



Official Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Carrie Lounsberry called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. Roll Call

Board Clerk Sarah Larsen took roll call.

Board Member Attendance	Present	Absent
Member Larsen	X	
Member Dukes	X	
Member Klingner	X	
Member Pierson	X	
Member Warrick	X	
Member Niemioja	X	
Member Lounsberry	X	

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Carrie Lounsberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda Items

Motion by Member Klingner and a Second by Member Warrick to approve the agenda items.

Motion carried 7-0.

5. District Highlight

Activities Director Will Short and student representatives shared highlights of fall activities.

Director of Community Education Chad Sexauer introduced Assistant Activities Director and Facilities Coordinator Jack Ryan.

6. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included approval of the October regular and closed session meeting minutes; November closed session meeting minutes; October cash disbursements and check register; personnel transactions; resolution accepting donations, gifts and grants; and field trips.

Motion by Member Niemioja and a Second by Member Pierson to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried 7-0.

7. Information Items

A. Simley High School Update

Principal Carrie Gillund and Assistant Principals Cullen Berg and Alyssa Gardner shared an update on Simley High School.

B. First Reading for Review of Policies

Superintendent Dave Bernhardson shared policies 305, 404, 406, 407, 408, and 409 for a first reading for review.

C. Committee Reports

I. Facilities Committee The facilities committee has not met this month.
II. Finance Committee The finance committee has not met this month.
III. Personnel Committee The personnel committee has not met this month.
IV. Policy Committee The policy committee met prior to tonight's meeting to go over several policies from the current cycle and MSBA's monthly newsletter.

D. Membership Reports

I. Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) AMSD met on November 7. The agenda focused on key challenges facing school boards and superintendents, particularly regarding funding and school safety.
II. Inver Grove Heights B.E.S.T. Foundation The BEST Foundation is meeting later this evening.
III. Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) The MSBA Leadership Conference is scheduled for January 15 and 16. If you're interested in attending you can register now.
IV. Intermediate School District 917 Intermediate School District 917 met on November 11. The agenda included routine agenda items.

8. Action Items

A. Second Reading for Review of Policies

Superintendent Dave Bernhardson introduced the recommendation to approve policies 301, 303, 304, 306, 501, 528 and 533 for a second reading for review.

Motion by Member Dukes and a Second by Member Niemioja to approve the policies presented for a Second Reading for Review.

Motion carried 7-0.

B. Superintendent Areas of Focus for 2025-2026

Superintendent Dave Bernhardson introduced the recommendation to approve the Areas of Focus for 2025-2026.

Motion by Member Larsen and a Second by Member Warrick to approve the Superintendent Areas of Focus for 2025-2026.

Motion carried 7-0.

C. 2026-2027 Intra-District Transfer Process and Open Enrollment Parameters

Director of Instructional Technology Caroline Little and Director of Learning Megan Blazek introduced the recommendation to approve the 2026-2027 Intra-District Transfer Process and Open Enrollment Parameters.

Motion by Member Pierson and a Second by Member Klingner to approve the 2026-2027 Intra-District Transfer Process and Open Enrollment Parameters

Motion carried 7-0.

9. Superintendent and School Board Comments

A. Superintendent Dave Bernhardson

Thank you to Activities Director Will Short and our Simley leadership team for sharing information about Simley High School this evening.

Last week, we held our first ISD 199 Student Advisory Council meetings. The council includes student representatives from grades 4, 7, and 11. During our time together, we reviewed the 199 Way and discussed what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like in our schools.

We also have our 199 Advisory Council meeting coming up this week, which provides an important opportunity to gather community perspectives.

Information regarding weather-related school closings is available on the district website.

B. School Board Comments

Board Member Larsen - Hearing directly from our students is always a highlight. Beyond scores,

our focus is on relationships and team building. Congratulations to Girls Swim team member Mia on breaking a long-standing school record.

Board Member Niemioja - The Fall Activities presentation was meaningful to me. Hearing what each team, along with our theatre and band students, shared shows how many ways our students are having their cups filled.

Board Member Dukes - I attended the boys soccer tournament and was so excited for them. Listening to the activities comments made me think about my own coaches and the relationships we built. You can clearly hear those same strong relationships forming between our students and their coaches today. I also had the chance to visit a school recently, and it's evident that the work happening across our buildings is centered on putting students first through the 199 Way.

Board Member Pierson - It can be challenging to lose a leader you have grown accustomed to, and I heard similar reflections from high school students about new teachers and coaches. For example, the swim team shared how they had to adjust to a different style of coaching and leadership, a skill that is valuable not only in sports but in life. High school administrators also emphasized the importance of helping students develop core life skills to navigate changes. When I asked the American Indian Education Coordinator what had surprised her most about our district, she said it was how kind, welcoming, and inclusive everyone is.

Board Member Warrick - It was wonderful to hear that our American Indian Education Coordinator feels our district is kind and welcoming. I am also very excited about the upcoming *Light Up the Island* event in a couple of weeks. Thank you to the students who took the time tonight to share their experiences with us.

Board Member Klingner - I am super proud of the students every year. Every time we have students come talk it makes me proud and you can hear how proud they are of each other. Activities have transitions of seniors leaving that creates other students to step up and lead. I was at the swim meet this past weekend and as I was there I saw Will Short at the event, and it reminded me how our community adults consistently show up for our kids, dedicated to supporting their success.

Board Member Lounsberry - How amazing is it that we have former students who care so deeply about this community that they choose to come back and work here! We heard from staff members Jack Ryan and Cullen Berg, who are helping middle schoolers feel comfortable as they transition to high school. Their approach is so thoughtful and relationship-driven. I truly believe that when people feel deeply cared for, they can settle in, think more clearly, and tap into their creativity.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates

There is no Work Session in December. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, December 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office, with the annual Truth-in-Taxation beginning at or after 6:00pm. More information on upcoming board meetings can be found on the district website.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Member Klingner and a Second by Member Dukes to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Independent School District No. 199 (Inver Grove Heights Community Schools), State of Minnesota, hereby certify that the attached and foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of the minutes of a regular meeting of the school board of the ISD 199 School District duly called and held on the date therein indicated, a true and correct copy of the original thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND officially as such clerk this 17th day of November, 2025.

School District Clerk