

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909  
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

**ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 PROGRESS PARKWAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**Members Present:**

Jennifer Bonner                      John Uhan  
Nicole Culbert-Dahl              Lisa Westby  
Brandi Lautigar  
Tim Riordan

**Other Staff Present:**

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent  
Scott Manni, RRHS Principal  
Stephanie Aagenes, Special Education Director  
Todd Griepentrog, Principal on Special Assignment  
Bill Bryson, Technology Director  
Sheena Stefanich, North Star & Parkview Elementary Principal  
Angie Williams, Laurentian Elementary Principal

**Members Absent:**

Jodi Westby

- I. Chair JOHN UHAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the agenda** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Support of Rock Ridge music programs and concerns about staffing cuts made in the music department - Sara Alexander, Evelyn (6<sup>th</sup> grade Rock Ridge student), Julie Svatos, Kelsey Norvitch, Paul Gregersen.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. UHAN added *4.26 Acceptance of resignation of Brianne Pellinen from the Interventionist position effective August 10, 2025 and 4.27 Acceptance of a one-year leave of absence for Anita Leander-Flores from the ESL Teacher position for the 2025-2026 school year.*
  - B. Items 4.3-4.9, 4.13, and 4.16 were pulled for discussion.
  - C. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
    1. Approval of July 14, 2025 regular meeting minutes.
    2. Approval of work agreement for Cassandra Hainey for work year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$60,737. (The funding for this position is provided by a grant from the State of MN.)
    3. Approval of hire of David Mattila for the Part-Time Bus Driver position at a rate of \$25.14/hour effective September 2, 2025.
    4. Approval of hire of Kate Putnam for the Youth Volleyball Coordinator position for the 2025-2026 school year with a stipend of \$1,500.
    5. Approval of hire of Sayer Payne for the Youth Boys Basketball Coordinator position for the 2025-2026 school year with a stipend of \$1,500.
    6. Approval of transfer of Samantha Chad from 30-hour LPN to Health Service Assistant LPN (20 hours / LES & NSE) at a rate of \$25.10/hour effective September 2, 2025.
    7. Approval of Fall coaches and volunteers for the 2025-2026 school year. (List attached)
    8. Approval of additional duty of National Honor Society Advisor for Rebekah Deedrick with a stipend of \$2,018 effective for the 2025-2026 school year.
    9. Approval of an unpaid leave of absence request following the use of accrued paid vacation time from Paraprofessional Michelle Pietila from September 2, 2025 through November 26, 2025.
    10. Approval of an unpaid medical leave of absence request from Elementary Teacher Beth Bittmann for the 2025-2026 school year.
    11. Acceptance of resignation of Ryan Malich from the Assistant Football Coach position effective August 5, 2025.
    12. Acceptance of resignation of Jordan Orbeck-Stevens from the Paraprofessional position effective August 6, 2025.

13. Acceptance of resignation of Kayanna Boshey from the Paraprofessional position effective August 7, 2025.
  14. Approval of lane change for Melissa Lautigar from MA+10 to MA+18 Step J effective August 25, 2025.
  15. Acceptance of a donation of a 2007 Toyota Camry Hybrid by Noel Schmidt to the Rock Ridge High School Automotive class.
  16. Acceptance of grants in the amount of \$6,000 from the Northland Foundation for early childhood initiative community coordinator (\$1,500), early learning scholarship outreach (\$2,500), and prenatal to grade 3 program grant (\$2,000).
  17. Acceptance of resignation of Brianne Pellinen from the Interventionist position effective August 10, 2025.
  18. Approval of a one-year leave of absence for Anita Leander-Flores from the ESL Teacher position for the 2025-2026 school year.
- D. Following discussion of proposed hires, motion to **approve the following hires** was made by UHAN, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously:
1. Approval of hire of Janette Godec for the Secretary (RRHS) position at a rate of \$24.87/hour effective August 12, 2025.
  2. Approval of hire Drew Aho for the Elementary Teacher position (NSE) with a salary of \$50,163 (Step B BA) effective August 25, 2025.
  3. Approval of hire of Taryn Greiner for the Alternative Learning Program Instructor position with a salary of \$52,732 (Step C BA) effective August 25, 2025.
  4. Approval of hire of Amanda Delich for the Elementary Teacher position (LES) with a salary of \$90,420 (Step J MA+18) effective August 25, 2025.
  5. Approval of hire of Maria Poderzay for the Indigenous Education Director position at a rate of \$26.50/hour effective August 25, 2025.
  6. Approval of additional 0.22 FTE Pre-K/4 Teacher position for current School Readiness teacher Kathy Kemen with a salary of \$73,411 (1.0 FTE / Step J BA) effective September 2, 2025.
  7. Approval of hire of Gena Flank for the 1.0 FTE Pre-K/4 Teacher position with a salary of \$55,291 (Step D BA) effective September 2, 2025.
  8. Approval of hire of Rene Moehlenbrock for the Casual Bus Driver position at a rate of \$23.64/hour effective August 26, 2025 (as needed).
- E. Following discussion on the position of the Girls Head Hockey Coach, motion to **approve the hire of Kassie Strand for the Head Girls Hockey Coach position with a stipend of \$7,816 for the 2025-2026 school year** made by UHAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed 4-1 with BONNER voting NO. (RIORDAN abstained.)

## V. **REPORTS:**

- A. Bill Bryson, Technology Director, updated the board on technology budget adjustments for the 2025-2026 school year.
- B. Scott Manni discussed the beginning stages of planning for an Area Learning Center (ALC) starting in 2026-2027. This would be a cooperative arrangement with Hibbing Public Schools.
- C. Scott Manni and Stephanie Aagenes presented some initial ideas regarding online learning as an option to be offered by RRPS. The board agreed that they should move forward in looking into potential online platforms.
- D. Todd Griepentrog and Stephanie Aagenes presented information on Medical Assistance (MA) billing and how much the district has been reimbursed through third party billing over the last three years. They also announced that the district was approved to receive the ADSIS grant. Motion to **approve the hiring of (1) reading and (1) math interventionist for Grade 7 using ADSIS grant funds** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Supt. Schmidt reported on the road construction and stated that it is still on schedule to be completed before the school year begins. He mentioned MSBA offerings for school board training opportunities. Finally, he announced that a School Resource Officer (SRO) will be available to RRHS this coming school year two days per week. The district is also waiting to hear from Gilbert, Eveleth, and Virginia

officers' unions to see if officers were willing to sign up for OT during the school day to be at RRHS to provide more coverage (The district does receive some levy money for SROs.).

- F. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to **approve the 2025-2026 Elementary Student Handbook** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by UHAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to **approve the 2025-2026 RRHS Student Handbook** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to **approve the Income Contract for Postsecondary Enrollment Options between Minnesota North College and Rock Ridge Public Schools effective for the 2025-2026 Academic Year** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Motion to **approve the contract from KY Interpreting Services for sign language interpreting services from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026** made by RIORDAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Motion to **approve the contract from Triumph Educational Consulting for Deaf/Hard of Hearing services and evaluation from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026** made by BONNER, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Motion to **approve Channel 12 reducing quorum from 4 to 3** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

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CHAIR

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CLERK