

NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, BOARDROOM
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
April 23, 2026

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in a Work Session on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at North Branch Area Education Center.

Remote Participation Notice: One or more School Board members may participate in this meeting remotely pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 13D.02 or § 13D.021, using interactive technology. This provision applies to both regular business meetings and work sessions.

Chair MacMillan called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Sarah Grovender, Shelly Johnson, Jesse LaValla, Tim MacMillan, Heather Naegele, Superintendent Paul

Absent: Adam Trampe

Note: Member Trame arrived at 5:32 p.m.

Others in Attendance: Sherri Keller, Pakou Lee, Pat Tepoorten, David Treichel and Jake Warra

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent shared the district's vision and mission, emphasizing partnership, student potential, and community engagement. Highlighted events included the JROTC Military Ball and recognition of Students of Excellence (Marthaler, Lattimore, Lairson, Everett). Provided updates on the ECRAC grant supporting the Viking Banner Project and a "Forward Together" campaign showcasing strong district, city, and industry partnerships to build momentum and community visibility.

Discussion centered on increasing student access to career opportunities, noting many decisions are made with limited exposure. Emphasized real-world experience as key to connecting learning and employment. Reinforced the goal of ensuring every student graduates with a clear, actionable postsecondary plan, supported by expanded high school course offerings.

Work Session Topics

A. **Viking Innovation: Choice Not Chance**

Sherri Keller, Technology Integration Specialist, presented on the Viking IT program, district communications, and efforts to support student choice through innovation.

B. Motion to Close the School Board Work Session to go into a Closed Session

Motion by Grovender, seconded by Trampe and carried unanimously to close the School Board Work Session at 6: 08 P.M. to go into a closed session following roll call vote.

Voted for: Grovender, Johnson, LaValla, MacMillan, Naegele and Trampe

Voted against: None

Abstained: None

C. Motion to Conclude Closed Session and Reconvene the School Board Work Session

Motion by LaValla, seconded by Grovender and carried unanimously to conclude the closed session at 6:53 P.M. following roll call vote.

Voted for: Grovender, Johnson, LaValla, MacMillan, Naegele and Trampe

Voted against: None

Abstained: None

D. Motion to Adjourn School Board Work Session

Motion by Grovender, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to adjourn the School Board Work Session at 6:54 P.M. following roll call vote.

Voted for: Grovender, Johnson, LaValla, MacMillan, Naegele and Trampe

Voted against: None

Abstained: None

Heather Naegele, Clerk