

School Board Meeting  
Monday, March 16, 2026 6:30 PM Central

Aitkin Public Schools - Media Center  
306 Second Street NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Jen Burgos: Present  
Roland Hill: Present  
Cindi Hills: Present  
Rev. Dawn Houser: Present  
Brian Leitinger: Present  
Holly Mindrum: Present  
Kassie Peterson: Present  
Present: 7.

1. Call meeting to order by the chairperson

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. \*Comments from visitors

4.A.

- Comments from visitors must be in relation to Aitkin Public Schools and/or to agenda items.
- We recommend that you sign up at the comment table if you wish to speak. You will be called up in order as listed on the sign-up sheet. When you come forward to comment, please be seated at the comment table facing the Board Members. State your name prior to your comment. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.
- The Board will not engage in any discussion or debate during this comment session. The Board will take the information and find answers as appropriate.
- As part of Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a public board meeting.

5. Approval of agenda - revise or remove as needed

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed.

6. Scheduled presentations: (Max. 10 Minutes)

6.A. Student Council Reports

*SP Goal 10*

Maelie Kazmerzak and Eliot Christensen presented current student council happenings.

6.B. ICS - Jeff Schiltz & Nathan Norton- referendum update and next steps

7. Old Business:

7.A. Approve the following policies:

Motion to approve the policies as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

7.A.1. Policy 306 - Administrator Code of Ethics

7.A.2. Policy 606 - Textbook and Instructional Materials

7.A.3. Policy 712 - Video Recording other than on Busses

7.A.4. Policy 722 Public Data and Data Subject Request

8. New business:

8.A. Approve consent agenda items as follows:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

8.A.1. Approve the following School Board Meeting Minutes: Feb 9, 2026, Feb 24, 2026, March 10, 2026

8.A.2. Approve financials for the month of February 2026:

- Office receipts in the amount of \$1,492,839.58.
- Report of expenditures, including \$569,630.79 for bills and \$1,029,935.77 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Donations in the amount of \$6,694.00.
- Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,400,000.00.
- Employee reimbursements.

8.A.3. Approve Resignations

8.A.3.a. Tia Doble - Para Professional Rippleside Elementary

8.A.3.b. Jennifer Giza - Boys Jr High Tennis Coach

8.A.3.c. Rosemarie Bestudio- High School Special Ed

8.A.3.d. Justice Brezinsky - Assistant Dance Coach

8.A.3.e. Andy Dokken - Rippleside Principal- Separation Agreement

8.A.4. Approve Hirings:

8.A.4.a. Abrielle A. Iniguez - Children's Center Para

8.A.4.b. Matthew Diana - Bus rider

8.A.4.c. Jackson Cline - RES fulltime Para

8.A.4.d. Paul Karelis - Interim Elementary Principal

8.A.5. Consider and approve extracurricular assignments

8.A.5.a. Ryan Fowlds- Softball Jr. High Coach- 26 Season

8.A.5.b. Mike Statz - Golf (girls) Assistant Coach - 26 Season

8.A.6. Approve Youth Service Grant

8.A.7. Approve March Lane Change

8.A.7.a. Adam Carlson - MA30 to MA 45

#### 8.B. Discussion Items:

8.B.1. Co-op Girls Tennis with Crosby Ironton School District  
Mr. Henrickson will move forward with the process to co-op girls tennis with Crosby Ironton School.

8.B.2. Discussion of Commissioner's Review and Comment for Proposed Referendum

- Summary of the proposed projects to be funded
- Summary of the Commissioner's Review and Comment
- The Commissioner's Review and Comment has been published
- Questions from Board or the public

Motion to approve the Commissioner's Review and Comment. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed.

8.B.3. Resolution appointing election judges for the April 14, 2026 Special Election  
Motion to approve the resolution appointing election judges for the April 14, 2026 special election. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

8.B.4. Committee Assignments

Motion to approve the committee assignments as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

8.B.5. 2026 iPad Refresh

Motion to approve the iPad purchase for the 2026 refresh. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Brian Leitinger, Passed.

#### 9. Administrative reports:

9.A. Board Members Reports:

9.B. Committee Reports:

9.B.1. Policy Committee Meeting, March 11, 2026 - 1st Reading

9.B.1.a. Policy 510.4 Scholastic Eligibility

9.B.1.b. Policy 625 NEW - Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

9.C. Principal's Report:  
Rippleside Elementary School  
Ms. DeMars, Aitkin High School  
*SP Goal 10*

9.D. Community Education - Nedra Henline  
*SP Goal 10*

9.E. Superintendent's report:

9.E.1. Enrollment Update

9.E.2. Superintendent Search progress

9.E.2.a. Lee Warne - 2nd round interview questions  
Ms. Hills and Ms. Houser will determine the 2nd round interview questions based on board member preferences.

9.E.2.b. Lee Warne- MSBA Superintendent Candidate interview selection  
Motion to invite candidates A, B, C, E, G, I, J to interview for the open superintendent position. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

9.E.3. Other:

9.F. Upcoming meetings:

School Board Special Meeting- March 24, 2026@ 4:00 PM 1st round of Interviews- AHS Media Center

School Board Special Meeting — March 25, 2026 @ 4:00 PM 1st round of Interviews- AHS Media Center

School Board Special Meeting - March 26, 2026 @5:00PM- 2nd round of interviews- AHS Media Center- Selection of lone finalist

School Board Meeting: April 20, 2026- 6:30 PM- AHS Media Center

Policy Meeting — May 13, 2026 @ 3:45 PM, District Office

10. Other:

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

---

Recorded by Heather Hipp

---

Kassie Peterson

Dated:4/20/2026