

**OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD****STUDY SESSION**

Independent School District No. 492

**Monday, March 24, 2025 4:00 pm**

District Administration Office Conference Room

401 Third Avenue NW, Austin, MN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Carolyn Dube	Carol McAlister
Robert Hartman	Peggy Young via Teams
Cece Kroc	Dan Zielke
Don Leathers (4:10 pm)	Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**MEETING CALLED  
TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room at Austin High School. Peggy Young joined the meeting via Teams from 400 Canal Street in New Orleans, LA.

**AGENDA APPROVED:** A motion was made by Young, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as printed.

**LEATHERS ARRIVED AT 4:10 PM**

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
AUDIT FINDINGS:**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg and inBYLT representative Cody Capra shared the findings of the recent guaranteed energy savings audit. It was noted that effective January 1, 2026, the sale of fluorescent lamps will be banned in the State of Minnesota, requiring the district to convert to LED lighting. In addition to the lighting upgrade, the proposed project would include applying weatherization including weather stripping at all sites and destratification fans at five sites. The project, estimated at \$2,776,336, will be presented for approval at the regular April 14 school board meeting.

**ENERGY SAVINGS  
FUNDING REVIEW:**

Todd Lechtenberg and PMA Securities Representative Michael Hart outlined the two potential funding sources for the energy savings project and the advantages of utilizing capital facilities bonds over capital funds. Utilizing capital facilities bonds would have no tax impact on most properties. The funding recommendation would be brought to the board for approval pending the approval of the energy saving project.

**ALTERNATIVE  
PROGRAMS UPDATE:**

Principal Jessical Cabeen provided an update on the Alternative Learning Center and the Austin Online Academy.

**BENCHMARK SURVEY  
UPDATE:**

Superintendent Page updated the board on the on the status of the Benchmark Survey set to deploy shortly. A report of their findings will be presented at the April study session.

**FIRST READING OF  
REVISED POLICIES:**

The following revised policies were presented for first reading:

Policy 413 – Harassment and Violence

Policy 512 – School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities

Policy 704 – Development and Maintenance of an Inventory of Fixed Assets and a Fixed Asset Accounting System

Policy 714 – Fund Balances

(A COPY OF THE PROPOSED REVISIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to adjourn at 5:50 pm.

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Cece Kroc, Clerk