

APRIL 28, 2025

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2689, PIPESTONE COUNTY, PIPESTONE, MINNESOTA. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Pipestone Area Schools was held on Monday, April 28, 2025 beginning at 6:30 PM in Conference Room 1148. MS/HS.

The following members were present: Daphne Likness, Katie Wiese, Tami Taubert, Tyler Fruechte, and Mark Hiniker. Absent: Brad Carson and Chrissy DeBates. Also present: Dr. Klint Willert, Jennifer Moravetz, Sonja Ortman, Lisa Pease, Deb Peschon, Junior Aguilon Munoz, and Jacque Kennedy.

Vice Chairman Wiese opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Likness, second by Fruechte, approved the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Fruechte, second by Hiniker, approved all items in the Consent Agenda. Motion unanimously carried. Items approved were minutes of the March 24, 2025 regular meeting; contracts for Leonard Burzynski, Maintenance Director; Lisa Pease, Curriculum Director; Junior Aguilon Munoz, Cultural Liaison; Autumn Palmer, MS/HS para; Canaan Petersen, LTS; letter of resignation from Kelsey Esselink, 3rd grade teacher; PAESP Paraprofessional Contract 24-26; and PAESP Secretaries, Custodians, AP and Tech Contract 24-26.

Financials:

- The budget year-to-date shows expenditures as of April 21, 2025 at \$12,239,009.85 or 71%. This was non-action.
- The treasurer's report for month ended March 31, 2025 shows a cash balance of \$9,164,382.58. Motion by Likness, second by Fruechte, approved the treasurer's report
- The MN Trust 2023A Bonds treasurer's report for month ended March 31, 2025 has a cash balance of \$2,818,278.85. Motion by Fruechte, second by Likness, approved the 2023A bonds treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.
- Regular bills paid through April 23, 2025 totaled \$677,687.64. Motion by Fruechte, second by Taubert, approved payment of the regular bills. Motion carried unanimously.
- High school activity bills paid through April 22, 2025 totaled \$13,928.33. Motion by Likness, second by Fruechte, approved payment of the high school activity bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Report: The policy committee met to review policies brought forward at the meeting for approval; Tyler Fruechte attended Phase III training for school boards; Favorite Educator discussion.

Superintendent's Board Report:

- **Roof Project:** Roofing work has started early; noise concerns were addressed. Major work begins after school ends.
- **ESP Contracts:** Negotiations are complete with a mutual agreement reached.
- **KnowledgeWorks:** An update will be given at the meeting on survey participation and Portrait of a Graduate development.
- **Legislative Update:** State education funding remains uncertain due to legislative gridlock.
- **Conference Changes:** St. James and Blue Earth may leave the Big South Conference in two years.
- **U.S. Department of Education:** Possible major changes could impact Title funding for schools like Pipestone.
- **Favorite Educator Banquet:** Held successfully on April 16; teachers and organizers were thanked.
- **Transportation Negotiations:** New contract talks with Ludolph Bussing will begin soon.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Scheduled for May 5-9, 2025, with Teacher Day on May 6.

MS/HS Principal Report:

- **Favorite Educator Banquet:** Held April 16, celebrating the impact of educators through student essays. Special thanks to Dawn Schneider for organizing the event.
- **2025-2026 Changes:** Work-Based Learning expanded; new electives (Yoga, Strength Training, History Through Film); Peer Mentoring Initiative added; Consumer Math course introduced.
- **Sixth Grade Literacy:** Significant reading improvements noted; Mrs. Hess' class won the Reading Plus challenge and celebrated with a pizza party.

Elementary Principal Report:

- Kindergarten Round-Up was held March 27-28, screening approximately 112 future students.
- Student-authored books have been sent for professional printing and will be shared at Literacy/Young Author's Night in May.
- The final TERRIFIC Kids celebration was held April 4, recognizing students for positive behavior and character.

- Interviews are underway for open elementary school positions.
- A school-wide tornado and fire drill was successfully conducted.
- The 5th Grade Spring Concert was held April 10 and was a great success.
- 3rd Grade students participated in an educational field trip to Split Rock.

Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Board Report:

- **Assessments:** MCA testing is concluding; NWEA testing begins May 12, 2025.
- **Summer Workshops:** Registrations are underway for summer training for certified and support staff.
- **Curriculum Planning:** Work is ongoing with principals and teachers to identify curriculum needs for 2025-2026.

New Business

- First Reading of Policy 712 - Video Surveillance Other than on Buses - Non-action.

Unfinished Business

- Motion by Taubert, second by Fruechte, approved the 25-26 and 26-27 School Calendars. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Action:

- **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education.", and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full." and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Pipestone Area Schools, ISD 2689, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

Christ the King Lutheran	\$200.00	Donation to Wellness Room
Kwik Trip	\$2,000.00	Donation to PA Youth Football (Community Ed)
Arrow Booster Club	\$11, 944.51	Donations for Golf/Fitness Room/Baseball/Tennis/Softball/Wrestling Banner
Anonymous (through Donors Choose)	\$1,752.42	Glowforge Aura Laser Engraver/Filter/Adapter
In Memory of Jerry Priester (Softball Parents)	\$875.00	5 Colorado Spruce trees for varsity softball field
Michael Nelson Machine	\$3000.00 Value	Used MakerBot Replicator+ 3D Printer with extra filament and extruder heads to CTE

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution made by Member Likness and duly seconded by Member Fruechte, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Wiese, Hiniker, Likness, Taubert, and Fruechte.

and the following voted against the same: none.

The foregoing resolution was approved 5-0 this 28th day of April, 2025.

- **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education.", and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full." and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Pipestone Area Schools, ISD 2689, gratefully accepts the following donations to **high school activities** as identified below:

Kiwanis Club	\$350.00	Donation to Choir
PRG Financial, Inc	\$100.00	Donation to football
C & B Operations	\$200.00	Donation to Robotics
Bluestem Welding, LLC	\$2,000.00	Donation to Robotics
Sioux Valley Energy	\$150.00	Donation to Robotics

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution made by Member Likness, and duly seconded by Member Fruechte, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Wiese, Hiniker, Likness, Taubert, and Fruechte.

and the following voted against the same: none.

The foregoing resolution was approved 5-0 this 28th day of April, 2025.

- Motion by Taubert, second by Fruechte, to approve policies 101, 205, 206, 208, 209, 210, 305, 404, 413, 414, 423, 480, 512, 516, 523, 611, 621, 702, 703, 706, and 801. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Hiniker, second by Likness, for renewal of Food Service Management Contract for 25-26. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Taubert, second by Fruechte, approved a request to attend a wrestling tournament overnight stay at the cost of \$830 + gas and use of activity bus and a suburban. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Hiniker, second by Fruechte, to Approve Publication of Notice of Direct Negotiations and to Seek Quotations Pursuant Minn. Stat. 123B.52 subd. 3 for Transportation Services. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Hiniker, second by Fruechte, to approve negotiations committee and administration to begin direct negotiations with Ludolph Bus, Inc., pursuant to Minn. Stat. 123B.52m subd. 3. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

- Attorney-Client Privilege to Discuss Pending or Threatened Litigation (Pending Employee Grievance Arbitration) Pursuant to Minn. Statute 13D.05
- Motion by Fruechte, second by Likness to move to closed session (7:38 p.m.). Meeting returned open session at 7:54 p.m.
- Motion Related to Pending Employee Grievance Arbitration. Motion by Taubert, second by Fruechte, to deny the grievance at Step 3. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Likness, second by Hiniker, to adjourn the meeting (7:55 p.m.). Motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Brad Carson
Brad Carson, Chairman

/s/ Christina DeBates
Christina DeBates, Clerk

Approve and dated by the board May 19, 2025
Submitted, Deb Peschon