

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

Monday, May 12, 2025 5:30 pm

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Dube Carol McAlister
Robert Hartman Peggy Young
Cece Kroc Daniel Zielke
Don Leathers Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

**MEETING CALLED
TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVED:

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Leathers requested an addition to the agenda, but the request was denied as the agenda was unanimously approved.

**CULTURE WEEK
RECAP:**

African Student Association President Lydia Masara provided a recap of the first Culture Week held at AHS. The event was well received with a variety of activities scheduled throughout the week.

**OUTGOING STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
RECOGNIZED:**

Chairperson Dube presented Student School Board Representative Anita Rao with a plaque as a thank you for her service to the school board the past two years.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Superintendent Page noted several staff and student recognitions and highlighted recent and upcoming events.

**SCHOOL BOARD
REPORTS:**

Leathers noted he enjoyed Poetry Night, provided a Southeast Service Cooperative update, and noted the school climate discussion will continue at the upcoming study session. Zielke recognized teacher appreciation week. McAlister thanked everyone for recent communications and noted her participation in numerous student events this past month.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Leathers made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 4/14/25 and study session minutes of 4/28/25 as printed.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

**PERSONNEL REPORT
APPROVED:**

Leathers made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

Administrative Staff:

Retirement - Sheila Berger, Principal on Special Assignment, K-4 Curriculum and EL Coordinator, effective 6/30/25

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING****Certified Staff:**

Contracts – Emma Charles, social studies teacher, effective 8/11/25; Jayne Ekins, ABE EL teacher, effective 8/11/25; Samantha Geving, ECFE teacher, effective 8/11/25; Ryan Haynes, music teacher, effective 8/11/25; Elyse Hebrink, phy ed teacher, effective 8/11/25; Wade Judge, art teacher, effective 8/11/25; Emily Meyer, math teacher, effective 8/11/25; Brooke Sloan, grade 2 teacher, effective 8/11/25; and Sheridan Stenbeck, counselor, effective 8/11/25

Request for Leave – Lydia Ulness, SPED teacher, effective 8/11/25-9/1/25

Resignations – Taylor Bordelon, psychologist, effective 5/30/25; Abigail Ignaszewski, science teacher, resignation rescinded, Anna Meyer, phy ed teacher, effective 5/30/25; Sheila Pitzen, grade 2 teacher, effective 5/30/25; Hilary Rubio, SPED teacher, effective 5/30/25; David Ruiz, ABE EL teacher, resignation rescinded, McKenzie Weis, science teacher effective 5/30/25; and Nicole Zoske, EL science teacher, effective 5/30/25

Non-certified Staff:

Contracts for Approval – Carlos Camacho, custodian, effective 4/21/25; Ava Denzer, SPED para (summer), 5.75/hrs/day, effective 7/7/25-8/7/25; Brandy Dirksen, SPED para, 7 hrs/day, effective 4/28/25; Cheryl Flanders, noon supervisor, 2 hrs/day, effective 4/14/25; Sarah Jannings, MHP, effective 8/11/25; Madison Keesey, noon supervisor, 1 hr/day, effective 5/5/25; Aracely Marceleno, Success Coach, 30 hrs/week, effective 8/11/25; Meredith Martin, SPED para, 27 hrs/week, effective 8/19/25; Troy Nelson, SPED para, 7 hrs/day, effective 5/5/25; Paige Pineda, food service helper, 6.5 hrs/day, effective 5/16/25; Lucas Rasmussen, noon supervisor, 2 hrs/day, effective 4/21/25; and Diana Salas Ramirez, MHP, effective 8/11/25

Requests for Leave – Nelly Cruz, ECFE assistant, effective 9/15/25-10/8/25 and Abby Wilker, SPED para, effective 8/19/25-11/7/25

Resignations – Kaitlyn Flanders, SPED para, effective 5/30/25; Sarah Gustafson, SPED para, effective 5/30/25; Karlee Johnson, MHP, effective 5/30/25; and Angela Thorson, SPED para, effective 4/23/25

Activities and Athletics:

Resignations – Sarah Weis, varsity gymnastics coach, effective 4/3/25; and Eric Zoske, varsity girls basketball coach, effective 4/22/25

BILLS APPROVED:

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 5/12/25.

(A COPY OF THE BILLS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the March 2025 treasurer's report.

(A COPY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIPS DISSOLVED:

Leathers made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to dissolve the cooperative sponsorship agreements with Pacelli Catholic Schools for Boys and Girls Soccer and Girls Tennis effective the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.

**COOPERATIVE
SPONSORSHIPS
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve cooperative sponsorships for Boys Golf and Girls Gymnastics with Pacelli Catholic Schools effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year.

**MSHSL MEMBERSHIP
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve membership renewal in the Minnesota State High School League for 2025-26.

(A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

REPORTS AVAILABLE:

Individual cabinet reports and the monthly school site report were available for review.

BARR UPDATE:

BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) coordinators Karen Dunbar and Angie Taylor provided an update on the 2024-25 BARR program data.

**GIFTED AND TALENTED
& MATH AUDIT UPDATE:**

GT and 5-12 Curriculum Coordinator Andrea Malo and K-4 Curriculum Coordinator Sheila Berger provided a progress update on the Gifted and Talented Program and Math audits.

MTSS UPDATE:

Executive Director of Academics and Administrative Services Katie Baskin and Exec Director of Special Services provided an update on the Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS), a framework that helps educators provide academic and behavioral strategies for students with various needs.

**REFERENDUM
DISCUSSION:**

ISG Representative Sue Peterson provided a history of the conversations involving the facilities audit conducted last year and the numerous facility needs found throughout the district. If approved by the School Board, ISG would author and submit a Review and Comment to the MN Department of Education for these repairs and upgrades before the June 17 deadline. The deadline to officially call for a special election is August 12, 2025. PMA representative Michael Hart shared information regarding a possible bond referendum including the tax impact to property owners. A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to approve the submission of the Review and Comment to MDE.

DONATIONS APPROVED:

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Leathers and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

DELEGATION:

Shirley Morgan addressed the board regarding various school concerns.

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING****REMINDER OF SCHOOL**

BOARD STUDY SESSION: Chairperson Dube reminded board members of the study session scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT:

Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to adjourn at 8:04 pm.

Cece Kroc, Clerk