

Unadopted Minutes  
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION  
Albany Area Schools – ISD #745  
District Office Board Room  
March 25th, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hansen at 6:23pm.

2. Roll Call

Present: Dirkes, Sands, Rueter, Hansen, Sand, Ronning

Late:

Absent: Henkelman

3. ELC Principal/Staff Presentation

Laura Roelke, Becky Boyer and Mary Beth Drogmsa presented updates and big events at the Early Learning Center including information about the literacy and math resources used for instruction.

4. Europe Trip Presentation

Jason Thelen and Audrey Driggins presented the learning experience of the Europe trip. They enjoyed the different traditions of Christmas. Jason mentioned planning a Spanish and Europe trip with Kit Pennie in 2028 to Spain (April 8th-17th - Easter)

5. Student School Board Representative Report

Student School Board Representatives worked with Office Bigler to connect with 4th grade students. They focused on positive mental health and how students can re-frame negative thinking as well as how to collaborate and communicate with their peers. Student School Board Representatives found the experience to be very positive for them and for the younger students. This is something they would like to see continue and expand.

6. School Board Policies - First Read

6.1 Technical Updates

6.1.1 417 Chemical Use and Abuse

6.1.2 507 School Resource Officers

6.1.3 513 Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design

6.1.4 519 Interviews of Student by outside agencies

6.1.5 601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals

6.1.6 612.1 Development of Parent and Family Engagement policies for Title I programs

6.1.7 616 School District System of Accountability

6.1.8 621 Literacy and the Read Act

6.1.9 709 Student Transportation Safety Policy

6.2 Substantive Updates

6.2.1 306 Administrator code of Ethics

6.2.2 606 Textbooks and Instructional Materials

6.2.3 712 Video Surveillance other than on Buses

6.2.4 722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests

7. Superintendent Update

The superintendent updated the Board on the likelihood that 'summer school' also known as Crew would not be offered by the district going forward. Funding from the State has not increased in nearly 15 years which has made it difficult to hire staff and offer a robust program. Additionally, securing

consistent and regular attendance from enough students to run the program has been challenging recently. Those issues combined with the need for costs to come from general education funds have made the program unviable.

The Board and Finance Committee will begin receiving regular updates on some of our facilities needs. Without significant funding for larger projects, we have been managing needs with short-term solutions. We are finding that some needs are becoming more urgent. The administrative team is exploring creative solutions to help us more fully address these needs within our current budget.

The Board was also informed that due to volatility in the bond market, the anticipated \$300,000+ savings expected from refunding bonds has been reduced. At this time, we are not advising that the district refund those bonds until the markets improve and we can secure significant savings. We will monitor for now and will likely issue bonds for the ELC roof separate from refunding previous bonds.

The Avon Elementary staff, specifically the Code Purple Team and Melissa Abraham were praised for their response to the medical emergency experienced by one of our students last Friday. Staff responded calmly and effectively to provide the medical response needed. It was a reminder of how much our staff does to not only teach students, but to keep them safe and respond to all their needs.

#### 8. Adjournment

Agenda completed at 7:41pm.

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Amy Sand, Clerk