

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, 6:00 P.M.  
ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 PROGRESS PARKWAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**Members Present:**

Nicole Culbert-Dahl                      Jodi Westby  
Brandi Lautigar                         Lisa Westby  
John Uhan

**Other Staff Present:**

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent  
Angie Williams, Laurentian Elementary Principal

**Members Absent:**

Jennifer Bonner  
Tim Riordan

- 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 LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** None.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. Uhan added Consent Agenda Items: *4.19 Approval of hire of Shelly Babiracki for the LPN position at a rate of \$25.10/hour effective September 11, 2025, and 4.20 Approval of out-of-state travel for Stephanie Agenes to Madison, WI, September 11-12, 2025 to Demco Furniture Warehouse to view potential furniture for the 1404 Building.* Uhan also made edits to Consent Agenda Item 4.4. Hiring of Sarah Steele (Grade 5-8 Math Interventionist) – start date changed from September 2 to September 8, 2025 and salary changed from \$64,493 to \$61,267.59 prorated based on 171 contract days.
  - B. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made LAUTIGAR, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
    1. Approval of August 25, 2025 regular meeting minutes.
    2. Approval of hire of Justine Schunk for the Paraprofessional (NSE) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 2, 2025.
    3. Approval of hire of Barbara Sonnentag for the Long-Term Substitute Teacher (PreK-4) position at a rate of \$264.43/day (BA Step 1 pro-rated based on time) effective September 2, 2025 - December 1, 2025.
    4. Approval of hire of Sarah Steele for the Grade 5-8 Math Interventionist position with a salary of \$61,267.59 prorated based on 171 contract days (MA Step D) effective September 8, 2025.
    5. Approval of hire of Nancy Reed for the Playground Aide (LES) position at a rate of \$14.00/hour effective September 8, 2025.
    6. Approval of hire of Amanda Spotts for the 0.5 FTE Elementary Music Teacher (PES) position with a salary of \$33,132.85 (BA+10 Step H pro-rated) effective September 2, 2025.
    7. Approval of hire of Troy Loisel for the Playground Aide (LES) position at a rate of \$14.00/hour effective September 8, 2025.
    8. Approval of hire of Cody Lupich for the Paraprofessional (NSE) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective September 15, 2025.
    9. Approval of transfer of Katie Niskanen from Paraprofessional to the Early 3's Paraprofessional (LES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective October 6, 2025.
    10. Approval of hire of Dusty Schechinger for the Early 3's Paraprofessional (LES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective October 8, 2025.
    11. Approval of hire of Madison Lutzka for the Assistant Girls Hockey Coach position with a stipend of \$5,295 for the 2025-2026 school year.

12. Approval of an increase in hours for Tyler Voight-Cameron, Indigenous Education High School Advisor, effective August 26, 2025 through May 29, 2026.
13. Approval of additional duty for Paraprofessional Julie Syversrud for the short-term Paraprofessional position per Junior High football schedule (Sept. 2 - Oct. 15, 2025) at a rate of \$19.97/hour.
14. Approval of additional duties and stipends for the following staff for the 2025-2026 school year: Dawn Savelle (Senior Class Advisor \$1,513), Cody Baker and Heather Gulbranson (Late Bus Supervision LES \$3,026 split stipend), Deb Tikkanen (Supervision Before/After School LES \$3,026), Lindsay Engel and Amanda Morley (WEB Leader \$2,018 each), Sarah Thyen (Safety Patrol \$1,968), Anita Tyminski (K Lunch Supervision \$3,026), Cullen Warren (2nd Lunch Supervision \$3,026), Stacy Aune (3rd Lunch Supervision \$3,026), Jackie LeBeque, Sarah Thyen, and Matraca Streier (Morning Cafeteria Student Supervision \$3,026 each), Don Galloway, Byron Negen, Crystal Scuffy, and Deron Davidson (Morning Playground Student Supervision \$3,026 each), Matraca Streier (Yearbook Advisor PES \$1,765), Laura Bakhtiari and Kate Ludwig (*I Love To Read Coordinator* \$252.50 each).
15. Approval of volunteer coaches for the 2025-2026 school year: Beau Foix (Football), Gabe Saatela (Football).
16. Acceptance of resignation of Breanna Peterson from the Lunchroom/Playground Aide position effective August 27, 2025.
17. Acceptance of resignation of Samantha Chad from the Health Assistant LPN position effective September 2, 2025.
18. Approval of lane change for Kimberly Wolner from MA Step J to MA+10 Step J effective September 4, 2025.
19. Approval of hire of Shelly Babiracki for the LPN position at a rate of \$25.10/hour effective September 11, 2025.
20. Approval of out-of-state travel for Stephanie Aagenes to Madison, WI, September 11-12, 2025 to Demco Furniture Warehouse to view potential furniture for the 1404 Building.

#### V. **REPORTS:**

- A. Teresa De Venecia, Executive Director of VinE (Volunteers in Education), updated the board on the role of VinE and the volunteer work that they do at RRPS.
- B. Angie Williams, Laurentian Elementary Principal, provided an update on the opening of the school year at Laurentian.
- C. The board acknowledged a letter from Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation regarding revenue generated from iron mining and distributed to RRPS.
- D. Supt. Schmidt announced that September is "School Board Recognition Month" and kudos to our school board members for filling these seats and doing a difficult job representing the district as a whole. The opening of the roundabout has gone smoothly as well as the first days of school throughout all our buildings.
- E. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.

#### VI. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to **approve a one-year contract with Imagine Learning, an online learning platform**, made by UHAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to **approve the Facilities Use Agreement between RRPS and Minnesota North College for fall 2025 - spring 2026 seasons** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Designating a school board member to sit on the AFSCME Labor Relations Committee, as per AFSCME contract, was tabled.
- D. Motion to **approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Arrowhead Head Start (AEOA) and RRPS for services provided from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

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CHAIR

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CLERK