

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

**ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 PROGRESS PARKWAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**Members Present:**

Jennifer Bonner      John Uhan  
Nicole Culbert-Dahl      Jodi Westby  
Brandi Lautigar      Lisa Westby  
Tim Riordan

**Other Staff Present:**

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent  
Angie Williams, Laurentian Elementary Principal  
Sheena Stefanich, Parkview Elementary Principal  
Shanon Kush-Jeffery, Early Childhood Coordinator/Teacher

**Members Absent:**

None

**Student Representative:**

Cora Eilola-Zallar

- 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 CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** (8) visitors spoke on various topics regarding Rock Ridge's hiring practices, bullying prevention, the hiring of the assistant dance coach, and a call to improve policies to help better the school experience for students of color at Rock Ridge.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
  - A. Approval of January 13, 2025 organizational and regular meeting minutes.
  - B. Rescindment of hire of Katie Hunter for the Grade 2 Long-Term Substitute Teacher (LES) position slated for approximately February 2, 2025.
  - C. Approval of hire of Sheila Takanen for the Homebound Instructor (RRHS) position at a rate of \$42.00/hour effective January 15, 2025 through May 30, 2025.
  - D. Approval of hire of Danica Markasich for the Wolverine Care After School Staff position at a rate of \$15.00/hour effective January 17, 2025.
  - E. Approval of hire of Valerie Pepelnjak for the Speech Language Pathologist position (0.4 FTE) with a salary of \$17,280.72 prorated (BA+30 Step J) effective January 21, 2025.
  - F. Approval of transfer of Colleen Larson from the Playground/Lunch Supervisor to the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective January 21, 2025.
  - G. Approval of hire of Lauryn Devich for the Grade 2 Long-Term Substitute Teacher (LES) position at a daily rate of pay of \$264.43/day (BA Step A) effective January 27, 2025.
  - H. Approval of hire of Katie Hunter for the 2nd Grade Interim Teacher (PES) position at a daily rate of pay of \$264.43/ day (BA Step A) effective January 28, 2025 through May 30, 2025.
  - I. Approval of hire of Kylee Sexton for the Assistant Speech Coach position with a stipend of \$2,112 for the 2024-25 school year.
  - J. Acceptance of resignation of Aynsley Erickson from the Assistant Dance Coach position.
  - K. Acceptance of resignation of Nikki Sundt from the Paraprofessional position effective January 24, 2025.
  - L. Acceptance of resignation of Brady Sandstrom from the Custodian/GM/Grounds/Driver position effective January 24, 2025.
  - M. Acceptance of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Gaye Lossing from the Elementary Teacher (Grade 2) position effective May 30, 2025.
  - N. Approval of unpaid medical leave of absence for Samantha Chad, LPN at RRHS, from January 10, 2025 - February 10, 2025.

- O. Approval of unpaid leave of medical absence for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year for Stephanie Strand, Paraprofessional.
- P. Acceptance and appreciation of the CTE grant (DECA small business) from NESC in the amount of \$3,015.
- Q. Approval of lane change for Jessica Kralich from MA Step G to MA+10 Step G effective January 24, 2025.

V. **REPORTS:**

- A. A representative from Brady Martz & Associates presented the 2023-2024 Audit Report.
- B. Sheena Stefanich and Shanon Kush-Jeffery presented the 2025-26 ECFE/School Readiness budget as well as an alternative idea for structuring the program for next year. Bussing information is still needed. Item will be put on the next board agenda for further discussion.
- C. Cora Eilola-Zallar gave the student representative report.
- D. Supt. Noel Schmidt reviewed the Equity portion of the Strategic Plan.
- E. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

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CHAIR

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CLERK