

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

Menahga Public School District No. 821

Monday, September 22, 2025, 6:30 PM, HS Media Center

The September 22, 2025 regular meeting of the Menahga Public School board called to order by Chair Haverinen at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Mission and Vision Statement.

Board members present: Andrea Haverinen, Julia Kicker, Katie Howard, Sara Makela, Cherie Peterson and David Treinen. Others present: ES Principal Lisa Parrish, HS Principal Michelle Koch and Superintendent Jay Kjos.

Motion by Julia Kicker to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Cherie Peterson and carried unanimously.

SAFETY AND SECURITY (CLOSED MEETING Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D. 01, Subdivision 3) Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D. 01, Subdivision 3

Closed at 6:42 p.m.

Opened at 7:24 p.m.

Motion by Cherie Peterson to approve the following consent items:

1. August 18, 2025 regular meeting minutes; August 18, 2025 pairing and sharing meeting minutes; August 18, 2025 special meeting minutes; August 22, 2025 Negotiation meeting minutes; August 27, 2025 Negotiation meeting minutes; September 8, 2025 policy meeting minutes; September 18, 2025 Negotiation meeting minutes;
 2. Activity fund and monthly claims in the amount of \$1,485,265.33
 3. Notice of assignments for the following extra-curricular coach/advisors for the 2025-2026 School Year: Luke Davidson, Activity Coordinator; James Roth, Activity Coordinator; Jolene Harris, FCCLA advisor step 3; Delaney Crowl, FCCLA co-advisor step 1; Ashley Lynne, NHS co-advisor step 1; Hope McAdow, Yearbook Advisor step 2; Hope McAdow, Co-Advisor/Senior Class Step 4; Allie Schmitz, Co-Advisor/Senior Class Step 1;
 4. Teacher Contract with Todd Marsden, High School Teacher, BA Step 3, 1.0 FTE per EMM Master Agreement, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year;
 5. Work Assignment for Lisa Mickelson, Paraprofessional, per EMM Paraprofessional Master Agreement, beginning August 25, 2025;
 6. Work Assignment for Justin Gonska, Paraprofessional, per EMM Paraprofessional Master Agreement, beginning September 26, 2025;
 7. Work Assignment for Makenzie Jurmu, Paraprofessional, per EMM Paraprofessional Master Agreement, beginning September 29, 2025;
 8. Notice of Long-Term Substitute Assignment for Shelly Hamblin, per EMM Master Agreement, for the period beginning on September 29, 2025 and ending no later than January 1, 2026.
 9. Cooperative Agreement for Boys Hockey 2025-2026
- Seconded by David Treinen and carried unanimously.

Motion by Katie Howard to approve the Kenmark Invoices in the amount of \$1,198.00 as presented. Seconded by Cherie Peterson and passed 5-0-1 David Treinen abstaining.

Motion by Andrea Haverinen to hire Logan Gerdes as an Assistant Teacher effective August 25, 2025 contingent upon receipt of appropriate Minnesota teaching license clearance by October 23, 2025. If licensure is not cleared by that date, the District reserves the right to review and reconsider employment status in compliance with state law and District policy. Seconded by Sara Makela and carried unanimously.

Motion by Katie Howard to approve the following lane change request: Tanya Carney, BA to BA+30; Seconded by David Treinen and carried unanimously.

Motion by Katie Howard to accept the letter of resignation from Bill Hodge, bus driver, effective August 31, 2025. We thank Bill for his years of dedicated service to the students of our school. Seconded by Cherie Peterson and carried unanimously.

Motion by David Treinen to accept the letter of resignation from Katri Haapala, assistant girls basketball coach, effective September 16, 2025. We thank Katri for her years of dedicated service to the students of our school. Seconded by Julia Kicker and carried unanimously.

Motion by Katie Howard to accept the letter of resignation from April Hodge, High School Teacher, effective August 1, 2025. We thank April for her ten years of dedicated service to the students of our school. Seconded by Julia Kicker and carried unanimously.

Motion by Julia Kicker to approve the request for up to 12 weeks FMLA on or about February 23, 2025. Seconded by Cherie Peterson and carried unanimously.

Motion by Cherie Peterson to approve the request for up to 12 weeks FMLA on or about September 2, 2025. Seconded by Katie Howard and carried unanimously.

Motion by Katie Howard to hire Dana Kennedy as Business Manager at 1.0 FTE, pending completion of a clear background check, with a start date on or before October 20, 2025. Seconded by David Treinen and carried unanimously.

Chair Haverinen set the following for the Truth and Taxation Hearing: (Time not before 6:00 p.m. This can be part of the regular board meeting.)
Day: Monday
Date: December 15, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: HS Media Center

Motion by Andrea Haverinen to hereby certify the Proposed 2025 Payable 2026 tax levy at the Maximum, with it being understood that the final levy certification and current year budget review will occur during the regular December board meeting.

Seconded by Katie Howard and carried unanimously.

Member Cherie Peterson introduced the following OPEN ENROLLMENT RESOLUTION FOR 2025-2026

WHEREAS the State of Minnesota has established an open enrollment program permitting students to attend nonresident districts pursuant to the limitations of Minnesota Statutes § 124D.03, and

WHEREAS the State of Minnesota has also established criteria for school districts to limit open enrollment applications based on district-wide grade level capacity, class, program, and school building capacity, and

WHEREAS the administration has determined that additional development and anticipated enrollment increases at Menahga Elementary School have resulted in lack of space availability, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that for purposes of open enrollment, the following grade level cap will be in effect for the 2025-2026 school year, Grade 3 in person classes capped at 75.

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administration, in consultation with participating districts, be authorized to approve or disapprove all nonresident applications related to Agreements between School Boards. The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Sara Makela, and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Katie Howard, David Treinen, Cherie Peterson, Sara Makela, Julia Kicker, and Andrea Haverinen.

and the following voted against: none

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Katie Howard to approve the roof repair not to exceed \$9,000. Seconded by Julia Kicker and carried unanimously.

Motion by Julia Kicker to approve updated Strategic Plan as presented. Seconded by Cherie Peterson and carried unanimously.

The following resolution was introduced by Katie Howard
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, MS 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, MS 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 Menahga Public School Dist 821 gratefully accept the following donations as identified below: Donation from The Menahga Lions in the amount of \$500 awarded to Bingo for Books;

Resolution seconded by David Treinen.

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

voting aye: David Treinen, Cherie Peterson, Sara Makela, Julia Kicker, Andrea Haverinen, and Katie Howard.

voting nay: None

absent: None

Whereupon, said resolution was declared duly adopted.

Motion by Andrea Haverinen to accept, with gratitude, the following grant(s); Fuel up to Play grant awarded to Food Service valued at \$2,000. Seconded by Katie Howard

Motion by Julia Kicker to approve the first reading of policy 416 Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing as presented. Seconded by Katie Howard and carried unanimously.

Motion by Katie Howard to approve the first reading of policy 613 Graduation Requirements as presented. Seconded by David Treinen and carried unanimously.

The following resolution was introduced by Andrea Haverinen.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) urges the Legislature to strengthen state law to ensure school districts will no longer be denied access to criminal background information concerning applicants and hires.

Minnesota statutes—and statutes in other states—currently limit access to juvenile criminal records, regardless of the severity of the offense. This restriction has created serious gaps in school hiring safety measures.

Recent examples in Minnesota have shown that individuals with a history of criminal sexual conduct in their juvenile records were hired into public school positions because those records were not available during the standard background check process. This lack of transparency puts students, staff, and communities at risk.

School districts need complete access to relevant criminal history, including serious juvenile offenses, in order to make informed, responsible hiring decisions and to ensure the safety and well-being of students.

"Be it resolved, that Menahga Public School District urges the Minnesota School Boards

Association (MSBA) to advocate for legislation ensuring school districts are not denied access to criminal background information concerning applicants and hires."

Resolution seconded by Cherie Peterson.

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

voting aye: Cherie Peterson, Sara Makela, Julia Kicker, Andrea Haverinen, Katie Howard, and David Treinen.

voting nay: none

absent: none

Whereupon, said resolution was declared duly adopted.

Motion by David Treinen to accept the summative statement as presented.

Seconded by Julia Kicker and carried unanimously.

Motion by Katie Howard to adjourn the September 22, 2025 regular meeting of the Menahga Public School board at 8:23 p.m. Seconded by Cherie Peterson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Howard, Clerk