

School District 197  
West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 18, 2026  
ISD 197 District Office, Mendota Heights, MN

A meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 197 was held on Monday, May 18, 2026 beginning at 5:00 p.m. pursuant to due notice.

The meeting was called to order by current Chair Larsen at 5:00 p.m. The following School Board members were present: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz. Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog was present. Student representative Rhys Walsh was present. Student representative Evangeline Fuentes was absent.

Also present for the meeting were: Cari Jo Drewitz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Sara Lein, Director of Special Programs; Sara Blair, Director of Communications; Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources; Brian Schultz, Director of Finance; Mark Fortman, Director of Operations; Lisa Grathen, Director of Community Education; Dave Sandum, Director of Technology.

### **Agenda**

*It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve the agenda as presented.*

*Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz  
Nay: none*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Consent Agenda**

*It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Vaupel to approve the consent agenda items as presented:*

- Approval of the May 6, 2026 School Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Personnel Recommendations
- Approval of April 2026 Wire Transfers Report

*Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz  
Nay: none*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Comments to the School Board**

There were no comments to the School Board.

### **Presentation of Leatherman Survey Results**

Peter Leatherman presented results of the 2026 Residential Survey conducted by The Morris Leatherman Company, which gathered feedback from 500 randomly selected District 197 households regarding district performance, communication, and future planning priorities. The presentation highlighted generally positive perceptions of the district and identified strong community support for the quality of education, student opportunities, and district leadership. Survey results also reflected ongoing community interest in financial stewardship, school safety, and maintaining programs and services for students. Administration noted that the feedback will help inform future district planning, communication efforts, and budget discussions.

### **Approval of FY26 Revised Budget**

Brian Schultz, Director of Finance, presented proposed revisions to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget for the General and Construction Funds during the School Board meeting on May 4. During that meeting, additional context was provided, and questions from the board were answered. No additional questions were asked during this meeting.

*It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Aune to approve the FY26 Revised Budget as presented.*

*Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz  
Nay: none*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Approval of Agreement between School District 197 and Non-Affiliated Employees**

Tye Michaels, Director of Human Resources, presented the 2025-2027 agreement covering approximately 45 Non-Affiliated employees across the district. The agreement includes salary schedule increases of 2 percent in the first year and 1 percent in the second year, along with updates to health insurance coverage, prescription rates, and retirement savings contributions. Additional changes include an increase to the TSA contribution and an increase in the performance incentive cap for employees with 10 or more years of district service. The administration noted that other minor language revisions were also included in the agreement.

*It was moved by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Schwab to approve the Agreement between School District 197 and Non-Affiliated Employees as presented.*

*Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz  
Nay: none*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Presentation of the 2025-2026 Student, Family, Staff, and SEL Survey Results**

Superintendent Olson-Skog presented an update summarizing results from the district's 2025-2026 student, family, staff, and social-emotional learning surveys. Survey results highlighted strong positive perceptions across the district, particularly in the areas of caring relationships, student support, belonging, and school climate, with families, students, and staff consistently identifying relationships as a defining strength of District 197. The presentation also identified areas for continued growth, including improving consistency in student support, increasing engagement and relevance in learning experiences, strengthening feedback practices for staff, and supporting staff in meeting individual student needs. Administrators noted that the survey results will help guide district and school improvement priorities moving forward, with an emphasis on ensuring all students consistently experience the strongest aspects of the district's programs and supports.

### **Approval of Superintendent End-of-Year Report on Goals/Implementation Target Attainment**

Superintendent Olson-Skog presented an end-of-year update on the 2025-2026 goals, which focused on implementation of the district's strategic framework priorities, long-term fiscal stability, and staff engagement. The report noted that 58 of 62 implementation objectives connected to social-emotional learning, equitable systems and support, and career exploration and preparation were completed or completed for the current phase of work, with a small number intentionally carried over due to scheduling, staffing capacity, or alignment with other district initiatives. The Superintendent also reported progress toward improving the district's financial position through cost-containment measures, budget planning, community engagement, and legislative advocacy, with projected growth in the district's fund balance from approximately 2 percent to 4 percent. In addition, the Superintendent completed 139 one-on-one staff interviews during the school year as part of a long-term staff engagement initiative intended to strengthen communication, trust, and organizational responsiveness across the district.

*It was moved by Mr. Schwab and seconded by Ms. Steele to approve the Superintendent End-of-Year Report on Goals/Implementation Target Attainment as presented.*

*Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz  
Nay: none*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Adjournment**

*It was moved by Mr. Schwab and seconded by Ms. Steele to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.*

*Aye: Tim Aune, Marcus Hill, Sarah Larsen, Byron Schwab, Morgan Steele, Jon Vaupel, Randi Walz  
Nay: none*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting of Independent School District 197 will be Monday, June 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the City of Mendota Heights Council Chambers, 1101 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights, MN. *Please refer to the district website for possible changes to any meeting times/locations.*

Upon approval by the School Board, official minutes will be available at the District Office, 1897 Delaware Avenue, Mendota Heights, and on the district website. The full meeting materials are available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the school district and on the district website.

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Sarah Larsen  
School Board Chair

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Jon Vaupel  
School Board Clerk