

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, Ann Long Voelkner, Dave Wall, Todd Haugen and Superintendent Jeremy Olson

Mckenzie Edevold – Student Representative  
Jacobi Burmeister Pater – Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jenny Frenzel

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:30 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bruce Goodwin – Proposed Closure of JW Smith  
Jess Ness – JW Closure  
Erin Murray - Teacher Raises and the Budget  
Maggie Larson – JW Smith  
Andrea Kent – Proposed Closure of JW Smith  
Michael Meehlhause – JW Smith  
CT Marhula – MSHSL, Negotiations, Class Size

REQUEST TO REMOVE TOPIC(S) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from the January 26, 2026, February 3, 2026 and February 20, 2026 School Board Meetings
- B. Bills Totaling: \$5,152,060.37
- C. Certified Confirmation of Resignation
- D. Non-Certified Staff Resignations
- E. Lane Advancements
- F. Field Trip Request - BHS Robotics
- G. Field Trip Request - BMS Math League

SPECIAL TOPICS

Spotlight Presentation "Bemidji High School JROTC"

Bemidji High School JROTC students talked about what JROTC is and the service learning project they are currently working on, Operation HOPE. This project helps feed those with food insecurities through food donations from the community.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Mckenzie Edevold and Jacobi Burmeister Pater reported on success in the music department, registration, wrestling, girl's hockey, and kindness week at the middle school and Gene Dillon.

## LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Ann Long Voelkner and Todd Haugen spoke to community members about the JW closure and the Boys and Girls Club usage.

## DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations, \$3,000.00 to BHS Robotics from TEAM Foundation.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### **Class Size Report**

The class size report that included six classes over Board target was presented.

## ACTION ITEMS

### **Approval of the Achievement and Integration Plan**

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to approve the plan for Achievement and Integration funding for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029.

### **Approval of the Achievement and Integration Budget**

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to approve the budget for Achievement and Integration funding for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

### **2024-2026 Secondary Mathematics Curriculum Review 6-12**

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the proposed Mathematics Curriculum.

### **American Indian Parent Advisory Committee Resolution**

Ann Long Voelkner introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

#### AMERICAN INDIAN PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the school board or district has an AIPAC composed of parents/guardians of American Indian children who are eligible for Indian education programs, American Indian language and culture teachers and paraprofessionals, American Indian teachers, American Indian counselors, American Indian adults enrolled in educational programming, and American Indian representatives from community;

WHEREAS, the School Board or district affords the AIPAC the necessary information and the opportunity to effectively express their views concerning all aspects of American Indian education and the educational needs of the American Indian children enrolled in the school(s) and program(s); and

WHEREAS, the AIPAC is directly involved with and advises the School Board and district staff on Indian Education program planning; and,

WHEREAS, the AIPAC develops and submits recommendations to the School Board and district staff pertaining to the needs of American Indian students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the AIPAC concurs that the School Board and district are compliant with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.78, and that the School Board and district are meeting the needs of American Indian students.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Anna Manecke, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Dave Wall, Ann Long Voelkner, Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, and Todd Haugen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jenny Frenzel

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

### **First Readings of Policies - Jeremy Olson**

SBR 200-70-3 MSBA 423 – Employee-Student Relationships

SBR 700-10-1 MSBA 509 – Enrollment of Nonresident Students

SBR 700-30-4 – Academic Eligibility for Extra-Curricular Activities

SBR 700-30-9 MSBA 610 – Field Trips

SBR 700-40-5 MSBA 502 – Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions and Student's Person

SBR 700-40-8 MSBA 532 – Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEP's from School Grounds

SBR 700-40-9 MSBA 521 – Student Disability Nondiscrimination

SBR 700-90-4 MSBA 514 – Bullying Prohibition Policy

SBR 900-10-2 – Emergency Closings

SBR 900-10-5 MSBA 419 – Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction Policy

SBR 900-20-1 MSBA 406 – Public and Private Personnel Data

SBR 900-80-1 MSBA 722 – Public Data and Data Subject Requests

The motion was offered by Jack Aakhus, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of the above named policies.

### **XII.F. Rescinding of Policies - Jeremy Olson**

SBR 400-90-3:School Calendar – We would like the school calendar taken out of policy

SBR 700-40-5R:Search of Students and Property of Students Administrative Procedures – Taking procedures out of policy

SBR 700-10-2:Release time for Religious Instruction – This is part of our Attendance Policy

SBR 700-10-3:Determination of Student Residency – We follow State Statutes and MDE procedures

SBR 700-30-5:Activities Policy – We follow Minnesota State High School League Policies

SBR 700-30-6:Bemidji Area Schools Eligibility Rules – We follow Minnesota State High School

League Policies

SBR 700-40-1:Serious Student Misconduct – We follow State Statute

SBR 700-40-3:School District Involvement with the Police – Duplicate Policy

SBR 700-50-1:High School Campus – Not needed

SBR 700-60-5:School Attendance while Pregnant – Not needed

SBR 700-90-2:Use of Conditional Behavior Interventions with Pupils – Covered in Code of Conduct and Student Discipline Policies  
SBR 900-20-1R:Public Access to Government Data and Rights of Subjects of Data Administrative Procedures – We follow State Statues  
SBR 900-60-1:Advertising on the Bemidji School District Website – Not needed  
SBR 900-40-1:Use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) – Not Needed in Policy

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to rescind the above named policies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Regular School Board Meeting, March 16, 2026, 6:30 PM, District Office Board Room

OTHER

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Olson shared events happening around our district.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:03 p.m.

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Jenny Frenzel, Clerk

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Date Approved

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Todd Haugen, Chair

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Date Approved