

School Board Meeting  
Monday, October 20, 2025 6:30 PM Central

Palisade Community Center  
106 Nature Avenue  
Palisade, MN 56469

Jen Burgos: Absent  
Roland Hill: Present  
Cindi Hills: Present  
Rev. Dawn Houser: Present  
Brian Leitinger: Absent  
Holly Mindrum: Present  
Kassie Peterson: Present

Present: 5, Absent: 2.

Brian Leitinger: Present

Present: 6, Absent: 1.

1. Call meeting to order by the chairperson

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

3.5. Skip to Approval of agenda to move 8.E.3. to here to discuss prior to comments.

8.E.3. Group Medicare Insurance Discussion

Motion to rescind Group Medicare renewal contract for Group Medicare Advantage Plus and approve the Senior Gold Group Medicare plan for the January 1, 2026 renewal. This motion, made by Roland Hill and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

It was noted by Chairperson Hills that in future years, the district will form a committee to review the Group Medicare Plan when reviewing the renewal options. The recommendation from the committee will be on an agenda to be approved by the school board.

4. \*Comments from visitors

Hold comments until after 8.E.3

Comments were heard from retirees regarding the January 1, 2026 Group Medicare Plan renewal.

4.A.

- Comments from visitors must be in relation to Aitkin Public Schools and/or to agenda items.
- We recommend that you sign up at the comment table if you wish to speak. You will be called up in order as listed on the sign-up sheet. When you come forward to comment, please be seated at the comment table facing the Board Members. State your name prior to your comment. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.
- The Board will not engage in any discussion or debate during this comment session. The Board will take the information and find answers as appropriate.

- As part of Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a public board meeting.

5. Approval of agenda - revise or remove as needed

Motion to approve the agenda with the change to move item number 8.E.3. to 3.5. (following roll call and prior to comments from visitors). This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed.

6. Scheduled presentations: (Max. 10 Minutes)

6.A. Student Council Reports - None

*SP Goal 10*

6.B. 2024-2025 Annual Audit, Mary Reedy, CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP)

Ms. Reedy presented the 2024-2025 audit report.

6.B.1. Discuss and approve 2024-2025 annual audit

Motion to approve the audit as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

7. New business:

7.A. Approve consent agenda items as follows:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed. Cindi Hills: Abstain (With Conflict)

7.A.1. Approve the following School Board Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2025

7.A.2. Approve financials for the month of September, 2025:

- Office receipts in the amount of \$1,485,983.02
- Report of expenditures, including \$457,966.01 for bills and \$938,520.84 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Donations in the amount of \$8355.12
- Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,200,000.00
- Employee reimbursements.

7.A.3. Approve Hirings:

7.A.3.a. Jason Hartsworm - Short Term Special Education Teacher - 2025-26 school year

7.A.3.b. Sara Warren- Spanish Education Teacher - Updated hours per day

7.A.3.c. Paul Grams - Substitute High School Math Teacher

7.A.4. Approve Resignations

7.A.5. Kris Nichols - Para professional Aitkin Children's Center

7.A.6. Approve the following tenures

7.A.6.a. Jennifer Johnson

7.A.7. Consider and approve extracurricular activities

7.A.7.a. Nedra Henline - Co-Advisor Jr. Sr Prom 2025-26 School Year

7.A.7.b. Colleen Christensen- Dance Head Coach - 2025-26 School Year

7.A.7.c. Justice Ramos - Dance Assistant Coach 2025-26 School Year

7.A.7.d. Jason Oestreich - Wrestling Assistant Coach 2025-26 School Year

7.A.7.e. Greg T Hills - Wrestling Head Coach 2025-26 School Year

7.A.7.f. Daniel Krier - Wrestling Jr. High Coach- 2025-26 School Year

7.A.7.g. Garrett Lee - Boys Basketball Jr. High Coach 2025-26 School Year

7.A.7.h. Kaija Davies - Girls Basketball Head Coach - 2025-26 School Year

7.A.7.i. Henry Palm - Girls Basketball Assistant Coach - 2025-26 School Year

7.A.8. Rebecca May- Music Technician Contractor

7.A.9. Taylor Meeks - Instrumental Music - Pep Band

7.A.10. Jennifer Johnson - Vocal Music/Musical

7.A.11. State of Minnesota, Minnesota States and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato - Memorandum of Agreement for Student Training Experience Internship for Non-Allied Health Programs

7.A.12. Hourly Pay Rates 2025-26 School Year

7.B. Discussion Items:

7.B.1. Referendum Update

Mr. Stifter gave an update on the referendum. People have been visiting the website [wareaitkin.org](http://wareaitkin.org) to get answers to their questions and learn about the potential upcoming building referendum. Mr. Schiltz (ICS) gave an update regarding the potential access to the property where the new elementary school would be built.

8. Administrative reports:

8.A. Board Members Reports:

8.B. Committee Reports:

8.B.1. Safety Committee Meeting, September 23, 2025

8.B.2. Personnel Meeting, September 24, 2025

8.B.3. Ag Meeting, October 2, 2025

8.C. Principal's Report:

Mr. Dokken, Rippleside Elementary School

Ms. DeMars, Aitkin High School  
*SP Goal 10*

8.D. Community Education - Nedra Henline  
*SP Goal 10*

8.E. Superintendent's report:

8.E.1. Enrollment Update

8.E.2. Referendum

8.E.3. Group Medicare Insurance Discussion – moved to item 3.5

8.E.4. Other:

8.F. Upcoming meetings:

November 7, 2025 - Special School Board Meeting 7:30 AM DO Conference Room

November 17, 2025 - School Board Meeting 6:30 PM Media Center

November 29, 2025 - Personnel Committee Meeting 3:45 pm AHS Media Center

December 15, 2025 - Truth in Taxation/ followed by School Board Meeting  
6:00 pm- HS MediaCenter

9. Other:

9.A. Close meeting under MN Statute 13D.03, labor negotiations strategy.  
Motion to close meeting. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

9.A.1. Open Meeting

Motion to open meeting. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Roland Hill, Passed.

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Recorded by Heather Hipp

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Jen Burgos

Dated 11/17/2025