

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

Monday, November 10, 2025 5:30 pm

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Dube Carol McAlister
Robert Hartman Peggy Young
Cece Kroc Dan Zielke
Don Leathers 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 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVED: A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

RECOGNITION: AHS student Isabela Ocasio was recognized for her Emerging Leader Award from the MN Prevention Resource Center.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Superintendent Page noted several staff and student recognitions and highlighted recent and upcoming events.

**SCHOOL BOARD
REPORTS:**

Several board members thanked Dr. Page for his work on the recent referendum and shared highlights of recent school events they attended this past month.

STUDENT REPORTS: Student representatives Michael Garry and Lydia Masara provided highlights of recent and upcoming AHS events.

MINUTES APPROVED: Hartman made a motion, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 10/13/25 and study session minutes of 10/27/25 as printed.

**PERSONNEL REPORT
APPROVED:**

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

New Contracts:

Jesus Alvarez, Success Coach, effective 11/3/25; Krista Bonzer, counseling secretary, effective 11/17/25; Allyson Deutsch, SPED para, effective 10/30/25; Amy Flanders, benefits specialist, effective 10/20/25; Valerie Hrabak, SPED para, effective 12/1/25; Maggie Johnson Hanson, noon supervisor, effective 9/29/25; Gage Johnson, noon supervisor, effective 10/9/25; Chloe Summerfield, teacher, effective 11/17/25; and Esey Weldeghebriel, SPED para, effective 10/20/25

Transfer/Contract Modification:

Fairy Apollohtoo, EL teacher to include Neveln in addition to Southgate, effective 10/20/25; Hsawreh Lyahduku, Success Coach changed from 6.5 hrs/day to 8 hrs/day; and William Nagle, custodian at AHS to custodian at Banfield, effective 10/21/25

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING****Request for Leave:**

Allison Stoltz, SPED para, effective 10/1/25-12/19/25

Resignations/Retirements:

Alex Cauble, systems administrator, effective 10/31/25; Emma Charles, social studies teacher, effective 12/19/25; Amy Flanders, counseling secretary, effective 11/14/25; Steve Kakes, SPED teacher, resignation revised to 5/28/26; Justin Larscheid, ECSE para, effective 10/28/25; Jayden Modderman, SPED para, effective 10/29/25; and Suzanne Rymer, ECSE teacher, effective 11/21/25

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE PERSONNEL REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

BILLS APPROVED:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 11/10/25.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to approve the September 2025 treasurer's report.

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

2026-27 AHS COURSE REGISTRATION GUIDE APPROVED:

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Kroc to approve the changes to the 2026-27 AHS Course Registration Guide.

REPORTS:

November Cabinet and site reports were available for review.

ETS OVERVIEW:

Austin High School has teamed with ETS (Englebert Training Systems) to provide daily fitness coaching to our school's student athletes. Coach Sam PirkI provided an overview of what their training program looks like and their philosophy on athlete development.

ELECTION RESULTS CERTIFIED:

Election results from the School Districts November 4, 2025 special election were reviewed by the board. The official requests were as follows:

Question #1 – Authorizing the issue of general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$54,700,000 for the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities.

Yes Votes – 1551
No Votes – 2276

Question #2 – If question #1 is approved, shall the board be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including, but not limited to, renovation, including an addition, of the pool at Ellis Middle School.

Yes Votes – 1492
No Votes – 2315

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING**

As both ballot questions did not receive the approval of a majority of votes cast, both questions failed.

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to certify the November 4, 2025, election results as provided by the Mower County Auditor's Office.

(A COPY OF THE COMPLETE RESOLUTIONS AND QUESTIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

DONATIONS APPROVED: A motion was made by Young, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.

(A COMPLETE LIST OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**REVISED POLICIES
APPROVED:**

Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the following policies with the MN School Boards Associations suggested revisions.

Policy 306 – Administrator Code of Ethics

Policy 606 – Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Policy 712 – Video Recording Other Than on Buses

Policy 722 – Public Data and Data Subject Requests

Policy 412 – Expense Reimbursement was also approved with one slight revision.

(A COPY OF ALL REVISED POLICIES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

DATE DISCUSSED: The proposed annual organizational meeting date of Monday, January 5, 2026 at 12 pm was discussed with Carol McAlister noting a conflict. Additional research will be done and a final meeting date will be communicated to board members.

**BOARD TO GATHER FOR
TWO MSBA TRAINING
SESSIONS:**

The School Board will meet from 6 – 9 pm on Wednesday, November 12, and also Wednesday, November 19, in the District Office Conference Room for the purpose of participating in MN School Boards Association's online Phase IV school board training course.

**REMINDER OF SCHOOL
BOARD STUDY SESSION:**

Chairperson Dube reminded board members of the study session scheduled for Monday, November 24, at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT:

Young made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to adjourn at 6:31 pm.