

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

**ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 PROGRESS PARKWAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792
MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Members Present:

Jennifer Bonner John Uhan
Nicole Culbert-Dahl Jodi Westby
Brandi Lautigar Lisa Westby
Tim Riordan

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent
Scott Manni, North Star Elementary Principal
Sheena Stefanich, Parkview Elementary Principal
Willie Spelts, Director of School to Work
Engagement/Fundraising Coordinator

Members Absent:

None

- I. Vice Chair UHAN called the Organizational Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **SEAT NEW BOARD MEMBERS:** Vice Chair UHAN lead the new board members – Jennifer Bonner, Brandi Lautigar, Tim Riordan, and Jodi Westby through the reading of the Ceremonial School Board Member Oath of Office.
- III. **APPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the agenda** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS:**
 - A. CHAIR: Lautigar nominated Uhan. No other nominations. **UHAN elected CHAIR.**
 - B. VICE CHAIR: Bonner nominated L. Westby. Lautigar nominated Riordan. (4) votes for L. Westby: L. Westby, Bonner, Culbert-Dahl, J. Westby. (3) votes for Riordan: Riordan, Lautigar, Uhan. **L. WESTBY elected VICE CHAIR.**
 - C. CLERK: Riordan nominated Culbert-Dahl. Uhan nominated Lautigar. (4) votes for Culbert-Dahl: L. Westby, Bonner, Culbert-Dahl, J. Westby. (3) votes for Lautigar: Riordan, Lautigar, Uhan. **CULBERT-DAHL elected CLERK.**
 - D. TREASURER: Culbert-Dahl nominated Lautigar. No other nominations. **LAUTIGAR elected TREASURER.**
 - E. ALTERNATE CLERK: L. Westby nominated Bonner. Lautigar nominated Riordan. Riordan declined nomination. No other nominations. **BONNER elected ALT. CLERK.**
- V. **ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:**
 - A. Motion to **set the school board member salaries the same as 2024** (Board members reimbursed \$300/month with the Vice Chair receiving \$325 and the Chair receiving \$350/month), **but change the Negotiations Committee reimbursement from \$50 for each session lasting up to five hours/\$100 for sessions of five hours or more to sessions now lasting up to three hours** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Motion to **approve that Columbus Day is not a school holiday** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed 6-1 with L. WESTBY voting NO.
 - C. Motion to **set the 2025 regular meeting dates and times as presented** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
 - D. Motion to **approve the mileage rate at the IRS standard mileage rate of 70 cents per mile beginning January 1, 2025** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
 - E. Motion to **designate Frandsen Bank & Trust, MSDLAF, and MNTrust/PMA, Miners National Bank and First National Bank of Gilbert** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.

- F. Motion to **authorize the hiring of a school attorney on an as-needed basis: Colosimo, Patchin, & Kearney, Ltd., Rupp, Anderson, Squires, & Waldspurger, P.A. and Ratwik, Rozak & Maloney, P.A.** made by RIORDAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
 - G. Motion to **establish the Mesabi Tribune as the legal publication for school business for 2025** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
 - H. Motion to **allow the Superintendent and Business Manager to conduct wire transfer funds from Miners National Bank of Eveleth to Frandsen Bank and Trust, General Account** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
 - I. Motion to **allow the Superintendent and Business Manager to conduct wire transfer funds from First National Bank of Gilbert to Frandsen Bank and Trust, General Account** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
 - J. Motion to **authorize the business manager and superintendent to make electronic fund transfers** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
 - K. Motion to **authorize the business manager to use the current signature plate until a new plate is secured, if necessary** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.
 - L. Motion to **authorize school board members to attend instate meetings** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
 - M. Motion to **authorize the superintendent to approve instate travel requirements of employees during the school year** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
 - N. Motion to **authorize the superintendent to employ additional instructional, library, maintenance, and clerical assistance as shall become necessary** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
 - O. Motion to **approve the Resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions and Reasons Therefor (25-01)** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.
 - N. Motion to **approve the resolution naming Dr. Noel Schmidt as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Rock Ridge Public Schools (25-02)** made by RIORDAN, seconded by BONNER. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.
 - O. Motion to **designate Dr. Noel Schmidt as the responsible authority under the Minnesota Data Practices Act and Open Meeting Law** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS:** Board members will submit their committee preferences to UHAN to compile before the next board meeting.
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to **adjourn the Organizational Meeting** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously at 6:18 P.M.
- VIII. Chair UHAN called the regular meeting to order.
- IX. **APPROVE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:**
- A. RIORDAN made a change to Consent Agenda Item *10.11. Approval of hire of Claire Wohlsdorf for the Secondary Math Teacher (RRHS) position with a salary of \$23,799 (2nd semester) (Step A BA) effective January 24, 2025.* Salary was corrected to \$23,005.41 (87 contract days).
 - B. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- X. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Gwendolyn – 6th grade North Star student presented school board members with Rock Ridge t-shirts to wear proudly on behalf of North Star Elementary.

- XI. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by RIORDAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- A. Approval of December 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes.
 - B. Approval of additional duty of AVID Site Coordinator (RRHS) for Brandon Borich with a stipend of \$1,000 for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - C. Approval of additional duty of Morning Supervisor (RRHS) at a rate of \$17.49/day for the 2024-2025 school year for the following: Brandon Borich (effective November 25, 2024), Tricia Fierst (effective December 16, 2024), and Paul Brainard (effective December 16, 2024).
 - D. Approval of additional duty of Homebound Instructor for Amber King at a rate of \$42.00/hour (5 hours/week) effective January 13, 2025.
 - E. Approval of hire of Tyler Voight Cameron for the Lunch Supervisor (RRHS) position at a rate of \$19.25/hour effective December 1, 2024.
 - F. Approval of hire of Amy Lundmark for the Morning Cafeteria Aide (PES) position at a rate of \$21.17/hour effective December 2, 2024.
 - G. Approval of hire of Julie Ward for the Paraprofessional (LES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective December 9, 2024.
 - H. Approval of hire of Justin Abramson for the Custodian/GM/Grounds/Driver position at a rate of \$25.75/hour effective January 6, 2025.
 - I. Approval of hire of Elaine Ronan-Carlson for the Student Support Paraprofessional (RRHS) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective January 6, 2025.
 - J. Approval of hire of Jodi Thompson for the Paraprofessional (PES) position at a rate of \$19.97/hour effective January 6, 2025.
 - K. Approval of hire of Claire Wohlsdorf for the Secondary Math Teacher (RRHS) position with a salary of \$23,005.41 (87 contract days) (Step A BA) effective January 24, 2025.
 - L. Approval of hire of Adam Tritt for the Secondary English Teacher (RRHS/ALP) position with a salary of \$41,761.74 (Step J - MA) effective January 24, 2025 (2nd semester/87 contract days).
 - M. Approval of hire of Katie Hunter for the 2nd Grade Long-Term Substitute Teacher (LES) position with a daily rate of pay of \$264.43/day (BA Step A) effective approximately February 3, 2025.
 - N. Approval of volunteers for the 2024-2025 school year (Boys Hockey): William Troutwine, Sam Troutwine, Nicholas Troutwine, Isaac Flatley.
 - O. Acceptance of resignation of KaDeen Auel from the Paraprofessional position effective December 12, 2024.
 - P. Acceptance of resignation of Kylee Sexton from the Paraprofessional position effective December 20, 2024.
 - Q. Acceptance of resignation of Jeremy Liimatta from the Spring Play Co-Director effective January 1, 2025.
 - R. Acceptance of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Harriet Anderson from the Paraprofessional position effective January 3, 2025.
 - S. Acceptance of resignation of Chris Chad from the Assistant Spring Play Director position effective January 6, 2025.
 - T. Acceptance of resignation of Davis Lamppa from the Assistant Baseball Coach position effective January 7, 2025.
 - U. Acceptance of resignation of Bruce Erjavec from the Lunchroom/Playground Aide (PES) position effective January 8, 2025.
 - V. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of \$334 from the Rock Ridge Cross Country Booster Club for equipment for the cross country team.
 - W. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation in the amount of \$10,000 from Brian and Theresa Raduenz for the #RockRidgeRising Campaign - In memory of Mr. Hiti (classroom dedication). Thank you to the Golden Bear Foundation for acting as the pass through for the donation.
 - X. Acceptance and appreciation of donations of winter gear from Legacy Church to Parkview and Laurentian Elementary Schools.

- Y. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of new boots and clothing from the Elks Club to Parkview Elementary.
- Z. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of hand-knit hats from Big Life Realty - Paige Mayry to students in need at Laurentian Elementary School.
- AA. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of two full-body wolverine mounts to the Rock Ridge schools.
- BB. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation in the amount of \$2,000 from Jeff and Holly Okland for the #RockRidgeRising Campaign.
- CC. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of knit hats from the Gilbert Community United Methodist Church to the Laurentian School Readiness Program.
- DD. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation from the Virginia Community Foundation in the amount of \$8,564 for the #RockRidgeRising Campaign - 2024 Wolverine Fund.
- EE. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation in the amount of \$8906.13 from Pohaki for the #RockRidgeRising Campaign - the 2024 installment payment for the Pohaki Construction Lab.
- FF. Approval of an out-of-state field trip for roughly 25 students from Mr. Conger's World Wars class to the Bong Veterans Museum in Superior, Wisconsin on January 21, 2025.
- GG. Approval of lane change for Jessica Kortekaas from BA+20 Step J to BA+30/MA Step J effective December 19, 2024.
- HH. Approval of lane change for Josh Gibson from BA+20 Step F to BA+30/MA Step F effective December 25, 2024.
- II. Approval of lane change for Andy Tikkanen from BA+20 Step J to BA+30/MA Step J effective January 10, 2025.
- JJ. Approval of individual work agreements for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026 for the following individuals: Bill Bryson III, Janelle Dolinsek, Chad Hazelton, Mike Hoag, Mike Hoche, Robert Kreegier, Stacie Lamppa, Josh Lamppa, Andrea Lintula, Amanda Mathson, Stephanie McDermid, Willie Spelts, Sandy Viger, Bob Voss, and Debbie Wiirre.

XII. **REPORTS:**

- A. Willie Spelts gave a school to work engagement and fundraising update.
- B. Dave MacCallum and Patricia Ross from MacCallum Ross presented the board with their proposal for Measuring AROI (Academic Return on Investment) of Programs.
- C. Principal Sheena Stefanich shared some highlights and happenings at Parkview Elementary.
- D. Supt. Schmidt provided the board with the Minnesota School Finance: A Guide for Legislators and the PMA Minnesota School District Referendum Report.
- E. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion approved unanimously.

XIII. **ADMINISTRATION:**

- A. Motion to **approve the Rock Ridge High School 2025-2026 course registration handbooks for Grades 7/8 and Grades 9-12** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion to **approve the Memorandum of Agreement between St. Louis County Family Services Collaborative and RRPS for the purpose of expansion of early intervention and prevention services** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to **approve the Easement Request** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Motion to **approve the termination of Temporary Easement** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. LAUTIGAR and CULBERT-DAHL volunteered to interview the Junior School Board Representative applicants.

IX. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

XV. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

CHAIR – JOHN UHAN

CLERK – NICOLE CULBERT-DAHL