Business Services to enter into emergency management agreements with organizations in the county, including the American Red Cross, in emergency situations;
- p. to authorize the Superintendent to accept donations with a value of up to \$500 on behalf of the Board.

7. Select an Official Newspaper

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by, Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance awarding the quotation for legal advertisements for 2026 to The Bemidji Pioneer in the amount of \$9.90 S.A.U. for the first insertion and \$8.90 S.A.U. for subsequent insertions.

8. Name Board's Legal Counsel and Authorized Contacts

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to accept Squires, Waldspurger and Mace, P.A. as the Board's legal counsel and Superintendent Olson and Superintendent Olson's designee as authorized Contacts.

9. Depository Resolution

Dave Wall offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

DEPOSITORY RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Directors of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, at a meeting held on January 5, 2026, do hereby designate as depositories of district funds those national, insured state banks or thrift institutions as defined in 51A.54, Subdivision 23, and the MSDLAF family of accounts, and the PTMA Financial Solutions

family of accounts, for a period beginning the 31st of January 2026, and ending on the 30th of January 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with M.S. 123B.14. Subdivision 3, the Treasurer is authorized to exercise the powers of this governing body in designating the depositories of such funds. This authorization is subject to the right to said Board of Directors to modify, vacate, or revoke at any time.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Jack Aakhus, and upon vote thereon a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Jack Aakhus, Todd Haugen, Ann Long Voelkner, Anna Manecke, Jenny Frenzel, and Dave Wall

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Adjournment

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 5:18 pm

Jenny Frenzel, Clerk

Date Approved

Todd Haugen, Chair

Date Approved