

**OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

**Monday, March 9, 2026 5:30 pm**

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carolyn Dube  
Robert Hartman  
Cece Kroc  
Don Leathers  
Carol McAlister  
Daniel Zielke  
Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Peggy Young

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall.

**AGENDA APPROVED:** Chairperson Dube noted there will be no student reports due to spring break. A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** A public hearing was held on the tax abatement request from Bigelow & Lennon Construction for new single family home construction at 1317 18<sup>th</sup> St NE, Austin (PIN 34.471.0020) valued at \$400,000. A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the tax abatement.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent Page recognized several students and staff for their recent achievements and provided an overview of the many events happening throughout the district.

**SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS:** Board members shared highlights of events they have participated in throughout the last month.

**MINUTES APPROVED:** McAlister made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/9/26 and special meeting minutes of 2/23/26 as printed.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

**PERSONNEL REPORT APPROVED:** McAlister made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

Contracts for Approval – Amy Bickler, varsity gymnastics coach, effective 11/1/25; Grant Marreel, Kids Korner, effective 2/9/26; Lezle Perez, SPED para, effective 3/2/26; Sheridan Stenbeck, varsity softball coach, effective 3/2/26; and Madison Tuttle, SPED para, effective 2/9/26

Transfer/Contract Modification – Amanda Buxton, gen ed para to gen ed para CEIS, effective 2/17/26; Amanda Lacore, SPED para moved from CLC to Southgate, effective 2/16/26; Marlys Lerum, change from 5 hr food service helper at Ellis to 6 hr food service helper at AHS, effective 1/7/26; Julie Olson, change from 3.75 hr food service helper to 5 hrs, effective 1/26/26; Allison Stoltz, from SPED para at Holton to SPED para at Holton

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and Ellis, effective 1/6/26; and Cassandra Weis, SPED para at Ellis/Holton to SPED para at Holton, effective 1/6/26

Requests for Leave – Nicholas Berthiaume, teacher, effective 2026-27; Diana Howe, MHP, effective 2/10/26 until TBD, and Madison Wagner, teacher, effective 2026-27

Resignations/Retirements – Jack Anderson, SPED para, effective 3/6/26; Karla Carroll, Pi teacher, effective 5/28/26; Connie Christiansen, SPED para, effective 5/28/26; Deborah Cook SPED para, effective 5/28/26; Gloria Estrada, SPED teacher, effective 5/28/26; Leslie Leffers, language arts teacher, effective 5/28/26; Maria Mickelson, grade 2 teacher, effective 5/28/26; Rodney Nelson, SPED teacher, effective 5/28/26; Michael Page, SPED para, effective 2/13/26; Sarah Shultz, grade 4 teacher, effective 5/28/26; John Sullivan, art teacher, effective 5/28/26; Kailey Synoground, ECFE teacher, effective 5/28/26; and Roel Zuniga, custodian, effective 3/4/26

Mid-year Lane Advancements – 25 teachers were approved for mid-year lane advancements with a total half-year increase of \$39,066.18.

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

**BILLS APPROVED:**

McAlister made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 3/9/26.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:**

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the January 2026 treasurer's report.

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

**REPORTS:**

Department/school updates from Superintendent Cabinet members and principals were available for review.

**27-28 CALENDAR APPROVED:**

McAlister made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the 2027-28 calendar.

(A COPY OF THE CALENDAR IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES.)

**STUDENT GROUP ADDITION:**

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the addition of SOL (Student Organization of Latinos) as an official student group at Austin High School.

**GOALBOOK OVERVIEW:**

Executive Director of Special Services Dr. Sarah Knudsen provided an overview of Goalbook, a district-wide paperless platform to support IEP development, instructional planning, and progress monitoring. Plans are for a three-year phased implementation with an early-adopter cohort beginning spring 2026.

**REVISED LTFM PLAN  
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the resolution adopting the revised FY27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan to include the indoor air quality projects that have been identified by ISG.

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

**BOND RESOLUTION  
APPROVED:**

Kroc made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the resolution relating to general obligation facilities maintenance, capital facilities, and tax abatement bonds. The bonds issued to finance the facilities maintenance projects are for a principal amount not to exceed \$19,200,000. The bonds issued to finance the capital facilities projects are for a principal amount not to exceed \$2,465,000, and the bonds issued to finance the abatement projects are for a principal amount not to exceed \$140,000.

A public hearing on the proposed abatement is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the annex recital hall.

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

**DONATIONS:**

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.

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

**BOARD GOAL UPDATE:**

The board reviewed their quarterly update of the 2025-26 school board goal.

**SUPERINTENDENT GOALS  
UPDATE:**

Chairperson Dube provided a report on the results of Dr. Page's mid-year performance review on the progress of his 2025-26 goals giving him high marks in each of his goal areas.

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

**MEETING REMINDER:**

Chairperson Dube reminded School Board members of the study session scheduled for Monday, March 23, at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

A motion was made by Zielke, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm.