

**OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

**Monday, February 23, 2026 4:00 pm**

District Office Conference Room

401 Third Avenue NW, Austin, MN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carolyn Dube  
Robert Hartman  
Cece Kroc  
Don Leathers (4:11 pm)  
Carol McAlister  
Peggy Young  
Dan Zielke  
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.

**AGENDA APPROVED:** Chairperson Dube noted agenda item 5 – Goalbook Overview is being moved to March 9 meeting. A motion was made by Young, seconded by Hartman, and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

**NAPAC UPDATE:** Native American Parent Advisory Committee (NAPAC) members provided an overview of their annual concurrence process. NAPAC members have voted in favor of recognizing the school district as being in concurrence with their efforts to improve outcomes for Native American students. Work will continue to be done to continue communication and collaboration between multicultural parents and the district to ensure continued student growth.

**SECRETARIAL CONTRACT**

**APPROVED:** A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the 2025-27 collective bargaining agreement between AFSCME Local 2566 Austin Secretarial Unit and ISD 492. The two-year percentage increase is 11.48%.

**PROPOSED 2027-28**

**CALENDAR REVIEWED:** Dr. Katie Baskin provided an overview of the proposed 2027-28 district calendar. Discussion followed on the number of student contact days and professional development days. The calendar will be presented for approval at the March 9 meeting.

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**UPDATE:** Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg shared a financial review, an updated budget status report, and a facilities update. Current enrollment is 52 students below projections. Special education revenue is being prorated at 98% for FY26. Looking ahead, enrollment is projected to decline by 127 students next year, and compensatory aid is preliminarily projected to decrease by 27% compared to the current year. More information, including updated projections, will be provided at the March Study Session and the April Finance Committee meeting.

**FACILITIES PLANNING**

**AND UTILIZATION:** Sue Peterson of ISG Inc and Michael Hart from PTMA Financial Solutions joined Todd Lechtenberg to review budget considerations for addressing priority facility needs across the district and to outline the capital financing tools available to the Board. The Board also received a facilities utilization update during the discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Young, seconded by Kroc, and carried unanimously to adjourn at 6:11 pm.

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Daniel Zielke, Clerk