

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

Monday, July 14, 2025 5:30 pm

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Dube Carol McAlister
Robert Hartman Peggy Young
Cece Kroc Daniel Zielke
Don Leathers Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

**MEETING CALLED
TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Superintendent Page noted several staff and student recognitions, highlighted recent and upcoming events, and provided a facilities update.

**SCHOOL BOARD
REPORTS:**

McAlister shared how impressed she was with Ryan Stanley's summer welding training. Leathers thanked Ryan Mayers for the opportunity to be highlighted on this month's Packercast and shared highlights of the MN Service Cooperatives annual retreat in Duluth. Dube thanked all the summer school staff for their work and noted the Austin Public Education Foundation website is featuring teachers' Amazon wishlists.

MINUTES APPROVED: Kroc made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 6/9/25 and study session minutes of 6/24/25 as printed.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

**PERSONNEL REPORT
APPROVED:**

Kroc made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

New Hires:

Rebecca Bungum, teacher, effective 8/11/25; Amy Carlson, teacher, effective 8/11/25; Sandra Fadness, teacher, effective 8/11/25; Madison Fett, Summer School para, effective 6/12/25; Justice Guy, varsity cheer coach, effective 8/11/25; Danita Mathias, SPED para, effective 8/19/25; Shelley Weber, teacher, effective 8/11/25; Chantale Weke, Success Coach, effective 8/11/25; and Amber Witt, food service head cook, effective 8/19/25

Transfer/Contract Modifications:

Nick Berthiaume, elem ed teacher to ed tech specialist, effective 7/7/25 and Josh McRae, ed tech specialist to behavior intervention teacher, effective 8/14/25

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING****Request for Leave:**

Nick Berthiaume, grade 6 teacher, effective 2025-26 school year

Resignations/Retirements:

Chitsu Htway, ECFE asst, effective 5/30/25; Kellie Humphress, admin asst, effective 5/30/25; Mary Larson, food service helper, effective 5/28/26; and Preston Moe, HVAC engineer, effective 7/18/25

BILLS APPROVED:

A motion was made by Kroc, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 7/14/25.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Kroc, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the May 2025 treasurer's report.

(A COPY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

SRO CONTRACT APPROVED:

Kroc made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the School Resource Officers contract renewal with the City of Austin for 2025-26.

REPORTS AVAILABLE:

Individual cabinet reports were available for review.

MOWER COUNTY HEALTH ASSESSMENT REPORT:

Allison Scott from the Mower County Health and Human Services Department provided an overview of the findings of the recent Mower County Health Assessment Report.

PACKER PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS:

Packer Profile Coordinator Emily Hovland provided highlights of the Packer Profile program.

SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED:

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the resolution relating to determining the necessity of issuing general obligation bonds and calling a special election. The special election will be held November 4, 2025 and will have two questions. Question 1 requests authorization to issue school building bonds not to exceed \$54,700,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities. Question 2 requests authorization to issue building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000 to address needs of Ellis Middle School swimming pool. Question 2 is contingent upon the successful passage of Question 1.

(A COPY OF THE COMPLETE RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

LEASE PURCHASE

AGREEMENT APPROVED: McAlister made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the resolution to award the lease purchase agreement for the Paulson Tennis Court reconstruction to Old National Bank.

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(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**RATIFICATION OF SALE
OF GENERAL OBLIGATION
CAPITAL FACILITIES**

BONDS:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to ratify the sale of \$2,495,000 General Obligation Capital Facilities Bonds to TD Securities.

(A COPY OF THE COMPLETE RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**TRUTH IN TAXATION
HEARING DATE SET:**

Kroc made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve Monday, December 8, 2025, as the date to hold the annual Truth in Taxation hearing at 6 pm or later in the AHS Annex Recital Hall as part of our regular school board meeting.

DONATIONS APPROVED:

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**REVISED POLICIES
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve 14 policy revisions reflecting actions from the 2025 legislative session. The revised policies will be added to the district website. The revised policies include:

- Policy 414 – Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse
- Policy 418 – Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School
- Policy 501 – School Weapons Policy
- Policy 515 – Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records
- Policy 516 – Student Medication and Telehealth
- Policy 516.5 – Overdose Medication
- Policy 524 – Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy
- Policy 534 – School Meals Policy
- Policy 602 – Organization of School Calendar and School Day
- Policy 621 – Literacy and the Read Act
- Policy 707 – Transportation of Public School Students
- Policy 709 - Student Transportation Safety Policy
- Policy 802 – Disposition of obsolete Equipment and Material
- Policy 806 – Crisis Management

**BOARD RETREAT
UPDATE:**

The board will continue their discussion on goals at the July 28 meeting including superintendent goals which will be brought forward for approval at the August meeting.

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BOARD STUDY SESSION: Chairperson Dube reminded board members of the special meeting scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2025 at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

BOARD ENTERED**CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to enter closed session at 7:57 pm for the purpose of a negotiations update. 7 board members, Superintendent Page, HR Director Sue Stark, Exec Dir of Academics and Admin Services Katie Baskin, Exec Dir of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg, and board secretary Sharon Alms were present for the closed session.

BOARD ENTERED**OPEN SESSION:**

Kroc made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to enter open session at 8:53 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to adjourn at 8:53 pm.

Cece Kroc, Clerk