

Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools – ISD 2172  
School Board Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2025

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Craig called the meeting of the Kenyon-Wanamingo Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary media center followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Tonya Craig, James Jarvis, Marilyn Syverson, Debb Paquin, Erica Aronson, Madilynn Lurken, AJ Lindell (remote) and ex-officio member Superintendent Beth Giese.

II. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda. M/S/C Syverson/Paquin, 7-0.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Public Hearing on the proposed closing of Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School

Chair Craig stated we would proceed with the public hearing portion of the meeting. The purpose of this hearing is to address the School District's reasons for proposed closure of a public school building and to allow the public to provide testimony for and against the proposed school closing. The process of over which the chair is residing has been established by statute and for the purpose of providing notice to the public of the description and location of the school that the School District has proposed to close, as well as the rationale behind the proposed closure. The hearing also provides members of the public the opportunity to testify about the proposed closing. The hearing provides members of the School Board the opportunity to consider the testimony and evidence on this issue. Superintendent Giese reviewed the published notice of public hearing regarding the closing of the Wanamingo School Building and affidavit of publication and the resolution providing for a public hearing on closing a schoolhouse. Superintendent Giese also briefly reviewed the timeline history on this process.

V. Discussion on proposed closure options

Chair Craig asked for discussion on three options; leaving the building as is, reorganizing the Wanamingo site to house Preschool and Knights Kids or full closure of the Wanamingo building and moving to all programs to Kenyon site. All three options were discussed, and public testimony was received.

VI. Consideration and possible action related to proposed closing of the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School; selection of proposed closing options 1, 2 or 3.

Member Lindell suggested moving to the consideration stage. Member Jarvis motioned to repurpose the Wanamingo site and have it house the Preschool and Knights Kids. There was not a second. Motion failed. Member Lindell motioned to approve the option for full closure of the Wanamingo building. This motion was seconded by Erica Aronson. The resolution below was then introduced.

VII. Resolution to Close the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School

Member AJ Lindell introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE KENYON-WANAMINGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.51, subdivision 5, and after publication of due notice, the School Board held a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on January 27, 2025, on the proposed closing of the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School, located at 225 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Wanamingo, Minnesota 55983;

WHEREAS, the public hearing was conducted by the School Board;

WHEREAS, during the public hearing the Administration of the School District presented a proposal to close the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School because of declining enrollment and the resultant loss of revenue, budgetary reasons, and the practicability and efficiency of providing services currently offered in the schoolhouse in alternative locations;

WHEREAS, during the public hearing, the public was invited to provide testimony for and against the proposed closing of the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2172 as follows:

1. After consideration of all relevant facts and materials, including the testimony and materials presented at the public hearing, and the attached Findings and Conclusions, the School Board hereby determines that closing the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School is both necessary and practical.
2. The attached Findings and Conclusions of the School District's Administration are hereby adopted and incorporated as those of the School Board.
3. The Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School shall be closed, effective June 30, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practicable.
4. The Superintendent is directed to make all necessary arrangements to close and secure the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School and to transfer present programs, activities, work sites, records, salvageable equipment and materials to other locations as deemed appropriate.

Member Ericka Aronson seconded the foregoing Resolution and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Craig, Lindell, Jarvis, Paquin, Aronson, Lurken, and Syverson.

And the following voted against the same: None.

Whereupon said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Chair Craig called for a break at 6:57 p.m. Meeting resumed at 7:05 p.m.

#### VIII. Announcements/Recognitions

None

#### IX. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from December 9, 2024 and January 6, 2025. M/S/C Paquin/Syverson, 7-0.

X. Personnel Report

Motion to approve personnel report. M/S/C Craig/Paquin, 7-0.

Resignation/Retirement: Jameson Hoffman, Custodian-part-time, termination effective 1/2/2025

Leave of Absence: Sandra Bohaty, Elementary teacher, FMLA Leave request from March 24<sup>th</sup> – May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Change in Employment: Heaven McCarty, (correction to 12/9 Personnel Report) Preschool Para/Knights Kids: reduction in hours effective 1/1/2025: Preschool from 22.75/wk to 16.25/wk and Knights Kids remaining at 14/wk.

XI. Items for Discussion

A. Revised Policy 701 Establishment and Adoption of Budget – First Reading

XII. Items for Individual Action

A. KWEA Memo of Agreement for contract language

Motion to approve the KWEA Memo of Agreement for contract language. M/S/C Paquin/Lindell, 7-0.

B. Resolution Directing Administration to Recommend Reductions

Member Debb Paquin introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:  
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFOR

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district dictates that the school board must reduce expenditures immediately, and

WHEREAS, there has been a reduction in student enrollment, and,

WHEREAS, this reduction in expenditure and decrease in student enrollment must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2172, as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures and, as a result of a reduction in enrollment, make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Marilyn Syverson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Craig, Paquin, Syverson, Jarvis, Aronson, Lurken, and Lindell and the following voted against the same: None whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

- C. Language Access Plan  
Motion to approve the Language Access Plan. M/S/C Syverson/Aronson, 7-0.
- D. Pay Equity Report 2025  
Motion to approve the Pay Equity Report 2025. M/S/C Craig/Paquin, 7-0.
- E. Acceptance of Donations  
Member Paquin introduced and moved adoption of, Member Jarvis seconded, and the board approved upon roll call vote, 7-0, the resolution of donations accepted with gratitude as follows:

Amount/Value of Item	Donor
\$200 for Snack Cart	First Lutheran Church Women, Kenyon
Snacks for Elementary/\$150 Value	Corey and Jenny Douville

XIII. Administrative Reports

A. Administrative reports were given

B. Finance Report

Claims on Accounts and Electronic Transfer

Fund 01	\$351,816.15
Fund 02	\$53,184.34
Fund 04	\$3,955.24
Fund 06	\$0.00
Fund 18	\$0.00
Fund 50	<u>\$21,781.39</u>
Total	\$430,737.12
Electronic Fund Transfers	\$832,898.82
MSDLAF Transfers	\$850,000.00

B. Student Enrollment Summary

Monthly enrollment total: 642

XIV. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. M/S/C Aronson/Lurken, 7-0.

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Debb Paquin, School Board Clerk