



**Agenda III.A-M
January 8, 2026**

To: Board of Education

From: Dr. Latanya Daniels, superintendent
Stacey Sovine, executive director of administrative services

Date: January 2, 2026

RE: Annual Organization of the Board of Education

RECOMMENDATION: to approve recommendations and adopt the resolutions shown below to accomplish organization of the Board of Education for 2026.

The items listed below must be addressed by the school board at its organizational meeting on January 8, 2026.

In order of rank, the officers from 2025 are responsible for calling the organizational meeting to order. This individual, or someone elected as temporary chair, should preside until a new chair is elected.

Prior to the election of officers, the board should determine the method to be used in selecting its new officers. A recommended method is that of majority vote on the candidate or candidates nominated for each position. Policy 202 provides further direction with respect to selection of officers and officer's responsibilities.

The annual organization of the school board occurs in January to conform to the term of office for school board members. Some matters of school board organization are more readily conducted on a fiscal year basis and will be presented in June.

The items that follow pertain to Board of Education organization for 2026.

A. Election of Chair

Annotation: The chair presides at all school board meetings and works with the superintendent on calling board meetings and establishing meeting agendas. At times the chair is called upon to serve in a ceremonial capacity as the ranking elected representative of the school district. The chair countersigns all checks drawn by the treasurer.

Recommendation: Moved by Director _____ that Director _____ be nominated and elected chair of the board for 2026.

(It is recommended that the newly elected chair assume the chair and conduct the balance of the meeting.)

B. Election of Vice-Chair

Annotation: The school board created the vice-chair position in 1989 for the purpose of easing the workload of the chair. The vice-chair serves as chair when the chair is absent, assists with board operations and plans the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

Recommendation: Moved by Director _____
that Director _____ be nominated and elected Vice-chair of the board for 2026.

C. Election of Clerk

Annotation: The clerk presides at board meetings in the absence of the chair and vice-chair, and from a legal standpoint, is responsible for board minutes, signing board approved contracts and calling school board elections. The clerk also countersigns all district checks. The routine duties of the clerk are performed by the superintendent's office and business office.

Recommendation: Moved by Director _____
that Director _____ be nominated and elected clerk of the board for 2026.

D. Election of Treasurer

Annotation: The treasurer is legally responsible for the deposit and withdrawal of all district funds and reporting same to the school board. Checks drawn on school district accounts are signed by the treasurer. The routine duties of the treasurer are performed by the business office.

Recommendation: Moved by Director _____
that Director _____ be nominated and elected treasurer of the board for 2026.

E. Salaries of Board Members

Annotation: Salaries of school board members are set annually. The current rate of salaries is set at \$450 per month for each director plus an additional monthly stipend of \$50 for the chair in recognition of increased duties and expenses associated with that position.

Recommendation: That salaries of board members be set at \$450 per month and that the chairperson receives an additional \$50 per month in recognition of additional duties and expenses associated with the position.

F. Regular Meetings of the School Board

Annotation: Regular meetings of the school board are typically held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. However, board meetings may be scheduled during other weeks to accommodate scheduling needs. Regular school board meetings will be held at Diamondhead Education Center, 200 West Burnsville Parkway, Burnsville.

Recommendation: That all regular meetings of the Independent

School District 191 Board of Education commence at 6:30 p.m. on the dates noted below with meetings conducted at the Diamondhead Education Center and cablecast. Board Listening Sessions will be scheduled from 5:45-6:15 p.m. before regular board meetings.

January 8, 2026	October 22, 2026
January 22, 2026	November 12, 2026
February 12, 2026	November 19, 2026*
February 26, 2026	December 10, 2026
March 12, 2026	January 7, 2027*
March 26, 2026	January 21, 2027*
April 9, 2026	February 11, 2027
April 23, 2026	February 25, 2027
May 14, 2026	March 11, 2027
May 28, 2026	March 25, 2027
June 11, 2026	April 8, 2027
June 25, 2026	April 22, 2027
August 13, 2026	May 13, 2027
August 27, 2026	May 27, 2027
September 10, 2026	June 10, 2027
September 24, 2026	June 24, 2027
October 8, 2026	

In the case of inclement weather, the Board meeting will be scheduled Monday at the same time and place unless Monday is a holiday, in which case a special meeting may be called.

*Meetings not scheduled on the second or fourth Thursday of the month.

Items G-M pertain to calendar year 2026. They are of a routine nature and although board action is required, discussion is usually unnecessary. I recommend approval of all resolutions as a single consent agenda. In the event a Board member wishes to discuss any item, it should be removed from the list so that it may receive individual attention.

G. Authorization for Electronic (telephone) Fund Transfers

Annotation: The telephone transfer of funds between approved depositories is important to the efficient management of school district deposits. Board authorization is requested to allow the executive director of administrative services to enter into electronic fund transfer agreements with official depositories as provided in Chapter 334, Minnesota Statutes. (See Attached Resolution.)

Recommendation: to adopt the attached resolution which authorizes the executive director of administrative services to enter into electronic (telephone) fund transfer agreements with the district's official depositories per Chapter 334 of the laws of Minnesota.

H. Authorization for Use of Facsimile Signatures

Annotation: The use of facsimile signatures on school district checks must be authorized by board resolution. Facsimile signatures are also used on individual personnel contracts covered by master agreements. Obviously, this is the only practical method of handling this task. (See Attached Information)

Recommendation: That the school board adopts the attached resolution authorizing the use of facsimile signatures on payroll and claim checks as prescribed in M.S. 47.41 and furthermore that the use of facsimile signatures be authorized for individual personnel contracts covered by board adopted master agreements.

I. Designation of Official Depositories

Annotation: The Business Office maintains a current list of financial institutions to be used for depositing school district funds. The recommended list of depositories for 2026 is shown in the motion.

Recommendation: That the institutions shown below be designated as official depositories of the district for the 2026 calendar year per M.S. 124.05.

U.S. Bank of Minneapolis
Merchants Bank
Minnesota School Districts Liquid Asset Fund Plus
MN Trust
Associated Bank, WI
PMA Financial Network

J. Appointment to Committees

Committee appointments are made by the chair. Board members are asked to review the list of committee appointments and indicate their interests to the chair. Appointments to committees will be made at a future board meeting.

K. Authorization to Execute and File Application for State- and Federally-Funded Programs

Annotation: Most state- and federally-funded programs require that the school board, in official session, authorize an agent to execute and file funding applications for the school district and act as its official representatives in those state- and federally-funded programs.

Recommendation: That as of January 1, 2026, Dr. Latanya Daniels, superintendent, or her designee be designated as the agent in filing applications for and representing the district in state- and federally-funded programs.

L. Designation of Legal Counsel

Annotation: Policy 202 states that the school board will select the school district's legal counsel at the organizational meeting. The attorney shall attend regular and special meetings of the school board when requested and be available for consultation as needed. The attorney shall be paid on a "time" or "retainer" basis as determined. The appointment of the attorney shall not be construed as a prohibition against seeking legal counsel from other sources when the superintendent or designees deems it to be advisable. The individuals authorized to contact legal counsel are the school board chair, the superintendent and his designees.

Recommendation: That the following law firms be appointed as legal counsel for Independent School District 191 for 2026 and that they be paid on an hourly basis for services rendered.

Kennedy & Graven Chartered
 Goetz & Eckland P.A.
 Booth Law Group LLC
 Squires, Waldspurger & Mace, P.A.
 Hitesman & Wold, P.A.
 Arthur Chapman Kettering Smetak & Pikala, P.A

Law Firm	Type of Services Rendered
Kennedy & Graven Chartered	Student Issues; Custody Issues; General legal by Supt; Complex school business matters; election law; Bond attorney; HR and employee related issues.
Goetz & Eckland P.A.	Contracts related to Construction
Booth Law Group LLC	Student Issues; Special Ed Issues
Squires, Waldspurger & Mace, P.A.	Business contracts, bid law, Review and development of unit language for bargaining agreements or terms and conditions of employment, etc.;
Hitesman & Wold, P.A.	Employee benefit related items; OPEB law
Arthur Chapman Kettering Smetak & Pikala, P.A	Legal counsel for property and casualty insurance issues

M. Designation of Official Newspaper

Annotation: Administration recommends designating Sun Thisweek as the official legal newspapers serving our area. This newspaper is widely distributed across the geographic area of the school district.

Recommendation: That Sun Thisweek be designated as the official newspaper for 2026 per M.S. 123.33; Subdivision 11, and M.S. Chapter 331.