

January 5, 2026

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2689, PIPESTONE COUNTY, PIPESTONE, MINNESOTA. The organizational meeting of the Board of Directors of Pipestone Area Schools was held on Monday, January 5, 2026 beginning at 5:30 PM in Conference Room 1148. MS/HS.

The following members were present: Brad Carson, Katie Wiese, Tami Taubert, Tyler Fruechte, Daphne Likness, Mark Hiniker, and Chrissy DeBates. Also present: Dr. Klint Willert, Jennifer Moravetz, Sonja Ortman, Lisa Pease and Deb Peschon.

Chairman Carson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by DeBates, second by Likness, approved the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

## **School Board Organization for 2026**

### **Election of Officers for 2026:**

**Chairman:** Carson opened nominations for Chairman. Wiese nominated Fruechte and Likness nominated Wiese for chair. Carson repeated the call for nominations three times. Wiese stated she did not want to be chair, therefore Fruechte was elected by acclamation of a nomination and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

**Vice Chairman:** Fruechte opened nominations for Vice Chairman. Taubert nominated Wiese for vice chair. Fruechte repeated the call for nominations three times. Wiese was elected by acclamation of a nomination.

**Clerk:** Fruechte opened nominations for Clerk. Wiese nominated Likness. Fruechte repeated the call for nominations three times. Likness was elected by acclamation of a nomination.

**Treasurer:** Fruechte opened nominations for Treasurer. Likness nominated Taubert for treasurer. Fruechte repeated the call for nominations three times. Taubert was elected by acclamation of a nomination.

- The Regular School Board meetings will remain on the fourth Monday of every month with the exception of May (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) and December (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday). Meetings will be held in the conference room 1148 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Motion by Taubert, second by DeBates, approved the meeting dates, time, and location. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Wiese, second by Hiniker, approved the treasurer to pay bills. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Carson, second by Likness, approved to authorize the superintendent and business office to perform the duties of the treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Resolution Authorizing the Use of Facsimile Signature on Payroll and Voucher Checks**

### **2024 Minnesota Statutes**

#### **47.41 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS, FACSIMILE SIGNATURES, DISBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.**

Any public officer or other person who is authorized singly or in conjunction with another or others, to sign checks, drafts, warrants, warrant-checks, vouchers or other orders on public funds on deposit in a depository bank may authorize the bank to honor any such instrument bearing a facsimile of that person's signature and to charge the same to the account upon which drawn, as fully as though it bore a manually written signature. Instruments so honored shall be wholly operative and binding in favor of the bank although such facsimile signature shall have been affixed without authority of such officer or other person. Any one or more or all of the signatures upon any such instrument may be facsimile as herein provided. As here used "public funds" means funds of the state or of any county, city, town, school district, any political subdivision of the state, or of any commission, board, department or agency of any thereof.

#### **47.42 FACSIMILE SIGNATURES, OFFICER NOT LIABLE.**

If the governing body of the depositor political subdivision, or of any commission, board, department or agency thereof, by resolution approves the action of the public officer or other person in the use of such facsimile, and shall have insured the depositor with an insurance company authorized to do business in this state, in such amount and form as the governing body approves, against loss of any public funds withdrawn upon unauthorized use of such facsimile signature, such public officer or other person shall not be personally liable for loss, if any, resulting from the use of any such facsimile signature unless the loss occurs by reason of that person's own wrongful act.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly motioned by Katie Wiese, and seconded by Chrissy DeBates.

In favor; Carson, Wiese, Fruechte, DeBates, Taubert, Likness, and Hiniker  
against; none

whereupon said resolution was declared passed 7-0.

- Motion by DeBates, second by Carson, approved authorizing the superintendent's assistant to sign documents in absence of the board clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

## **RESOLUTION DIRECTING SUPERINTENDENT TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN CURRICULUM, PROGRAMS AND STAFF FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR (2026)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2689, State of Minnesota as follows:  
HEREBY, we direct the Superintendent of Pipestone Area Schools to make recommendations for adjustments in curriculum, programs and staff for the following school year.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly motioned by Katie Wiese, and seconded by Chrissy DeBates.

In favor; Carson, Wiese, Fruechte, DeBates, Taubert, Likness, and Hiniker

against; None

whereupon said resolution was declared passed 6-0.

- Motion by Hiniker, second by Carson, approved Ratwik, Roszak and Maloney, and Pemberton Law as the legal firms for the school district. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Wiese, second by DeBates, approved authorizing the superintendent and board chair or designee by superintendent or board chair to contact legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Wiese, second by Carson, to establish First Bank & Trust, First Farmers & Merchants National Bank, Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund, First State Bank Southwest, MN Trust and People's State Bank of Jasper as the official depositories for the district. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Carson, second by Likness, approved to establish the official newspapers for the district to be the *Pipestone County Star* – Summary of Minutes and agenda, *Free Star*- agenda only, website – minutes and agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Hiniker, second by Carson, approved \$60 per board meeting; \$50 per committee meeting; \$100 out-of-town or all-day meeting; an additional \$400 per year for the chairman; mileage at the Federal rate of 72.5 per mile, and meals at cost for the school board. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Wiese, second by Carson, approved to authorize the superintendent to contract for goods and services. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Policy 213, School Board Committees**

- Motion by Hiniker, second by DeBates, to stay the same as last year. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Standing Committee Assignments:**

- Finance Budget (3): Wiese, Taubert, Likness
- Negotiations/Personnel (3): Carson, Hiniker, Fruechte (year 2 of 2).
- Facilities/Building & Grounds (3): Taubert, Wiese, Hiniker
- Policy (3): DeBates, Likness, Carson
- Calendar (2): DeBates and Taubert

### **Other Committee Assignments:**

- Activities Advisory (1): Likness
- Community Education (1): Fruechte
- Comprehensive Achievement & Civic Readiness (1): Wiese
- Legislative Liaison (1): Carson
- MSHSL Board Representative: Likness

### **Old Business**

- Motion by Wiese, second by Likness to approve the amended 2024-2025 audit. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Board Action**

- Motion by Wiese, second by DeBates, to authorize the negotiations committee to begin contract negotiations with Dr. Klint Willert as the Superintendent of Schools for a new contract to serve a superintendent of Pipestone Area Schools beginning July 1, 2026. Motion carried 5-2 with Taubert and Likness voting against.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Wiese, second by Carson to adjourn the meeting (5:48 p.m.). Motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Tyler Fruechte  
Tyler Fruechte, Chairman

/s/ Daphne Likness  
Daphne Likness, Clerk

Approved and dated by the board January 26, 2026.  
Submitted, Deb Peschon