

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 361**

Monday, March 17th, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.
Falls High School Library

Attendance

Present with voting rights: Jessica Crosby, Dale Johnson, Bruce Raboin, Tina Sather, JoAnn Smith, Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch, Toni Korpi (arrival 5:17pm)

Absent: None

Non-Voting Members Present: Beth Shermoen - Superintendent, BethAnne Slatinski - Community Education Director, Max Youso - Student Representative, Lisa West - FHS Principal
Chair JoAnne Smith presided, and Clerk Toni Korpi took the minutes.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chair JoAnn Smith
Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Bruce Raboin to approve the meeting agenda. Second, by Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch
Change in Agenda recognized by Superintendent Shermoen - Action Item 1d. Pool Closure will be changed from August, 2025 to the last two weeks of July, 2025 and already been updated on agenda.
- Discussion: None.
- Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously by the members present.

Open Forum

1. Elk's Student of the Month:

February Student of the Month, Cooper Jensen - Presented by Principal West
Mara Pelland, was unable to attend and will be honored during the April School Board Meeting.

March Students of the Month:

- a. Odin Hansen -Presented by Principal West
- b. TJ Kaminski - Presented by Principal West

2. Public Open Forum: Tom Dougherty of Voyageur Country ATV

Tom spoke on behalf of the club regarding the possibility of creating an easement on two parcels of land near Ray, where the school forest is located, for the addition of a safe and sustainable ATV trail connection that will be maintained by the ATV club. They are hoping to form a group with two to three ISD 361 board members to plan and discuss. The ATV club is one of the largest & most active ATV clubs in Minnesota. If so chosen to move forward, a letter of commitment by the board/district is needed.

Committee and Administrative Reports

1. Max Youso - Co-Student Representative

- FHS Band received Excellent Rating in Biwabik
- FHS Band Concert - March 6th
- FHS Choir received Excellent Rating in Biwabik
- FHS Spring Choir Concert - April 16th
- Congratulations to the Boys Swimming State participants

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- Prom - April 5th
 - Led Valentine's & St. Patrick's Day games and activities
 - Applications for new members are currently open
2. Melissa Tate - Falls Elementary Principal - Full Report to be made in April
3. Lisa West - Falls High & ALC Principal
- Registration for 2025-2026 school year open
 - Classroom visits and family/guardian information sessions held by Principal West and Mr. Grewatz. They are sharing all new electives and options for upcoming year
Thank you to staff that helped share great info!
 - Section Proposals to come, AA Degree option is very close to being reached,
options posted on school website
 - MCA's - month of April
 - Spring Pepfest - April 30th
 - Collaboration with KAPE for district wide volunteer day coming soon
 - Enrollment: +2
4. BethAnne Slatinski - Community Education
- Job Career Fair - May 7th (Northome, L-BF & Homeschool invites)
 - Community Event/Bike Rodeo - May 17th
 - On Your Own: led by 4-H Instructor
 - Swim Lessons: led by new instructor
 - Life Guard Class in early June
 - Rec summer Ball
5. Timm Ringhoffer- Athletic Director - recap of winter sports
- Girls Hockey - 23 participants, 7-12th Grade, 3-20-1 Record
 - Boys Hockey - No participant numbers given, 7 cheerleaders, 17-9 Record Restarted Home Holiday Tournament after 26 years and our team won
 - Boys Swimming & Diving - 14 participants, 3-1 Dual Record, State Participants Recognized
 - Girls Basketball - 20 participants Varsity & JV, 9-16 Record
 - Boys Basketball - 14 participants, 9 cheerleaders, 2-24 Record
 - Knowledge Bowl - 9 participants, 5th out of 18 teams at Region Tournament
 - One Act - no participant numbers given, 4th place in sub-sections
 - Math Team - 13 participants, 4th out of 7 teams in their division
 - Band - No participant numbers give, Excellent Rating earned
 - Choir - No participant numbers given, Excellent Rating earned by Choir and 4 solo participants
 - Iron Range Conference - Mora has been added - 6 teams now in Boys Hockey Conference
 - Thank you to: JoDee Lindvall Vicki Heiss, Beth Shermoen, Lisa West, Don Rolando, BethAnne Statinski, Custodial and Transportation Staff, Game/Activity Staff, students, athletes/participants, competitors and fans, parents/guardians, & coaches

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- Spring Sports beginning now: Girls and Boys Track & Field - Hosting Iron Range Conference May 13th, Girls and Boys Golf, Baseball, Softball, Speech & Summer Ball
6. Beth Shermoen - Superintendent
- Spring Break Clean-up & Organization: Thank you - Custodians, Paraprofessionals, Principal West. Thank you to BethAnne Slatinski & Mr. Ringhoffer for collaboration & problem solving in planning. Thank You to community for feedback & participating in surveys
 - April Meeting Presentations from CESO, Nexus, Ehlers, Data from Surveys & exploratory learning sessions re: 4-day school week. School and Staff Changes
 - 193 students that live within the district and do not attend ISD #361 - virtual session coming in April, Letters to district families to attend - District Online School will be opened 2025-2026 School Year
 - Referendum - Bidding went out, but higher than anticipated, new bidding to come out soon
 - 4 day Listening Sessions planned - investigation & inquiry sessions - all info from sessions will be collaborated and shared, paper surveys and another format besides Google will be available
 - Alternative Learning Center plan to move to Pool wing of Falls High School
 - Presentation to be given by District Grant Writer & Superintendent assistant, Ashley Hall, regarding plans beyond the referendum

Consent Agenda

- Motion by Dale Johnson to approve the consent agenda. Second by Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch, with the exception of #'s 9, 10 & 11.
 - Discussion: Board Member Jessica Crosby made a motion to table #'s 9, 10 & 11 until the April meeting. She felt more conversations needed to happen. Toni Korpi seconded that motion, to give time for needed information.
 - Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.
1. Approve payroll in the amount of \$493,383.72 for pay periods 2/21/2025 and 3/7/2025.
 2. Approve current accounts payable due in the amount of \$1,565,736.04
 3. Approve past meeting minutes for the regular school board meeting on February 18, 2025
 4. Approve the resignation of Brenda Hjelle effective May 29, 2025.
 5. Approve the hire of Jen Erickson as Assistant Girl's track and field coach for the 2025 season.
 6. Approve the hire of Seth Ettestad as Head Football Coach for the 2025-26 season.
 7. Approve the hire of Jared Kostiuk as Assistant Football Coach for the 2025-26 season.
 8. Approve the hire of Jacob Ettestad as Assistant Football Coach for the 2025-26 season.
 - Tabled:* 9. Approve the hire of Erin Hall as Head Volleyball, Coach for the 2025-26-season.
 - Tabled:* 10. Approve the hire of Tenneysen Amdahl as Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2025-26 season.
 - Tabled:* 11. Approve the hire of Jenica Whitbeck-as-Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2025-26 season.

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12. Approve the hire of Sheryl Hendrickson as Head Cross Country Coach for the 2025-26 season.
13. Approve the hire of Jennifer Erickson as the Assistant Cross Country Coach for the 2025-26 season.
14. Approve the hire of Jennifer McBride as the Head Girls Swimming and Diving Coach for the 2025-26 season.
15. Approve the hire of Ashley Mitchell as the Assistant Girls Swimming and Diving Coach for the 2025-26 season.
16. Approve the hire of Kati Domitrovich as Junior High Girls Track and Field Coach for the 2025 season.
17. Approve Deborah DeGroot as volunteer track and field coach for the 2025 season.
18. Approve the hire of Dale Johnson as Junior High Boys Track and Field Coach for the 2025 season.
19. Accept the resignation of Elsa Swanson as One Act Play Director.
20. Approve resignation of Casey Stenberg as Student Council Advisor effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Action Items

1. Improving systems and structures to create a culture where all are welcome and supported.

- 1.a. Resolution Acceptance of Gifts and Donations.
 - Motion: Motion by Jessica Crosby, Seconded by Tina Sather. Discussion: None.
 - Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.
- 1.b. Approve the relocation of the ALC to a closed wing at Falls High School.
 - Motion by Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch, seconded by Tina Sather.
 - Discussion: Member Korpi asked if same rules will apply to all students. Superintendent Shermoen stated that the same rules will apply and govern.
 - Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.
- 1.c. Approve closure of Bronco Arena for cleaning, maintenance and repairs for the month of August 2025.
 - Motion by Jessica Crosby, seconded by Toni Korpi.
 - Discussion: Cost wise and seasonality allows time for updates and prep for 2025-2026 school year. Construction from Referendum work will still be able to happen as planned.
 - Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.
- 1.d. Approve the closure of the Falls High School pool for the last two weeks in July 2025 for repairs, cleaning and maintenance for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Motion by Jessica Crosby, seconded by Tina Sather.
 - Discussion: Moved from previously planned month of August.
 - Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.
- 1.e. Approve the Historical Bronco Arena Preservation Projects and Updates and Bronco Arena Fundraiser.

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- Presentation given by Ashley Hall, as stated in Superintendent Shermoen's report, introducing "The Bronco Arena Legacy Campaign."
- Motion by Bruce Raboin, seconded by Jessica Crosby.
- Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.

Adjournment

- Motion: Motion by Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch, seconded by Tina Sather at 6:36 p.m.
- Discussion: None.
- Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.

Approved Minutes:

District Clerk

Date

Board Chair

Date