

Regular Meeting  
Monday, September 8, 2025 6:30 PM

Teaching & Learning Center, Becker High  
School  
12000 Hancock Street  
Becker, MN 55308

## **Agenda**

1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS
  - 1.A. Call to Order
  - 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - 1.C. Agenda
  - 1.D. Recognition of Visitors and Public Forum
2. REPORTS
  - 2.A. Student Report
  - 2.B. Superintendent's Report
  
  - 2.C. Committee Reports
3. SUMMARY OF CLOSED SESSION FROM AUGUST 12, 2025 SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
4. CONSENT AGENDA
  - 4.A. Minutes
  - 4.B. Financial Report
  - 4.C. Disbursements
  - 4.D. Personnel
  - 4.E. Truth-in-Taxation Hearing: December 1, 2025, 6:30 PM
  
  - 4.F. 2025-2026, 2026-2027 District Office Contract
5. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS
6. GENERAL FUND TRANSFER
7. RESOLUTIONS: MSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
8. PRELIMINARY LEVY 2025 PAYABLE 2026
9. ADJOURN

# School Board & Committee Meetings 2025

January

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6 School Board 6:30PM  
 13 Policy 6PM  
 21 TRAK 4PM (Virtual)  
 27 Activities 7AM  
 27 EE Advisory 6PM  
 29 Finance 7AM

July

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2 Finance 7AM  
 7 School Board 6:30PM  
 16 Policy 6PM  
 30 Finance 7AM

February

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3 Curriculum 5PM  
 3 School Board 6:30PM  
 5 Wellness 3PM Virtual  
 12 Meet & Confer 3:45PM  
 12 Policy 6PM  
 24 Activities 7AM  
 26 Finance 7AM

August

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4 School Board 6:30PM  
 13 Policy 6PM

March

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3 School Board 6:30PM  
 10 Policy 6PM  
 17 Activities 7AM  
 18 TRAK 4:00PM (Virtual)

September

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3 Finance 7AM  
 8 School Board 6:30PM  
 17 Policy 6PM

April

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2 Finance 7AM  
 7 School Board 6:30PM  
 16 Policy 6PM  
 22 Facilities 4:30PM  
 28 Activities 7AM  
 30 Finance 7AM

October

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1 Finance 7AM  
 6 Curriculum 5PM  
 6 School Board 6:30PM  
 15 Policy 6PM

May

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5 Curriculum 5PM  
 5 School Board 6:30PM  
 14 Meet & Confer 3:45PM  
 14 Policy 6PM  
 19 Activities 7AM  
 20 TRAK 4:00PM (Virtual)  
 28 Finance 7AM

November

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5 Finance 7AM  
 13 Curriculum 5PM  
 13 School Board 6:30PM  
 19 Policy 6PM  
 26 Finance 7AM

June

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2 School Board 6:30PM  
 11 Policy 6PM

December

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1 School Board 6:30PM  
 10 Policy 6PM



**BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**Aug-25**

**EXPENDITURES**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2025-26 Budget</b>	<b>Aug-25</b>	<b>2025-26 Year-to-Date</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>% Spent</b>
General	44,164,478	1,342,866	2,443,192	41,721,286	5.53%
Food Service	2,839,397	23,368	138,200	2,701,197	4.87%
Community Service	1,953,052	167,599	254,755	1,698,297	13.04%
Debt Service	3,820,088	-	223,544	3,596,544	5.85%
	<b>\$ 52,777,015</b>	<b>\$ 1,533,833</b>	<b>\$ 3,059,691</b>	<b>\$ 49,717,324</b>	<b>5.80%</b>

Name	Status	Job Title	Location	Effective
Anderson, Amelia	New	Special Education Paraprofessional	PS	9/5/25
Athman, Kelsey	New	Kindergarten Teacher	PS	8/25/25
Baker, Anne	New	School Readiness Teacher	EEC	8/25/25
Bertrand, Ashley	ReHire	Family Consumer Science	HS	8/25/25
Beyer, Hailey	End of Assignment	Camp Opportunity Aide	Camp Opportunity	8/25/25
Bontems, Olivia	Resignation	9th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	HS	7/31/25
Brake, Scott	Extracurricular Assignment	MS Girls Basketball Coach	MS	10/27/25
Closson, Danette	New	Special Education Paraprofessional	HS	9/8/25

Name	Status	Job Title	Location	Effective
Cossette, Robert	Extracurricular Assignment	MS Boys Soccer Coach	MS	8/25/25
Craft, Elizabeth	New	Special Education Paraprofessional/ Freeplay Supervisor	PS	9/4/25
Diemert, Madison	ReHire	Special Education Teacher (ABS)	HS	8/25/25
Frerich, Justin	Resignation	Spring Play Director	HS	7/28/25
Graning, Brayden	Resignation	Asst. Boys Golf Coach	HS	8/22/25
Griffin, Anthony	Extracurricular Assignment	7th Grade Volleyball Coach	MS	9/3/25
Haag, Kurt	Resignation	Math Teacher	HS	8/20/25
Hagen, Autumn	New	Special Education Paraprofessional	PS	9/17/25
Halvorson, Beth	Resignation	Special Education Paraprofessional	PS	8/14/25

Name	Status	Job Title	Location	Effective
Hurd, Joy	New	Special Education Paraprofessional	PS/IS	9/18/25
Kalla, Mitchell	New	Custodian	HS	9/8/25
Kjellberg, John	End of Assignment	Custodian	HS	9/8/25
Klein, Christina	New	Special Education Paraprofessional	MS	9/5/25
Klotz, Maci	Extracurricular Assignment	8th Grade Volleyball Coach	MS	9/3/25
Koenig, Vicki	Resignation	Lunchroom Supervisor	PS	8/1/25
Kothrade, Kelly	Resignation	Food Service Worker	MS	7/15/25
Kral, Jesse	Resignation	7th Grade Basketball Coach	MS	8/9/25
Kuklok, Ashlyne	Extracurricular Assignment	7th Grade Volleyball Coach	MS	9/3/25

Name	Status	Job Title	Location	Effective
Lillback, Kelly	New	Lunchroom Supervisor	PS	9/4/25
Marquardt, Melissa	Resignation	Paraprofessional	ECSE / SR	8/5/25
Martin, Kristin	Increase in Hours	Cashier	Food Service	9/2/25
Marx, Ashley	Resignation	Paraprofessional, Reading	PS	8/25/25
Mattson, Shelly	Resignation	Lead Cook	IS	8/7/25
Mavencamp, Kathryn	ReHire	Business Teacher	HS	8/25/25
Merry, Patricia	Change in Assignment	Pre-K Teacher	EEC	8/25/25
Nau-Jackson, Katrine	New	Parent Educator	EEC	8/25/25
Potter, Shane	New	Assistant Football Coach	HS	8/11/25

Name	Status	Job Title	Location	Effective
Procter, Jill	New	Food Service Worker	PS	9/2/2025
Prom, Dan	Building Change	Free Play Supervisor	IS (was PS)	9/2/2025
Roger, Kerline	Change in Assignment	Assistant Cook (was Food Service Worker)	MS	9/2/25
Salvevold, Kristin	New	8th Grade Volleyball Coach	MS	9/3/25
Scharber, Mariah	New	Food Service Worker	MS	9/5/25
Schroeder, Renelle	New	Reading Paraprofessional / Playground Supervisor	PS	9/4/25
Shaw, Caitlyn	New	Math Long Term Substitute	HS	8/25/25 - 11/26/25
Simon, Kris	ReHire	Reading Intervention/Business Teacher	HS	8/25/25
Stang, Sydney	Resignation	Asst. Cook	MS	8/13/25

Name	Status	Job Title	Location	Effective
Stevens, Alyssa	Building Change	DAPE Instructor	HS (.2) MS (.8)	8/25/25
Storms, Nathan	Extracurricular Assignment	7th Grade Football Coach	MS	8/25/25
Strong, Andrew	Extracurricular Assignment	7th Grade Football Coach	MS	8/25/25
Thiel, Betty	Resignation	Custodian	IS	8/22/25
Thompson, Travis	New	Custodian	IS	9/8/25
Ulwelling, Stephanie	Increase in Hours	Asst. Cook	HS	8/13/25
Veeder, Alexa	New	Head Girls Lacrosse Coach	HS	03/30/26
Vetsch, Roland	New	Lead Cook	IS	09/02/25
Vokaty, Travis	New	Technology Coordinator	District	08/18/25

Name	Status	Job Title	Location	Effective
Vogt, Tyler	Resignation	7th Grade Football Coach	MS	08/05/25
Wenz, Rachel	Resignation	Special Education Paraprofessional	IS	08/11/25
Westborn, Vanessa	New	Special Education Paraprofessional	IS	9/8/25
Weyer, Diane	Increase in Hours	Breakfast Worker	Food Service	9/2/25

**Total District Office Staff (5 FTEs)**

8/13/25

Final

	Salary	sal inc %	Total Benefits	Total District Cost	Cost Inc %	Cost Inc \$
2024-25	\$358,655		\$160,031	\$518,686		
2025-26	\$372,174	3.63%	\$169,368	\$541,542	4.41%	\$22,857
2026-27	\$384,446	3.19%	\$173,162	\$557,609	2.97%	\$16,067
		6.82%			7.37%	\$38,923
				Average	3.69%	

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education."; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full."; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Becker, ISD 726, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

Becker Lions Club	Tennis Team Support	\$1,000.00
Clear Lake Lions Club	Swim Team Support	\$1,000.00
Hemze, Tony	Clarinet & Alto Saxophone	
Peter R Marsh Foundation	Middle School	\$1,250.00

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye: Ryan Hubbard, Aaron Jurek, Connie Robinson, Corey Stanger, Pete Weismann

Nay: None

Absent: None

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted on September 8, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #1: Cybersecurity

**Full name of School District:** Becker Public Schools

**Full name of individual submitting for the school board:** Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

**Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board:** Superintendent

**Phone number:** 763-261-4502

**Email address:** [jschmidt@isd726.org](mailto:jschmidt@isd726.org)

**This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.**

**Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved**

**submission of this resolution:** September 9, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

MSBA urges the legislature to prioritize and enhance cybersecurity measures across Minnesota schools by allocating dedicated funding and resources. This would include implementing a strategic cybersecurity plan that encompasses vulnerability assessments, staff training, incident response protocols, and infrastructure improvements to protect against potential cyber threats. Furthermore, MSBA recommends that the legislature consider the development of a statewide cybersecurity task force or similar, with appropriate funding to pay for the implementation and development of cybersecurity task force support, dedicated to supporting and guiding school districts in their efforts to secure sensitive information and maintain safe and reliable educational environments.

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

Minnesota schools are increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks, which could compromise the safety and security of student and staff information, disrupt educational operations, and lead to significant financial losses. As cyber threats become more sophisticated, schools must proactively enhance their cybersecurity defenses to prevent potential breaches.

**EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:**

Cybersecurity incidents in schools can lead to unauthorized access to confidential information, operational disruptions, and potential financial fraud. The growing frequency and severity of cyberattacks on educational institutions necessitate a more robust and proactive approach to cybersecurity. By strengthening cybersecurity measures, Minnesota schools can deter potential attackers and minimize the risks associated with these threats.

**PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

Supporting documentation includes references to recent state bills proposed and passed in California (SB 265) and Iowa (HF 452, HF 632) that have introduced measures for enhancing cybersecurity in public sectors, including schools. These legislative efforts highlight the critical importance of cybersecurity preparedness in safeguarding public institutions and provide a framework for similar actions in Minnesota.

California SB 265 (2023-2024 Regular Session): This bill, introduced by Senator Hurtado, emphasizes the need for a strategic, multiyear outreach plan to assist critical infrastructure sectors, including public and private sector computer networks, in improving cybersecurity. It outlines the requirement for state agencies to coordinate with various sectors and explore funding options for cybersecurity initiatives.

Iowa HF 452 (2023): This bill authorizes the expenditure of funds from the "Secure an Advanced Vision for Education" (SAVE) fund for cybersecurity purposes in school districts. It defines "cybersecurity event" and clarifies that school infrastructure funds can be used to protect against unauthorized access to or misuse of information systems.

Iowa HF 632 (2023): A successor to HF 452, this bill further solidifies the use of SAVE funds for cybersecurity by explicitly including the acquisition, development, and improvement of school information systems to protect against cybersecurity events. The bill outlines the framework for school districts to strengthen their technological defenses using these allocated state funds.

**For MSBA Staff Use Only:**

**Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Category:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:** Choose an item.

**Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #2: Mental Health Funding

**Full name of School District:** Becker Public Schools

**Full name of individual submitting for the school board:** Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

**Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board:** Superintendent

**Phone number:** 763-261-4502

**Email address:** [jschmidt@isd726.org](mailto:jschmidt@isd726.org)

**This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.**

**Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution:** September 9, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

MSBA urges the legislature to allocate sustained and adequate funding to support comprehensive mental health programs in schools. This includes providing resources for mental health practitioners, ensuring uniformity in mental health support across all schools, and creating partnerships with community organizations. The state government must prioritize mental health support in schools, going beyond temporary grant programs, to ensure all students have access to the mental health resources they need.

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

In the Becker Public School District, we have faced tragedies related to mental health, which have highlighted the critical need for sustained mental health support in our schools. While we have implemented various support avenues, including partnerships with Lutheran Social Services and Greater MN Family Services, and have relied on community fundraisers like Dylan's Hope, the expiration of key grants, such as the Support Our Students grant, has left us struggling to maintain these essential services.

**EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:**

Mental health support in schools is vital for student well-being, but the current funding mechanisms are insufficient. Reliance on temporary grants and community fundraisers creates instability and inequity in access to mental health services. Without consistent state funding, schools cannot ensure that all students receive the mental health support they need, leading to gaps in care and the potential for more tragedies.

**PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

Supporting documentation includes a 2022 study from U.S. News & World Report, which underscores the value of mental health practitioners in schools. The study highlights the benefits of having mental health programs in educational settings, such as improved student outcomes, reduced behavioral issues, and enhanced overall well-being. Additionally, the following information outlines the specific mental health initiatives and challenges faced by Becker Public Schools:

*Mental Health Initiatives in Becker Public Schools:* In response to mental health challenges, Becker Public Schools have implemented partnerships with Lutheran Social Services and Greater MN Family Services to provide mental health support. The district also benefits from the annual Dylan’s Hope fundraiser, which raises approximately \$60,000 each year for mental health initiatives, including school-wide assemblies and positive promotions.

*Challenges Due to Expired Grants:* The expiration of the Support Our Students grant, which previously funded mental health social workers in the district, has left a significant gap in our ability to maintain these services. Without state support, the district is unable to sustain the necessary mental health programs, which are crucial for the well-being of our students.

*The Need for State Support:* Temporary grants and community fundraising are not sufficient to meet the ongoing mental health needs of students. There is a pressing need for the state to provide uniform, sustained funding to ensure that all schools can support their students' mental health effectively and consistently.

**For MSBA Staff Use Only:**

**Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Category:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:** Choose an item.

**Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #3: Food Service Expenditures

**Full name of School District:** Becker Public Schools

**Full name of individual submitting for the school board:** Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

**Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board:** Superintendent

**Phone number:** 763-261-4502

**Email address:** [jschmidt@isd726.org](mailto:jschmidt@isd726.org)

**This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.**

**Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution:** September 9, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

Allow for broader use of food service funds to incorporate all purchases that improve the functionality of cafeteria, food preparation, storage, and food service areas. This includes the allocation of funds from the food service fund for renovations and modernization of serving areas and lunchrooms to improve efficiency, safety, and the overall dining experience for students, with pre-approval from MDE.

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

Currently, there are federal restrictions that prohibit certain expenditures using the food service fund. With the addition of fully funded food service programming for all students due to additional state funding, there is a need to broaden the use of the food service fund to allow spending on any food service-related purchases. Current restrictions do not permit spending on certain new components such as opportunities to increase efficiency, comfort, flow of students, and more.

**EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:**

Food service funding is now fully funded. In order to provide a better experience and offer proper choices for students, it would be beneficial if any related food service costs were able to be purchased using funds generated from universal meals for all. The restrictions on spending limit the ability of schools to make necessary upgrades and improvements to their food service facilities, thereby hindering the efficiency and quality of the services provided to students. This is particularly a problem due to the increase in meals being served within districts across the state.

**PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

*Current Statute and Legislative Changes:* The recent legislative session included an addition to the statute that allows districts to recode costs related to lunchroom supervision, custodial services, utilities, and furniture to the food service fund if a surplus exists for three successive years. However, this is still limited and does not cover all necessary expenditures for renovations and modernization to improve efficiencies.

*Testimony:* Last year, Dr. Jeremy Schmidt testified before the Education Finance Committee, advocating for the expansion of permissible uses of the food service fund. He highlighted the challenges faced by Becker Public Schools, including a significant increase in student participation in school lunches, which has strained the existing facilities and resources. Dr. Schmidt emphasized the need for renovations and improvements to meet the growing demand and improve efficiency. The testimony was partially successful adding allowances to purchase tables with food service funds, but we can continue to improve our eating spaces for optimal performance using these funds.

*Student Participation Rates and Financial Data:* Becker Public Schools has experienced a substantial increase in student participation rates in both breakfast and lunch programs since the implementation of free meals for all. The district's data shows a 15-23% increase in lunch participation across different schools and a 26% increase in breakfast participation at the primary school level. This surge in participation underscores the need for expanded food service facilities and related expenditures.

**For MSBA Staff Use Only:**

**Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Category:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:** Choose an item.

**Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #4: End of Unemployment

**Full name of School District:** Becker Public Schools

**Full name of individual submitting for the school board:** Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

**Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board:** Superintendent

**Phone number:** 763-261-4502

**Email address:** [jschmidt@isd726.org](mailto:jschmidt@isd726.org)

**This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.**

**Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution:** September 9, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

End the provision of unemployment benefits for school employees during the period between academic terms. The current system, which allows non-instructional staff to collect unemployment during the summer months, should be reconsidered due to the lack of a permanent funding stream, the added administrative burden on school districts, and the negative impact on the availability of summer workers.

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

The provision of unemployment benefits to non-instructional school employees during the summer months was enacted during the 2023 legislative session, with limited funding provided to school districts to cover the costs. This funding is expected to end by the summer of 2025 or 2026, leaving districts without a clear way to sustain these payments. Additionally, this extra income is not considered compensation, and it discourages employees from seeking summer work, which exacerbates staffing challenges during the summer.

**EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:**

This policy creates several issues for school districts:

*No Permanent Funding Stream: The funding provided to support this unemployment provision is temporary and expected to run out soon. Without additional funding, school districts will struggle to cover these costs.*

*Negative Impact on Summer Staffing: The availability of unemployment benefits during the summer discourages non-instructional staff from seeking employment, leading to a shortage of workers during the summer months when schools often need help with summer school, planning and training, and other tasks.*

*Administrative Burden: The process of managing hundreds of unemployment applications, handling denials, and managing appeals adds a significant administrative burden on school districts, diverting resources from more critical educational needs.*

**PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

*Law Update from MN Unemployment Insurance: The law passed in 2023 amending the "Between Terms" language allows non-instructional staff to collect unemployment benefits during the summer. This provision is expected to increase the number of unemployment claims from school employees, as highlighted in the update provided by the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development.*

*Legislative Background: An appropriation of nearly \$140 million was requested for the 2024-25 biennium to reimburse schools for their contributions to the unemployment insurance fund. However, this funding is temporary, and the expectation is that it will end by 2025 or 2026, leaving schools without a sustainable way to manage these costs.*

*Testimony and Articles: Various stakeholders, including school district representatives and administrators, have testified and written about the potential impact of this policy on school operations. These testimonies and articles underscore the challenges posed by the unemployment benefits provision, including the difficulty in recruiting summer workers and the administrative burden on schools.*

**For MSBA Staff Use Only:**

**Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Category:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:** Choose an item.

**Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #5: ESST Carve Out for Districts

Full name of School District: Becker Public Schools

Full name of individual submitting for the school board: Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board: Superintendent

Phone number: 763-261-4502

Email address: [jschmidt@isd726.org](mailto:jschmidt@isd726.org)

This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.

Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved

submission of this resolution: September 9, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

Amend the Employee Safe and Sick Time (ESST) law to provide clarity and uniform guidance for school districts, particularly where current policies already exceed the minimum requirements set by the law. The law should recognize existing benefits provided by districts, reduce the administrative burden, and ensure that negotiations are not hindered by ambiguities in the law.

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

Many school districts, including Becker Public Schools, already offer benefits that exceed the ESST requirements. However, the implementation of the new law has led to increased paperwork, additional HR tasks, and complications during negotiations due to the lack of clear guidance. This has created unnecessary administrative burdens and confusion.

**EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:**

The lack of clarity and uniformity in the ESST law has caused significant issues for school districts. Districts that already provide greater benefits than those required by the law are now faced with additional administrative work without any tangible benefit to employees. The law has also led to complications in negotiations, making it difficult for districts to maintain smooth operations and effective HR practices. A clearer, more uniform approach is needed to ensure that the law supports rather than hinders school district operations.

**PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

- 2023 Minnesota Statutes (Section 181.9446): The law mandates the accrual of one hour of earned sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 48 hours per year, with a carryover of up to 80 hours. While well-intentioned, this provision has led to challenges for districts with existing policies that surpass these minimum requirements.
- Impact on Negotiations and HR Processes: The new law has introduced additional paperwork and HR tasks, complicating negotiations and leading to inconsistencies in how benefits are administered. This has caused operational inefficiencies and increased the workload for HR departments in school districts.
- Need for Uniform Guidance: The law's implementation has highlighted the need for clearer, more uniform guidance that acknowledges the existing benefits provided by districts and reduces the administrative burden associated with compliance. School districts require a more streamlined approach that allows them to focus on their primary mission of educating students, rather than navigating complex and redundant legal requirements.

**For MSBA Staff Use Only:**

**Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Category:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:** Choose an item.

**Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #6: LTFM

**Full name of School District:** Becker Public Schools

**Full name of individual submitting for the school board:** Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

**Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board:** Superintendent

**Phone number:** 763-261-4502

**Email address:** [jschmidt@isd726.org](mailto:jschmidt@isd726.org)

**This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.**

**Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution:** September 9, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

Eliminate the long term facilities maintenance (LTFM) cap for all “1B” districts to create a statewide equitable path for every district to repair and maintain buildings and facilities.

\*We are aware that this concern has been part of the MSBA legislative platform. We are submitting this resolution again for emphasis, because we believe that this should be a priority area for the 2025 Legislative Platform.

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

MDE does not collect data on the condition of school district facilities. MDE can only report on how much state aid and district property tax is being utilized by districts. The condition of public school buildings across the state varies tremendously, with some buildings less than a year old, and some nearly 100 years old. It is essential for all of Minnesota’s public school districts to formulate a short and long term plan to properly maintain their buildings and facilities, regardless of building age. However, statutes and regulations governing how much money can be allocated by a district to repair and maintain their buildings are not equitable, and most severely disadvantage the state’s smaller “1B” public schools outside of the metro areas. Because of the LTFM cap applied to our district, we are unable to properly and adequately formulate a short or long term funding plan to repair all of the existing leaks.

**EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:**

Each year schools are able to plan to fix only a portion of the roof leaks and roof problems across our buildings. Some of the leaks are severe enough that buckets have to be placed in student areas each time it rains. This is deeply unacceptable, unhealthy, and unsafe. It is unacceptable in a large urban “1A” district, and it should be equally unacceptable in smaller suburban and rural “1B” districts. Most homeowners would not maintain their own properties in this piecemeal fashion. School Boards and Districts are needlessly handcuffed by the LTFM cap applied to smaller “1B” districts, while 25 larger “1A” districts (nearly all in the metro area) qualify for Alternative Facilities authority. Under this authority, their locally elected school boards can issue bonds to address facility maintenance issues. Being able to manage the process of maintaining and repairing facilities should be an equitable process for each public school district across the state, that is not tied to square footage or enrollment.

A 2014 MDE School Facilities Finance report noted the largest 25 school districts encompassing almost 50% of the state’s total public student body spent an average of \$2.79 per square foot on deferred maintenance while the other 300+ districts covering the other half of the student body spent an average of \$0.58 per square foot on deferred maintenance.

Smaller and rural districts are capped at \$380 per pupil, while the Alternative Facilities districts do not have a cap. Alternative Facilities districts have the ability to keep raising their levies because their 10-year plans drive their expenses, and their boards are able to adopt the revenue plan to pay for it. The Alternative Facility districts again are pulling away from the rest of the state in their ability to raise money towards maintenance of their buildings. If nothing changes by 2025, Alternative Facility districts will have more than double the amount of money to spend per pupil compared to the rest of the districts in the state.

**PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

<https://www.mreavoice.org/ltfmr-is-becoming-lopsided-again/> (Retrieved 17 July 2024)

[https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/123B.595#:~:text=\(a\)%20Long%2Dterm%20of%20facilities,quality%2C%20fire%20alarm%20and%20suppression](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/123B.595#:~:text=(a)%20Long%2Dterm%20of%20facilities,quality%2C%20fire%20alarm%20and%20suppression)

[https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?ldcService=GET\\_FILE&dDocName=022061&RevisionSelectionMethod=latest&Rendition=primary](https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?ldcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=022061&RevisionSelectionMethod=latest&Rendition=primary)

[https://www.mnasa.org/uploads/4/7/7/9/47793163/minnesota\\_schools\\_long-term\\_facilities\\_maintenance\\_1pgr.pdf](https://www.mnasa.org/uploads/4/7/7/9/47793163/minnesota_schools_long-term_facilities_maintenance_1pgr.pdf)

[https://www.mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/initial13/education/37\\_E+-+Budget+Books+Education\\_HTML+Docs\\_E374A30+Alternative+Facilities+Aid.htm#:~:text=This%20program%20allows%20large%20school,scale%20health%20and%20safety%20projects.](https://www.mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/initial13/education/37_E+-+Budget+Books+Education_HTML+Docs_E374A30+Alternative+Facilities+Aid.htm#:~:text=This%20program%20allows%20large%20school,scale%20health%20and%20safety%20projects.)

[MDE's School Facility Financing Working Group Report](#)

**For MSBA Staff Use Only:**

**Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Category:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:** Choose an item.

**Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GENERAL FUND  
GROSS LEVY COMPARISON**

	<b>ACTUAL 2024 PAY 2025</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2025 PAY 2026</b>	<b>DOLLAR DIFFERENCE</b>
1 <b>Operating Referendum Levies</b>	\$ 3,256,869	\$ 3,422,462	\$ 165,593
2 <b>Operating Capital Levy</b>	354,544	348,754	(5,790)
3 <b>Equity and Local Optional Levies</b>	2,566,536	2,565,235	(1,301)
4 <b>Reemployment Levy</b>	25,003	(519)	(25,522)
5 <b>Safe Schools Levy</b>	108,214	110,222	2,008
6 <b>Career &amp; Technical Levy</b>	39,913	78,967	39,054
7 <b>Integration Levy</b>	84,973	87,643	2,670
8 <b>Long Term Facilities Maintenance</b>	774,836	745,136	(29,700)
9 <b>Building Lease Levy</b>	381,940	339,820	(42,120)
10 <b>Capital Projects Referendum Levy</b>	634,029	617,780	(16,249)
11 <b>Annual OPEB Levy</b>	250,872	248,267	(2,605)
12 <b>General Fund Adjustments</b>	8,360	332	(8,028)
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED LEVY</b>	<b>\$ 8,486,089</b>	<b>\$ 8,564,099</b>	<b>\$ 78,010</b>

**BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
GROSS LEVY COMPARISON**

	<b>ACTUAL 2024 PAY 2025</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2025 PAY 2026</b>	<b>DOLLAR DIFFERENCE</b>
<b>Basic Community Ed. Levy</b>	\$ 111,613	\$ 111,613	\$ -
<b>Early Childhood Levy</b>	73,971	56,146	(17,825)
<b>Adults with Disabilities Levy</b>	1,965	1,793	(172)
<b>School Age Care Levy</b>	54,218	51,005	(3,213)
<b>Home Visit Levy</b>	2,727	2,611	(116)
<b>Abatements</b>	247	(61)	(308)
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED LEVY</b>	\$ 244,741	\$ 223,107	\$ (21,634)

**BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DEBT SERVICE  
GROSS LEVY COMPARISON**

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	<b>ACTUAL 2024 PAY 2025</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2025 PAY 2026</b>	<b>DOLLAR DIFFERENCE</b>
<b>Required Debt Service Levy</b>	\$ 3,946,502	\$ 3,931,088	\$ (15,414)
<b>Abatement Adjustments</b>	4,339	439	(3,900)
<b>Reduction For Debt Excess</b>	<u>(230,090)</u>	<u>(270,754)</u>	<u>(40,664)</u>
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED LEVY</b>	\$ 3,720,751	\$ 3,660,773	\$ (59,978)

**BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ALL FUNDS  
GROSS LEVY COMPARISON**

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	<b>ACTUAL 2024 PAY 2025</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2025 PAY 2026</b>	<b>DOLLAR DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 8,486,089	\$ 8,564,099	\$ 78,010	0.92%
<b>Community Education Fund</b>	244,741	223,107	(21,634)	-8.84%
<b>Debt Service Fund</b>	<u>3,720,751</u>	<u>3,660,773</u>	<u>(59,978)</u>	-1.61%
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED LEVY</b>	\$ 12,451,581	\$ 12,447,979	\$ (3,602)	-0.03%