

School District 197
West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools
Regular Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026
ISD 197 District Office, Mendota Heights, MN

A meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 197 was held on Monday, April 20, 2026 beginning at 5:00 p.m. pursuant to due notice.

The meeting was called to order by current Chair Larsen at 5:00 p.m. The following School Board members were present: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz. Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog was present. Student representatives Evangeline Fuentes and Rhys Walsh were 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 Programs; Sara Blair, Director of Communications; Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources; Brian Schultz, Director of Finance; Mark Fortman, Director of Operations; Lisa Grathen, Director of Community Education.

Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the agenda as presented.

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

The motion carried (7-0)

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of the April 6, 2026 School Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Personnel Recommendations
- Approval of Garlough Elementary Odyssey of the Mind Field Trip
- Administrative Review of Policy 506, Student Discipline
- Final Reading of Policy 722, Public Data Requests

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

The motion carried (7-0)

Comments to the School Board

There was one comment to the school board regarding snow removal.

K-12 Math Update

Members of the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment team presented an update on the K-12 Math Curriculum Review, outlining a multi-year implementation plan aligned to the 2021 Minnesota Math Standards, with full implementation expected by 2027-28. For 2025-26, elementary schools are piloting partial implementation across K-4 classrooms, while secondary schools continue resource review, refining instructional practices, and revising math pathways to address increased rigor. Staff reported early progress in instructional consistency, student engagement, and use of formative assessment, while identifying ongoing needs related to

spacing, differentiation, and instructional supports. The presentation also highlighted revised secondary math pathways beginning in 2026-27 and outlined next steps, including professional development, common assessment development, and continued monitoring to support equitable access and improved student outcomes.

Approval of FY27 Insurance Rates

Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources, and Brian Schultz, Director of Finance, presented a recommendation from the Labor-Management Committee (LMC) to adjust FY27 insurance rates based on increased claims and declining fund balances. Medical claims are currently exceeding projections, with rising per-member costs and a depleted fund balance, leading to a recommended 8% premium increase to maintain plan sustainability. Dental claims are also exceeding funding levels, resulting in a recommended 5% premium increase to stabilize the fund. Administration supported the LMC's recommendations and presented a resolution for Board approval of the proposed increases to both medical and dental premiums.

It was moved by Mr. Aune and seconded by Mr. Schwab to approve the FY27 Insurance Rates as presented.

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

The motion carried (7-0)

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Schwab and seconded by Mr. Hill to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

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

The motion carried (7-0)

The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting of Independent School District 197 will be Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the City of Mendota Heights Council Chambers, 1101 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights, MN. *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