

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 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  
Brandi Lautigar                      Lisa Westby  
Tim Riordan

**Other Staff Present:**

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent  
Mike Hoag, Maintenance Director  
Bob Voss, Transportation Director

**Members Absent:**

Nicole Culbert-Dahl  
Jodi Westby

- I. Chair JOHN UHAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:**
- A. UHAN added resignation of Stephanine Strand (Paraprofessional) to the Consent Agenda 4.22 and deleted Administration Item 6.2 *Consider approval of a 3-year contract with Imagine Learning as an online learning platform.*
  - B. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Kassie Strand – Personal experience during the hiring process of the Girls Head Hockey Coach position. Cuts in music dept. staff – Molly Peltier, Nissa Evenson, Gina Chapman, Sara Matuszak, Brett Alexander, Paul Gregerson.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
- A. BONNER pulled *4.11 Approval of retaining the Level I Technology position to meet the needs of RRPS for the 2025-2026 school year* for discussion.
  - B. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
    - 1. Approval of August 11, 2025 regular meeting minutes.
    - 2. Approval to rescind hire of Susan Lanyk for the Long-Term Substitute Teacher position (Grade 2).
    - 3. Approval of hire of Susan Lanyk for the Elementary Teacher (Grade 3 / LES) position with a salary of \$86,404 (Step J MA) effective August 25, 2025.
    - 4. Approval of hire of Drew Aho for the Elementary Teacher (Grade 6 / NSE) position with a salary of \$52,732 (Step C BA) effective August 25, 2025.
    - 5. Approval of hire of Hayley Halls for the Long-Term Substitute Teacher (2nd Grade / LES) position with a salary of \$50,163 prorated (Step B BA) effective October 15, 2025.
    - 6. Approval of hire of After School Care Staff with a stipend of \$15/hour effective for the 2025-2026 school year: Brody Galovich, Amelia Sandnas, April Stupca, Breanna Bridgewater, Paige Johnson, Lissa Kriefels, Sherry Salo, Stacy Robillard, Danica Markasich.
    - 7. Approval of transfer of Deb Tikkanen from the Elementary Teacher (LES) position to the Interventionist (LES) position effective August 25, 2025.
    - 8. Approval of transfer of Julie Dale from the Paraprofessional position to the Student Support Paraprofessional (PES) position effective August 25, 2025.
    - 9. Approval of additional duties and stipends for the following staff (LES) for the 2025-2026 school year: Stace Landwer (Yearbook Advisor \$1,765 and Student Council \$1,513), Rob Hinrichs, Jessica Kralich, Elizabeth Niemi, and Melissa Lautigar (Before School Supervision \$3,026 each),

- Rob Hinrichs and Cody Baker (Recess Supervision \$3,026 each), Heather Gulbranson, Becki Carey, and Amanda Rasmussen (Noon Supervision \$3,026 each).
10. Approval of additional duty of Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year for the following staff: Kristy Hill, Laurie Kuoppala.
  11. Approval of 10 extra duty days to the 2025-2026 contract of Evan Friedlieb, RRHS Dean, with a salary \$73,411 Step J BA.
  12. Acceptance of resignation of Danielle Westling from the Paraprofessional position effective August 18, 2025.
  13. Acceptance of resignation of Melodi Haugen from the Paraprofessional position effective August 19, 2025.
  14. Acceptance of resignation of Michelle Epps from the Paraprofessional position effective August 19, 2025.
  15. Acceptance of resignation of Gabriela Ventura from the Paraprofessional position effective August 19, 2025.
  16. Acceptance of resignation of Georgia Epp from the Elementary Art Teacher position effective August 19, 2025.
  17. Acceptance of resignation of Carlie Hadrava from the Paraprofessional position effective August 20, 2025.
  18. Acceptance of resignation of Jason Lackner from the Custodian/GM/Grounds/Driver position effective August 29, 2025.
  19. Acceptance of resignation of Andy Evers from the Student Support Paraprofessional position effective August 31, 2025.
  20. Approval for Noel Schmidt to attend the National Association of School Superintendents Award Presentation Ceremony and Conference in Chicago, September 10-12. Noel is a finalist for the National Association of School Superintendents small school superintendent award. The other two finalists are from New York and Texas. There are no costs for the Rock Ridge school district.
  21. Acceptance of resignation of Stephanie Strand from the Paraprofessional position effective August 24, 2025.
- C. Following discussion of the Level I Technology position, motion to **approve retaining the Level I Technology position to meet the needs of RRPS for the 2025-2026 school year** made by BONNER, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.

V. **REPORTS:**

- A. Dr. Keith Peterson, representing Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability, provided an update on the proposed deep winter greenhouse to be built next to the 1404 Building. Motion to **approve the request from the IRPS for ISD 2909 to commit up to \$100,000 to help complete the cost of the greenhouse** made by BONNER, seconded by UHAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Bob Voss, Transportation Director, gave an update on bus routes for the 2025-2026 school year and the outlook of managing buses and drivers for sports and activities.
- C. Supt. Schmidt reported on the road construction and stated that the roundabout is scheduled to be completed before the first day of school. Also, Gilbert, Eveleth, and Virginia officers' unions are willing to have officers sign up for overtime during the school day to be at RRHS to provide more coverage (The district does receive some levy money for SROs.). Finally, he reported on the first day of teacher/staff workshops.
- D. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to **approve the updates to the 3-year Daikin maintenance agreement effective May 1, 2024 to now include maintenance for North Star Elementary** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to **approve a 0.5 FTE music position to allow for more music lessons to occur during the school day** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Motion to **approve the contract for speech therapy services between Speech Partners, LLC and RRPS for the 2025-2026 school year** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. No action was taken on the MSBA Legislative Resolution.

VII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

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CHAIR

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CLERK