

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

Independent School District No. 492

Monday, January 12, 2026 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.

AGENDA APPROVED: A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as printed.

WALK-A-THON RECAP: PTC officers Lana Kenyon and Noelle Day provided an overview of the 2025 elementary walk-a-thon held earlier this fall. A total of \$52,483 was raised at this third annual fundraising event to be shared between the four elementary schools.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: State Representative Patricia Mueller and State Senator Gene Dornick provided an overview of the 2026 legislative platform and answered questions from the board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent Page noted several staff and student recognitions and highlighted recent and upcoming events.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS: Several board members shared information on events they attended the past month and Dube invited staff members to submit their Austin Public Education Foundation grant applications prior to the March 3 deadline. The Packer Golf Classic is scheduled for Monday, July 13, and all are invited to participate.

STUDENT REPORTS: Student Representatives Michael Garry and Lydia Masara shared their reports on happenings at Austin High School.

MINUTES APPROVED: Hartman made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 12/8/25 and organizational meeting minutes of 1/5/26 as printed.

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

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

Contracts for Approval – Wyatt Condon, MHBA, effective 1/7/26; Gree Ha, custodian, effective 12/18/25; Enrique Ortiz, social studies teacher, effective 1/7/26; Luke Reed, custodian, effective 12/17/25; Waneda Rowe,

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nurse, effective 12/10/25; Kelly Winkels, language arts teacher, effective 1/7/26; and Natalie Wilson, ECFE assistant, effective 12/17/25

Resignations/Retirements – Kris Fadness, physical education teacher, effective 5/28/26; Sandy Fadness, EL teacher, effective 5/28/26; Natalie Kastens, SPED para, effective 1/12/26; Hsawreh Lyahduku, Success Coach, effective 12/19/25; Candy Mills, food service helper, effective 12/18/25; and Melissa Votel, Kids Korner site lead, effective 1/9/26

Termination – Buai Duop, security para, effective 1/5/26

BILLS APPROVED:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 1/12/26.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

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

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

REPORTS:

Department/school updates from Superintendent Cabinet members and principals were available for review.

3 YEAR ACHIEVEMENT AND INTEGRATION PLAN APPROVED:

Leathers made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the three-year Achievement and Integration Plan as presented by Equity Coordinator Kristi Beckman.

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

COPIER PURCHASE CONTRACT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve a contract with Metro Sales, Inc, for the purchase of copiers, not to exceed \$250,000, and to assign any resulting cost savings to designated copier funds to support future replacement cycles.

DONATIONS:

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by McAlister 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.)

MEETING REMINDER:

Chairperson Dube reminded School Board members of the study session scheduled for Monday, January 26, at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

BOARD ENTERS CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to enter closed session at 7:35 pm for the purpose of a negotiations discussion. Seven board members, Superintendent Page, Executive Director of Academics and Administrative Services Katie Baskin, HR Director Sue Stark, Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd

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Lechtenberg, and school board secretary Sharon Alms were present for the closed session.

**BOARD ENTERS OPEN
SESSION:**

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Leathers and carried unanimously to enter open session at 8:09 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Daniel Zielke, Clerk