

School District 197  
West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 18, 2025  
ISD 197 District Office, Mendota Heights, MN

A meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 197 was held on Monday, August 18, 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, Marcus Hill, and Randi Walz. 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; Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources; Sara Blair, Director of Communications; Dave Sandum, Director of Technology; and Mark Fortman, Director of Operations.

**Agenda**

*It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Vaupel to approve the agenda as presented.*

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

*The motion carried (7-0)*

**Consent Agenda**

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

- Approval of the August 4, 2025 School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Personnel Recommendations
- Administrative Review of Policy 412, Expense Reimbursement
- Administrative Review of Policy 427, Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers
- Final Reading of Policy 106, Equity
- Approval of June 2025 Treasurer's Report

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

*The motion carried (7-0)*

**Comments to the School Board**

There were no comments to the School Board.

**Curriculum Report – Math Update**

The 2024-2025 school year marks Year 3 of District 197's K-12 math curriculum review, moving from resource evaluation toward phased implementation of the 2021 Minnesota Mathematics Standards. The review process involved expanded teams of K-12 teachers, building leaders, and district administrators, divided into elementary (K-4), middle school, and high school groups. Elementary efforts focused on evaluating programs like iReady,

Reveal, Big Ideas, and Illustrative Mathematics, ultimately selecting Reveal Math for adoption starting with a partial implementation in Fall 2025. Middle school teams explored Big Ideas, Into Math, and Reveal, while developing instructional commitments, aligning with new standards, and planning for a Fall 2025 rollout.

The high school team, which included some middle school staff, will pilot Savvas Envisionmath throughout 2025-2026, testing its print and digital components to find the best fit for student learning. All teams used a Four-Way Equity Test to ensure curriculum choices promote access, remove barriers, and maintain rigorous expectations for all students. For elementary schools, the next steps include August 2025 Reveal Math training, co-creating scope and sequence documents, developing common assessments, refining grading rubrics, and trialing digital tools. By May 2026, all K-4 teachers will be trained on the new resource and full roll-out will take place in the 2026-2027 school year. All middle school math teachers will begin using the new resources this fall. They will work on scope and sequence refinements and common assessment. The high school team will continue resource review, alignment, and professional development to prepare for future adoption. This multi-year process aims to ensure that curriculum decisions are research-based, equitable, and supportive of long-term student success.

#### **First Reading of Policy 527, Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles, Patrols, Inspections, and Searches**

School District 197 has adopted a new student motor vehicle policy based on MSBA's Model Policy, with district-specific language. The policy sets clear guidelines for vehicle use, parking, and related inspections to maintain order, discipline, and safety for students and staff. It applies to all students districtwide and aims to enhance the overall educational experience. Unlike the model policy, the board has authorized the superintendent or designee to create supporting procedures, allowing for quicker adjustments without a full policy amendment process.

This policy will be brought back to a future meeting for a second reading.

#### **First Reading of Policy 534, Unpaid Meal Charges**

Policy 534, previously called Unpaid Meal Charges, has been reviewed and renamed School Meals Policy to align with recent Minnesota statutes and MSBA recommendations. The updates formally document long-standing district practices, including ensuring that no student is denied a meal or shamed for any reason. Key changes specify that all students receive free breakfast and lunch under the Minnesota Free School Meals Program and that once served, a meal cannot be taken away. The policy also prohibits any actions that demean students or restrict their participation in school activities due to unpaid meal balances.

This policy will be brought back to a future meeting for a second reading.

#### **Action Item: Approval of Policy 721, Uniform Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources**

An administrative review of Policy 721, Uniform Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, was conducted, resulting in several auditor-recommended updates. Federal standards define micro-purchases (under \$10,000) differently than Minnesota law, which sets the threshold at \$25,000. Federal law also permits school boards to raise the limit to \$50,000, and it is recommended that the district adopt Minnesota's \$25,000 threshold for consistency. The recommendation includes making this change retroactive to July 1, 2025, a step already taken by several other Minnesota school districts.

*Upon presentation, the board recommended action to approve the policy.*

*It was moved by Mr. Vaupel and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve Policy 721, Uniform Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources as presented.*

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

*The motion carried (7-0)*

### **Adjournment**

*It was moved by Mr. Schwab and seconded by Mr. Aune to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.*

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

*The motion carried (7-0)*

The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting of Independent School District 197 will be Monday, September 8, 2025 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.

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Sarah Larsen  
School Board Chair

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Jon Vaupel  
School Board Clerk