

School Board Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2025 6:30 PM Central

Aitkin Public Schools - Media Center
306 Second Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

1. Call meeting to order by the chairperson

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hills at 6:37 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

All members present.

4. *Comments from visitors

4.A.

- Comments from visitors must be in relation to Aitkin Public Schools and/or to agenda items.
- We recommend that you sign up at the comment table if you wish to speak. You will be called up in order as listed on the sign-up sheet. When you come forward to comment, please be seated at the comment table facing the Board Members. State your name prior to your comment. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.
- The Board will not engage in any discussion or debate during this comment session. The Board will take the information and find answers as appropriate.
- As part of Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a public board meeting.

5. Approval of agenda - revise or remove as needed

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

6. Scheduled presentations: (Max. 10 Minutes)

6.A. Student Council Reports

SP Goal 10

Rippleside Student Council members Emma Conn, Gianna Burgos and Jayde Anakkala presented.

High School Student Council members Will Henline and Maelie Kazmerzak presented.

7. New business:

7.A. Approve consent agenda items as follows:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

7.A.1. Approve the following School Board Meeting Minutes: October 20, 2025
November 7, 2025

7.A.2. Approve financials for the month of October 2025:

- Office receipts in the amount of \$2,007,523.12
- Report of expenditures, including \$789,315.68 for bills and \$1,065,934.69 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Donations in the amount of \$8,559.00.
- Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,645,000.00.
- Employee reimbursements.

7.A.3. Approve Resignations

7.A.3.a. Loren Vonasek - Musical Theatre Set Designer

7.A.3.b. Shelby Trebby - School Nurse

7.A.3.c. LuAnn Larson - Para Professional Rippleside Elementary

7.A.3.d. Molly Vouk - Musical Director

7.A.4. Approve Hirings:

7.A.4.a. David Jorgensen- Bus Driver

7.A.4.b. Carol Brick - Licensed School Nurse (LSN)

7.A.4.c. Erin Duerkop - ACC PT Paraprofessional

7.A.5. Consider and approve extracurricular activities.

7.A.5.a. Ben Schwarz - Assistant Basketball Coach 2025-26

7.A.5.b. Ryan Fowlds - 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach 2025-26

7.A.5.c. Blaise Sanford - Boys C Squad Basketball Coach 2025-26

7.A.5.d. Ashley Nordberg - One Act Play Director

7.A.6. Consider and approve volunteer coaches

7.A.6.a. Noelle Jones - Volunteer girls basketball coach 2025-26

7.A.6.b. Lydia Fellerman - Volunteer girls basketball coach 2025-26

7.A.6.c. Jillian MacDonald - Volunteer girls basketball coach - 2025-26

7.A.6.d. Carter Masloski - Volunteer boys basketball coach 2025-26

7.A.7. Seniority Lists

7.A.7.a. Bus Driver Seniority List 2025-26

7.A.7.b. Custodian - Cleaner Seniority List 2025-26

7.A.7.c. Early Childhood Seniority List 2025-26

7.A.7.d. AESS Seniority List - 2025-26

7.A.8. Review & approve revised pay rates 2025-26 school year

7.A.9. Trust in US Drug & Alcohol Testing Service Agreement 2025-26

7.B. Discussion Items:

7.B.1. Transportation Purchases -

7.B.1.a. Van Purchase

Motion to approve purchase of van \$74,103. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

7.B.1.b. International 77 Passenger SPED WC Bus Purchase

Motion to approve the purchase of a 77 passenger Sp Ed Bus. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

8. Administrative reports:

8.A. Board Members Reports:

8.B. Committee Reports:

8.B.1. Personnel Committee Meeting, October 29, 2025.

8.B.2. Transportation Committee Meeting, November 10, 2025

8.B.3. Safety Committee Meeting, November 11, 2025

8.B.4. Policy Committee Meeting, November 12, 2025 - 1st Reading. Will be reviewed again at the January 14, 2026 meeting.

8.C. Principal's Report:

Mr. Dokken, Rippleside Elementary School

Ms. DeMars, Aitkin High School

SP Goal 10

8.D. Community Education - Nedra Henline

SP Goal 10

8.E. Superintendent's report:

8.E.1. Enrollment Update

8.E.2. 2026-2027 School Calendar

- Discuss Start before Labor Day
- MDE allows for schools to start before Labor Day for the next two years.
- Requires Board approval to start before Labor Day

8.E.3. Referendum vote recap and next steps

- Share information from board work session

Schedule Special Meeting for December 3, 2025 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. AHS Media Center.

8.E.4. Other:

8.F. Upcoming meetings:

December 3, 2025 - Special School Board Meeting (work session) - 5:00 PM AHS Media Center

December 15, 2025 - Truth in Taxation followed by School Board Meeting - 6:00 PM AHS Media Center

January 14, 2026 - Personnel Committee Meeting - 3:45 PM AHS Media Center

9. Other:

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

Recorded by Heather Hipp

Jen Burgos

Dated: 12/15/25
