

**OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

**Monday, October 14, 2024 5:30 pm**

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carolyn Dube  
Kathy Green  
Cece Kroc  
Don Leathers  
Carol McAlister  
Evan Sorenson  
Peggy Young  
Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**MEETING CALLED**

**TO ORDER:** Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall.

**AGENDA APPROVED:** A motion was made by Green, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as printed.

**TAX ABATEMENTS APPROVED:**

Leathers made a motion, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to approve the tax abatement request from Bigelow & Lennon Construction for new construction located at 1308 17<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Austin (PIN 34.468.0080) with an estimated project valuation of \$320,000.

Green made a motion, seconded by Green and carried unanimously to approve the tax abatement request from Cedar City Builders Construction for new construction located at 1804 13<sup>th</sup> PI NE, Austin (PIN 34.468.0070) with an estimated project valuation of \$400,000.

(A COPY OF EACH APPLICATION IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**RECOGNITIONS:** Activities Director Katie Carter recognized former basketball coach Kris Fadness for his induction into the MN Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Board Chair Dube also recognized outgoing school board member Kathy Green for her 25 years of service to the Austin School Board.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Page recognized the recent Distinguished Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. In addition, he noted the elementary schools surpassed their recent Walk-a-thon fundraising goal. He also shared up update on recent events held throughout the district.

**SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS:**

Board members each thanked Kathy Green for her time on the school board and shared the various district activities they have been part of this past month.

**STUDENT REPORTS:** Student Representatives Anita Rao and Michael Garry shared their reports on happenings at Austin High School.

**MINUTES APPROVED:** Young made a motion, seconded by Green and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/9/24 and special meeting minutes of 9/23/24 as printed.

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(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

**PERSONNEL REPORT APPROVED:**

Young made a motion, seconded by Green and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

**Certified Staff:**

Requests for Leave – Kerri Koenigs, grade 3 teacher, effective 11/8/24-12/20/24; Katie Learn, SPED teacher, effective 9/20/24-10/4/24; and Anna Meyer, phy ed teacher, effective 1/11/25-5/30/25

**Non-certified Staff:**

Contracts for Approval – Lilly Andon, SPED para, 7 hrs/day, effective 9/24/24; Akirra Boe, para, 7 hrs/day, effective 9/24/24; Hailey Fisher, ECFE asst, 27.75 hrs/week, effective 9/30/24; Kellie Fiske, cashier, effective 9/11/24; Hope Guy, custodian, effective 9/19/24; Chitsu Htway, ECFE asst, 35 hrs/week, effective 9/9/24; James Huff, custodian, effective 9/23/24; Kayla Klaw, childcare lead, 26 hrs/week, effective 10/7/24; Justin Larscheid, ECFE asst, 27.75 hrs/week, effective 9/9/24; Margaret Leeper, noon supervisor, 2 hrs/day, effective 9/9/24; Monika Vargas, family liaison, 15 hrs/week, effective 9/24/24; Trinidy Veraza, childcare lead, 26 hrs/week, effective 9/30/24; and Tami Yokiell, para, 6.5 hrs/day, effective 10/14/24;

Changes in Assignment – Blake Kruse, 6.5 hrs/day food service helper to 7.5 hrs/day 2<sup>nd</sup> cook, effective 8/26/24; Julie Rausch, 7.75 hrs/day head cook to 7 hrs/day 2<sup>nd</sup> cook, effective 10/1/24; Amy Standinger, 7 hrs/day 2<sup>nd</sup> cook at Ellis to 6.5 hrs/day helper at IJ Holton, effective 9/13/24; and Monica Wehner, 7.5 hrs/day 2<sup>nd</sup> cook at IJ Holton to 7.5 hrs/day head cook at Sumner, effective 8/26/24

Requests for Leave – Josephine Avelar, SPED para, effective 8/22/24-10/11/24; Santino Deng, Success Coach, effective 9/10/24-10/1/24; Gordy Gunter, custodian, effective 10/23/24-11/25/24; Deb Huckaby, MHP, effective 9/16/24-11/8/24; Herve Idjidina, Success Coach, effective 10/9/24-10/23/24; Julie Raker, SPED para, effective 9/25/24-12/18/24; Allison Stoltz, MHBA, effective 10/4/24-11/29/24; and Ymay Ya, Success Coach, effective 11/16/24-1/20/25

Resignations – Haley Culbert, food service helper, effective 9/13/24; AnneMarie Meyer, childcare lead, effective 5/29/24; Sarah Stiehm, childcare lead, effective 5/29/24; Paige Wangen, para, effective 9/6/24; Vannessa Winsky, para, effective 9/19/24; and Tami Yokiell, community ed, effective 10/11/24

Retirement – Tammy Overby, Kids Korner site lead, effective 9/4/24

Terminations – Lucas Bednar, SPED para, effective 9/17/24; Karla Boe, noon supervisor, effective 9/18/24; and April Reyes, SPED para, effective 5/29/24

Lane Advancements – 19 teachers were approved for lane advancements for a full year increase totaling \$86,193.

**BILLS APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Green and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 10/14/24.

(A COPY OF THE BILLS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Green and carried unanimously to approve the August 2024 treasurer's report.

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(A COPY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

- REPORTS:** Department/school updates from Superintendent Cabinet members and principals were available for review.
- MSHSL AMENDMENTS:** Information regarding the proposed MN State High School League amendments was provided to the board.
- MSHSL FORMS A AND B APPROVED:** A motion was made by Young, seconded by Green and carried unanimously to approve the submission of Form A and B to the MN State High School League.
- (A COPY OF BOTH RESOLUTIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)
- HOMECOMING RECAP:** AHS Student Council Advisor Emily Hovland provided a recap of this year's homecoming activities, noting great success with the snack packing service project and the outstanding attendance at this year's dance.
- DONATIONS:** A motion was made by Green, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.
- (A COMPLETE COPY OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)
- ENROLLMENT UPDATE:** Information Services Director Corey Haugen provided an enrollment update for the board noting pre K – grade 12 enrollment is 5,417 students as of 10.11.24. In addition, data was shared on the impact of a student's attendance on their academic success.
- STUDY SESSION REMINDER:** Chairperson Dube reminded School Board members of the special meeting scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2024 at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.
- MEETING ADJOURNED:** Green made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Peggy Young, Clerk