

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Independent School District No. 492

Monday, February 10, 2025 5:30 pm

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peggy Young

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall.

AGENDA APPROVED: Chair Dube noted this month’s recognition has been rescheduled. A motion was made by Kroc, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Superintendent Page noted several staff and student recognitions and highlighted several recent and upcoming events.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS: McAlister thanked everyone for their work on the recent concerts and also thanked all the school counselors for their work. Hartman congratulated the students and staff on their generous support of the community’s Paint the Town Pink campaign, Leathers shared a positive comment from one of our retiring custodians, and Dube reminded teachers of the APEF grant deadline of March 7.

STUDENT REPORTS: Student Representatives Anita Rao and Michael Garry shared their reports on happenings at Austin High School.

MINUTES APPROVED: Leathers made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 1/13/25 and special meeting minutes of 1/27/25 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 Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

Administrative Staff:
Request for Leave – Raymond Diaz, asst principal, effective 2/3/25-2/24/25
Retirement – Sheri Willrodt, Exec Dir of Special Services, effective 10/15/25

Certified Staff:
Requests for Leave – Anna Good, math teacher, effective 3/31/25-5/16/25; Sam Good, SPED teacher, effective 3/13/25-4/11/25; Kelli Hamer, Pi teacher, effective 8/11/25-1/16/26; Valerie Jorgensen-Lowe, grade 4 teacher, effective 2/10/25-3/5/25; and Patty Schafer, science teacher, effective 3/7/25-4/22/25

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

Resignations – Janna Adams, EL teacher, effective 5/30/25; Mercedes Estrada, ABE EL teacher, effective 5/22/25; Emma Gormaz, SPED teacher, effective 5/30/25; Julie Hermanson, SPED teacher, effective 3/7/25; and Annika Meade, kindergarten teacher, effective 5/30/25
Retirement – Mary Kautto, vision mobility teacher, effective 5/30/25

Non-certified Staff:

Contracts for Approval – Rachel Ausrud, accounts payable, 8 hrs/day, effective 2/17/25; Julie Berg, noon supervisor, 3.25 hrs/day, effective 1/21/25; Amy Flanders, counseling secretary, 8 hrs/day, effective 1/27/25; Kelley Gerlach, benefits specialist, effective 2/3/25; Sarah Jannings, MHP, 8 hrs/day, effective 1/27/25; Sonia Macias, food service helper, 4.25 hrs/day, effective 2/10/25; Casey McGill, security para, 8 hrs/day, effective 1/21/25; Kaya Nelson, SPED para, 6.5 hrs/day, effective 2/3/25; Janice Pike, food service helper, 3.75 hrs/day, effective 1/28/25; and MaKenna Stadig, para, 6.5 hrs/day, effective 1/27/25

Changes in Assignment – Kristy Davis, food service helper, 6 hrs/day, to 2nd cook, 7 hrs/day, effective 2/3/25; Asia Moore, para 7.5 hrs/day to SPED para, 7 hrs/day, effective 1/6/25; Brittney Ryks, food service helper, change from 4.25 hrs/day to 5.75 hrs/day, effective 1/6/25 and Isaac Volbrecht, SPED para, 7 hrs/day to para, 7.5 hrs/day, effective 1/2/25

Requests for Leave – Sarah Jannings, SPED para, effective 1/26/25-5/30/25 and Hsawreh Lyahduku, success coach, effective 3/17/25-4/20/25

Resignations – Jenn Adams, nurse, effective 2/14/25; Kelley Gerlach, accounts payable secretary, effective 2/2/25; Melissa Joseph, food service helper, effective 1/24/25; Kaya Nelson, Kids Korner site lead, effective 2/2/25; Rachel Strilaeff, SPED coordinator, effective 3/7/25; Michael Weinmann, food service helper, effective 12/20/24; and Christopher Zarate, campus security para, effective 12/17/24

Retirements – Margie Nelson, food service helper, effective 2/28/25; Lori Pfeiffer, effective 1/8/25; and Russ Tucheck, custodian, effective 2/28/25

Termination – Melissa Getchell, MHP, effective 1/25/25

BILLS APPROVED:

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 2/10/25.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the December 2024 treasurer's report.

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

PAY EQUITY COMPLIANCE:

Leathers made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the Pay Equity Implementation Report as presented by HR Director Sue Stark.

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

**PRESCHOOL TUITION
SCALE FOR 2025-26:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the 2025-26 preschool tuition rates as presented by Community Education Director Jennifer Lawhead.

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

REPORTS:

Department/school updates from Superintendent Cabinet members and principals were available for review.

**REVISED POLICIES
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the following revised policies:

- 522 – Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy
- 519 – Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies
- 614 – School District testing Plan and Procedure
- 701 – Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget
- 721 – Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

(A copy of each revised policy will be attached in the official minute book and posted on the district website.)

**EXTENDED FIELD TRIP
APPROVED:**

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the AHS World Language extended field trip to Quebec City and Montreal, Canada in June, 2026.

DONATIONS:

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.)

**SUMMER PROJECT
UPDATE:**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg provided on update on building projects planned for summer 2025 including Paulson tennis court reconstruction, AHS Hastings Gym updates, AHS Christgau Hall upgrades and 3rd floor painting at AHS.

**SOLICITATION OF BIDS
FOR TENNIS COURTS
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Zielke, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the solicitation of bids for the reconstruction of the Paulson Tennis Courts located at the Wescott Athletic Complex.

**BOARD ENTERS CLOSED
SESSION:**

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to enter closed session at 6:30 pm for the purpose of conducting an evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Joey Page. The results of the evaluation will be made public at a future public meeting.

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING****BOARD ENTERS OPEN
SESSION:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Kroc to enter open session at 7:36 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Cece Kroc, Clerk