

School District 197
West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 4, 2025
Mendota Heights City Hall, Council Chambers

A meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 197 was held on Monday, August 4, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to due notice.

The meeting was called to order by current Chair Larsen at 6:00 p.m. The following School Board members were present: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel and Randi Walz. Board members not present: Marcus Hill. Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog was present.

Also present for the meeting were: Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent; Cari Jo Drewitz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Sara Lein, Director of Special Education; Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources; Mark Fortman, Director of Operations; and Lisa Grathen, Director of Community Education.

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Schwab and seconded by Ms. Walz to approve the agenda as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz. Nay: none.

The motion carried (6-0).

Consent Agenda

Item 4C, Approval of Policy Changes to Reflect New Statutory Requirements, was removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the main agenda.

It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve the consent agenda items as amended:

- Approval of the June 16, 2025 School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Personnel Recommendations
- ~~Approval of Policy Changes to Reflect New Statutory Requirements~~
- Second Reading of Policy 106, Equity
- Approval of May 2025 Accounts Payable Report
- Approval of May 2025 Treasurer's Report

Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz. Nay: none.

The motion carried (6-0).

Listening Session Report

No one attended the listening session.

Superintendent's Report

This summer, students across School District 197 participated in enriching programs like Summer Stars Academy, Minds in the Middle, and a new adaptive water-skiing event, all made possible by dedicated staff.

The district also welcomed several new leaders, including Dr. Jess Cabak as principal at Two Rivers High School and interim principals at Garlough and Somerset Elementary Schools. Finally, Superintendent Olson-Skog expressed deep gratitude to retiring Executive Assistant Mary Amidon and warmly welcomed Britini Osmonson as her successor.

Approval of Governmental Lease-Purchase Agreement for 16 “Mini” Blue Bird Buses

To support safe and reliable student transportation, the School District will acquire 16 new mini Blue Bird buses through a lease-purchase financing agreement totaling \$1,873,781 at a 3.31% interest rate. Thirteen buses are expected to arrive in August 2025, with the remaining three delivered by December 2025. This approach, approved within the current budget, allows the district to modernize its fleet while spreading costs across multiple budget cycles.

It was moved by Mr. Vaupel and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve the Governmental Lease-Purchase Agreement for 16 “Mini” Blue Bird Buses as presented.

Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz. Nay: none.

The motion carried (6-0).

Presentation of 2025-2026 School Board Building and Committee Assignments

The FY 25-26 School Board committee and building assignments were presented. Changes will be noted on the District 197 website.

Summary of FY 24-25 Superintendent Evaluation

Board Director Byron Schwab presented a summary of the FY 24-25 Superintendent evaluation. The ISD 197 seven school board directors completed an annual evaluation of Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog in June of 2025. Preliminary results were reported and discussed with the Board and Superintendent during a closed session on June 16, 2025. The evaluation rubric consists of 5 Components. Each component has 3 to 5 competencies (a total of 21) that are rated Developing, Proficient, Accomplished, Distinguished or Not Demonstrated. Each competency can have 4 to 19 benchmarks (a total of 188). The board rated Dr. Olson-Skog Distinguished in all 5 Components: Purposeful Community, Managing Change, Focus of Leadership, Management, and Superintendent and Board Relations.

Some highlighted strengths in the board's feedback for the superintendent included strong communication, creating a welcoming and inclusive culture, proactive and prudent fiscal leadership with strategic use of resources, and being vision-driven and student-centered. While the superintendent's goals for the upcoming year will be finalized this fall, areas Dr. Olson-Skog would like to focus on include a broader outreach to under-represented families, continued improvement in the focus areas established by the board in the strategic framework, and strategic attention to State and Federal revenue and mandates.

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Schwab and seconded by Ms. Steele to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Aye: Tim Aune, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz. Nay: none.

The motion carried (6-0).

The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting of Independent School District 197 will be Monday, August 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. It will be held in the School District 197 District Office Training Room, 1897

Delaware Avenue, Mendota Heights. *Please refer to the district website for possible changes to any meeting times/locations.*

Upon approval by the School Board, official minutes will be available at the District Office, 1897 Delaware Avenue, Mendota Heights, and on the district website. The full meeting materials are available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the school district and on the district website.

Sarah Larsen
School Board Chair

Jon Vaupel
School Board Clerk