

January 26, 2026

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, January 26, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM in Conference Room 1148. MS/HS.

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

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

**Public Forum:** Greg Kuehl, Michelle Niehus, Kelly Brinkmeyer, and Kaitlin Hanson shared concerns on the ALC.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion by Wiese, second by DeBates, approved all items in the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financials:**

- The budget year-to-date shows expenditures as of January 21, 2026 at \$8,664,763.09 or 48%. This was non-action.
- The treasurer's report for month ended December 31, 2025 shows a cash balance of \$9,511,406.36. Motion by Wiese, second by Carson, approved the treasurer's report.
- The MN Trust 2023A Bonds treasurer's report for month ended December 31, 2025 has a cash balance of \$727,861.60. Motion by Carson, second by Taubert, approved the 2023A bonds treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.
- Regular bills paid through January 21, 2026 totaled \$820,396.97. Motion by Likness, second by DeBates, approved payment of the regular bills. Motion carried unanimously.
- High school activity bills paid through January 21, 2026 totaled \$31,937.85. Motion by Taubert second by Likness, approved payment of the high school activity bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Board Reports:** Taubert, Likness, and Wiese reported on the MSBA Conference they attended. There is an upcoming facilities committee meeting and the negotiations committee met with Dr. Willert last week.

**Superintendent Board Report:** Willert reported on ICE concerns, Future of Technology conference he attended, the upcoming facilities committee meeting, the upcoming Legislative session, budget preparations, Strategic Plan work session, staffing needs for 26-27, and the most recent social media report.

**Principals Board Report:** Ortman reported on the impact of students not reading at grade level and the impact of using Reading Plus. Moravetz reported on ECFE kicking off, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter progress reports sent home, January character trait, January TERRIFIC kid celebration, and attendance goal.

**Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Board Report:** Pease reported on the in-service/work day, NAEP update, the onboarding process of eduCLIMBER, a reading MCA-IV she attended, and results from DIBELS testing.

**Old Business:** Motion by Carson, second by Hiniker, approved Tyler Fruechte as the Legislative Liaison for the school board. 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 to **Community Ed** as identified below:

Sons of the American Legion	\$1,500.00	Donation to PAYF for Jerseys and Helmets
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The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution made by Member Wiese, and duly seconded by Member Hiniker and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Wiese, Carson, Hiniker, Taubert, Likness, DeBates, and Fruechte.

and the following voted against the same: None

The foregoing resolution was approved 7-0 this 26th day of January, 2026.

SB/RES/2026-003

**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

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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 the **school** as identified below:

Kyle Hansen	\$200.00	Pizza Ranch Field Trip and Transportation for Jr. Kdgn.
PCMC		Warm socks to those in need for Elementary
BUCKWHEAT LLLP (PIPESTONE)	\$500.00	Donation to Overdue Lunch Balances
Christ the King Lutheran	\$100.00	Donation to Wellness Room
Kozlowski Insurance	\$2500.00	Donation to Wellness Room
Arrow Athletic Booster Club	\$1946.50	\$1633 T-Trainer - Gymnastics \$313.50 Slipp-Nott Transaction set and Sticky Mat pad replacement sheets for GB and BB.

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

and the following voted against the same: None.

The foregoing resolution was approved 7-0 this 26th day of January, 2026.

SB/RES/2026-005

**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

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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:

In Memory of Stan's Electric	\$2,000.00	Donation to Robotics
Tyler Ramsbey - Kairos Sec LLC	\$1,000.00	Donation to Esports

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

and the following voted against the same: None.

The foregoing resolution was approved 7-0 this 26th day of January, 2026

SB/RES/2026-004

- Motion by Taubert, second by Wiese, to postpone definitely the contract for Superintendent Willert until the February 23 regular school board meeting. Motion failed 3-4 (Wiese, Taubert, Likness).
- Motion by DeBates, second by Hiniker, approved the contract with Superintendent Dr. Klint Willert for July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029. Motion carried 4-3 with Wiese, Taubert, and Likness voting no.

**Adjourn:**

- Motion by Carson, second by DeBates, to adjourn the meeting (7:42PM). Motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Tyler Fruechte  
Tyler Fruechte, Chairman

/s/ Daphne Likness  
Daphne Likness, Clerk

Approved and dated by the board February 23, 2026.  
Submitted, Deb Peschon