

School Board Meeting  
Monday, May 19, 2025 6:30 PM Central

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

Jen Burgos: Present  
Roland Hill: Present  
Cindi Hills: Present  
Rev. Dawn Houser: Present  
Brian Leitinger: Absent  
Holly Mindrum: Present  
Kassie Peterson: Present  
Present: 6, Absent: 1.

1. Call meeting to order by the chairperson
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
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*

A High School Student Council representative provided an update of activities.

6.B. English Language Arts Curriculum

Kathleen Christy provided an update on the English Language Arts curriculum.

7. New business:

7.A. Approve consent agenda items as follows:

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

7.A.1. Approve the following School Board Meeting Minutes:

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

- Office receipts in the amount of \$1,707,642.06.
- Report of expenditures, including \$502,539.82 for bills and \$1,070,643.48 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Donations in the amount of \$19,901.74.
- Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,400,000.00
- Employee reimbursements.

7.A.3. Approve Resignations/Terminations

7.A.3.a. Jacob Pegel - Kitchen Staff

7.A.3.b. Rocco DiPaolo - High School Agriculture Teacher

7.A.3.c. Jane Riesberg - Wrap Around Child Care position

7.A.4. Approve Volunteer Coaches

7.A.4.a. Michael Reem - Football Volunteer

7.A.4.b. Stacy Westerlund - Football Volunteer

7.A.4.c. Ryan Broekel - Football Volunteer

7.A.4.d. Peter Yunker - Football Volunteer

7.A.5. Consider and approve Extra Curricular Assignments

7.A.5.a. Alan Hills - Football Head Coach

7.A.5.b. Sean Smith - Football Assistant Coach

7.A.5.c. Rob Williams - Football Assistant Coach

7.A.5.d. Jason Henke - Football Assistant Coach

7.A.5.e. Greg A. Hills - Football Assistant Coach

7.A.5.f. JD Green - Football Jr. High Coach

7.A.5.g. Rory Sanders - Football Jr. High Coach

7.A.6. Approve Hirings:

7.A.6.a. Mykael Krebs - HS SPED Teacher

7.A.6.b. Sara Warren - Spanish Teacher

7.A.6.c. Kristine Montgomery - 12 month Kids Club Supervisor

7.A.6.d. Jason Oestreich - Industrial Arts Teacher

7.A.6.e. Michaela Monson - Family & Consumer Science Teacher

7.A.7. Approve the 2025 Graduates:

7.A.8. Renew Minnesota State High School League Membership

7.A.9. Approve Lakes & Pines Contract for the 2025-2026 School Year

7.B. Discussion Items:

7.B.1. PreK - 6 Building Referendum and Wellness Center.

Question 1: Pre K-6 elementary school with a Transportation Center \$64,440,000

Question 2: Community Wellness center connected to the PreK-6 facility: \$6,000,000 -

Question 1 must be approved by local voters in order to proceed with question 2.

Motion to approve the questions as presented and move forward with a vote in November for a building referendum for an elementary school and potential wellness center. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Kassie Peterson, Passed.

7.B.2. Resolution authorizing the superintendent to submit all required information to the Commissioner of Education to request Review and Comment for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities for a November 25 election. The project would be financed through the issuance of School Building Bonds if approved by voters.

Motion to approve resolution authorizing the superintendent to submit all required information to the Commissioner of Education to request Review and Comment for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities for a November 2025 election. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

7.B.3. Discuss and approve the lease for a 2026 IC PB110 Lift Bus

Motion to approve the lease for a 2026 IC PB110 Lift Bus. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

7.B.4. Discuss Head Boys Basketball Coach Recommendation - Landon Janzen

Motion to vacate the current hiring process for the 2025-2026 Head Basketball Coach position. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Kassie Peterson, Passed.

Brian Leitinger: Absent, Jen Burgos: Yea, Roland Hill: Yea, Cindi Hills: Yea, Rev. Dawn Houser: Yea, Holly Mindrum: Yea, Kassie Peterson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to offer interim position for Boys Basketball Head Coach position for the 25-26 School year to Landon Janzen. The district will post for the permanent Boys Basketball Head Coach position in March 2026. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

Brian Leitinger: Absent, Roland Hill: Nay, Rev. Dawn Houser: Nay, Jen Burgos: Yea, Cindi Hills: Yea, Holly Mindrum: Yea, Kassie Peterson: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 2, Absent: 1

Roland Hill: Nay, Rev. Dawn Houser: Nay

## 8. Administrative reports:

### 8.A. Board Members Reports:

### 8.B. Committee Reports:

#### 8.B.1. Policy Committee Meeting, May 14, 2025 - 1st Reading

8.B.1.a. Policy 212 - School Board Development

8.B.1.b. Policy 213 - School Board Committee

8.B.1.c. Policy 214 - Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members

8.B.1.d. Policy 215 - Group Insurance Participation by School Board Members

8.B.1.e. Policy 301 - School District Administration

8.B.1.f. Policy 302 - Superintendent

8.B.1.g. Policy 303 - Superintendent Selection

#### 8.C. Principal's Report:

Mr. Dokken, Rippleside Elementary School

Ms. DeMars, Aitkin High School

*SP Goal 10*

8.D. Community Education -  
*SP Goal 10*

8.E. Superintendent's report:

8.E.1. Enrollment Update

8.E.2. Legislative Update

8.E.3. Graduation Plans

8.E.4. June board meeting date and location - 16th or 23rd - AHS or Mille Lacs Trail  
Snowmobile Club

Leave board meeting date at June 16th at Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Club.

8.E.5. Other:

8.F. Upcoming meetings:

May 21, 2025 - Finance & Facilities - AHS Media Center 3:45 - 4:45 pm

May 23, 2025 - Rippleside 6th grade graduation - 1:30 pm

May 28, 2025 - Personnel Committee - 3:45- 4:45 pm - AHS Media Center

May 30, 2025 - AHS Graduation - May 30th, 7:00 pm - Veterans Field

9. Other:

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser,  
Passed.

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Recorded by Heather Hipp

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Jen Burgos, Clerk

Dated: 06/16/2025