

Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, January 5, 2026 6:30 PM

LS-H MS/HS Media Center, 901 Ferry St., Le Sueur, MN 56058

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

4. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. OPEN FORUM

7. LE SUEUR-HENDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNIZES

7.1. Donations & Grants Received

8. REPORTS

8.1. Committee Reports

8.1.1. Finance **Presenter:** Director Matt Hathaway

8.1.2. Negotiations **Presenter:** Director Brigid Tuck

8.1.3. SW Metro **Presenter:** Director Christa Luna

8.1.4. Human Resource **Presenter:** Director Kelsey Schwartz

8.1.5. Policy **Presenter:** Director Gretchen Rehm

8.1.6. Community Ed Council **Presenter:** Director Kelsey Schwartz

8.2. Student Report

8.3. Superintendent Report

8.3.1. Community Ed. Update

8.3.2. M/HS Update

8.3.3. Elementary Update

9. CONSENT AGENDA

9.1. Approval of District Office Consent Items

9.1.1. Minutes of Special Board Meeting held on 12.15.25

9.2. Approval of Personnel Consent Items

9.2.1. Hirings

9.2.1.1. MS Science Teacher - Addie Miller

9.2.1.2. Asst. Golf Coach - Ian Krenik

9.2.1.3. Assistant Facility Director-Jeremy Bahr

9.2.2. Resignations

9.2.3. Requests

9.2.4. Retirements

10. **PURCHASES ABOVE \$5,000**

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

11.1. Approve final of three readings to update
policy 204.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

13. **BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS / IDEAS EXCHANGE**

14. **NEXT MEETING INFORMATION**

14.1. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

15. **ADJOURN**

Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools

Strategic Plan | 2024-2028

BELIEF STATEMENTS

The Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools believe:

- That collaboration between the home, the school, and the community has a positive impact on student success;
- That everyone deserves a safe and respectful school environment;
- That all students deserve the opportunity to learn and succeed;
- That diversity enriches the individual, school, and community;
- That educational excellence requires effective leadership, high expectations, teamwork, up-to-date facilities, and the responsible utilization of resources;
- In educating the whole child — academically, socially, physically, and emotionally;
- In continuous improvement and a growth mindset; and
- In an individualized, rigorous, and relevant academic experience.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools is to:

- Provide a shared commitment to learning that enables every student to contribute and succeed in life.

VISION STATEMENT

- Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools — where individual dreams and aspirations are born and fostered through student-centered learning.

BRANDING STATEMENT

- Small Towns ... Giant Opportunities ... District of Choice.



FOCUS AREA	GOALS	OBJECTIVES
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT	<p>1. Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools will achieve the goals of the World's Best Workforce for all students in the school district.</p> <p>2. LeSueur-Henderson Public Schools will deliver high-quality education to all students in the district.</p> <p>3. Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools will develop and implement a plan to embed 21st century skills into the district's curriculum.</p>	<p>1.1 Annually evaluate the success in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kindergarten readiness ▪ Reading at grade level by third grade ▪ Closing the achievement gap ▪ Graduating students who are college and career ready ▪ Ensuring on-time graduation <p>2.1 By fall 2027, develop and implement a guaranteed and viable preK-12 curriculum.</p> <p>2.2 Use the PLC process to identify essential student knowledge and skills.</p> <p>2.3 By Fall 2027, evaluate, and by Fall 2028, recommend a general education intervention model for academic, social, and emotional needs.</p> <p>2.4 By Fall 2027, outperform regional and comparable districts on state tests and college-readiness measures.</p> <p>3.1 By Fall 2029, implement teaching practices that prepare students for college, career, and life.</p> <p>3.2 Implement AVID strategies at the middle and high school levels.</p> <p>3.3 Meet state-mandated graduation requirements.</p>
STUDENT SUPPORT	<p>4. LeSueur-Henderson Public Schools will provide the resources, systematic support, programs, and personnel that give all students equal opportunity for success.</p>	<p>4.1 Continuously evaluate and implement systems to identify student needs and provide appropriate interventions.</p> <p>4.2 Monitor and increase extracurricular participation.</p> <p>4.3 Support students during key transition points, including postsecondary options.</p> <p>4.4 By Fall 2029, provide varied academic pathways for personalized learning plans.</p> <p>4.5 Use tools to identify student career strengths.</p> <p>4.6 Offer electives exploring 21st-century career opportunities and align course registration guides to career pathways.</p>
WORKFORCE	<p>5. LeSueur-Henderson Public Schools will identify, recruit, develop, and retain quality employees for all positions in the school district.</p> <p>6. Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools will, in partnership with stakeholders and local government, advocate for quality-affordable housing, daycare, education, and employment opportunities for significant others.</p>	<p>5.1 Ensure competitive salary schedules and review them by the end of the strategic plan.</p> <p>5.2 By Fall 2025, establish a mentorship program for first and second-year teachers.</p> <p>5.3 Annually support staff development aligned with the district's mission.</p> <p>5.4 By Fall 2024, develop a marketing plan to increase the number of available paraprofessionals and teacher substitutes.</p> <p>5.5 Between 2024-2028, create and implement a survey to measure employee engagement.</p> <p>6.1 Schedule regular joint meetings with the school board and city councils.</p> <p>6.2 Increase partnerships with local businesses and industries.</p> <p>6.3 Develop more childcare facilities to address community needs.</p>

FOCUS AREA	GOALS	OBJECTIVES
COMMUNICATION: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND MARKETING	<p>7. Using multiple platforms, the Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools will effectively share the story of our programs and students with all members of our communities.</p> <p>8. Increase Enrollment through Marketing and Communications.</p>	<p>7.1 Develop and implement a marketing/branding plan to highlight the district's educational programs, achievements, and financial status.</p> <p>7.2 Create annual community-building events for alumni, families, and the broader community.</p> <p>7.3 Maintain a marketing committee to enhance district communication through platforms like TikTok and Instagram, and engage a marketing firm.</p> <p>7.4 Establish and implement consistent intradistrict communication protocols.</p> <p>7.5 Develop a marketing and branding plan with an updated brochure and explore hiring a communication specialist.</p>
FACILITIES	<p>9. Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools will ensure that the district's facilities and grounds are designed and maintained to attract and retain students and staff in a safe, sustainable, and attractive environment.</p> <p>10. Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools will develop and implement a long-range facilities and infrastructure master plan in conjunction with Finance Committee to address the current and long-term educational needs of the district.</p>	<p>9.1 By Fall 2024, establish an interior monitored entry point at the MS/HS.</p> <p>9.2 Consult with the Director of Technology quarterly to address future technology needs.</p> <p>9.3 By Fall 2024, update and annually review the district's crisis plan</p> <p>10.1 Annually discuss curricular goals and potential capital investments.</p> <p>10.2 Develop a maintenance plan using the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) budget.</p> <p>10.3 Create a plan for newly purchased property.</p> <p>10.4 Develop a comprehensive facilities plan with short-term and long-term goals.</p>
FINANCE	<p>11. Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools will grow and preserve the district's financial standing while maintaining programs, services, and facilities efficiently.</p>	<p>11.1 Generate and monitor 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year plans considering enrollment, funding, and expenditures.</p> <p>11.2 Over the next five years, explore a potential bond referendum operating levy.</p> <p>11.3 Provide monthly financial updates to the board.</p> <p>11.4 Establish a long-term facilities maintenance (LTFM) budget.</p> <p>11.5 Maintain a \$1 million fund balance.</p>



**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GRANTS AND DONATIONS
TO THE LE SUEUR-HENDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Le Sueur-Henderson School District Board encourages the support of the districts educational programs through the funding and support of grant opportunities and donations that meet the goals and objectives of the school district;

WHEREAS, the school district will control and maintain all grants and donations to ensure that the interests of all students are met;

WHEREAS, the grants and donations listed below have been reviewed and approved by the administration of the Le Sueur-Henderson School District;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2397, to accept the following grants and donations for the purposes intended:

- LSH Youth Tennis - \$1000 for Tennis Shed
- United Fund of Le Sueur - \$500 for Unified Bowling
- Le Sueur Lions Club - \$500 for Unified Bowling
- Le Sueur Lions Club - \$500 for Open Gym (Community Ed)
- MVEC - \$600 for Chromebooks for ABE classes (Community Ed)
- Arthur & David Cosgrove Memorial Fund
 - \$15,381.67 for Window Coverings
 - \$2000 for School Supply Scholarships
 - \$3000 for Healthcare Course

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signed:

School Board Chair, Brigid Tuck

Attest:

School Board Clerk, Kelsey Schwartz

Community Education Update

Le Sueur-Henderson School Board Meeting

December 29, 2025

Early Childhood

- **Breakfast with Santa:** Attendance increased from 50 last year to 122 this year. The LSH Elementary cafeteria worked well for breakfast, games, art projects, and cookie decorating, and the positive experience last year helped drive this year's turnout.

Kids Club (School Age Care)

- **Winter break programming (Dec. 29-30):** Kids Club operated December 29-30. A blizzard required a two-hour delayed opening on Monday, December 29; all but two children were able to attend. Students enjoyed the gym, sledding, and making pancakes.
- **Staff appreciation:** Thank you to the Kids Club team for stepping up while coordinator Cheri Youngren was out over break.

General Community Education

- **Holiday closure:** The Community Education office was closed December 24-January 2 so staff could enjoy time with their families.
- **Open Gym:** Open Gym begins Saturdays starting January 10 and will be free thanks to donations from the Le Sueur Lions and the Henderson Lions. Hilltop: 9:00-11:00 a.m.; LSH Elementary: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- **Winter/Spring Catalog:** The catalog has been mailed to every Le Sueur and Henderson mailbox. Highlights include the Daddy-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Bowling, Senior Dinner, card making, Valentine cookie decorating, ramen bowl creations, roll-your-own sushi, and more.

Adult Education (ABE / GED)

- **GED Bootcamps:** On December 19 we held a GED Bootcamp with targeted instruction followed immediately by testing. All three students passed. Bootcamp eligibility requires a 141+ practice score; GED passing requires 145+.
- **Operation Round-Up:** Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative awarded a \$600 grant toward new Chromebooks. Our current devices (purchased in 2020) support distance-learning platforms and are beginning to show their age; we are grateful for this support.



Le Sueur-Henderson Middle/High School

Independent School District 2397

School Board Report

January 5, 2026

State Testing Preparation

- Preparation continues for MCA and ACCESS testing, including reviewing testing procedures, ensuring accommodations are in place, and aligning instruction to priority standards.
- Winter FastBridge benchmark assessments are scheduled throughout January. Staff will be reviewing data to monitor student growth, identify needs, and adjust instruction and interventions as needed.

2026 Fall Preparation

- The process of building the fall master schedule has begun which includes reviewing enrollment trends, graduation requirements, staffing, and determining course offerings for the 2026–27 school year.
- Fall registration is scheduled for February. As we prepare course descriptions are being updated and scheduling processes are being refined.



Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools

Independent School District 2397

LS-H Elementary

100 Kingsway Drive

Le Sueur, MN 56058

Phone: (507) 665-4700 □ www.isd2397.org

December School Board Update – Elementary

As we close out the calendar year, I want to share that our staff continue to work incredibly hard on behalf of our students. Teachers are taking instructional risks, trying new strategies, and consistently using data to inform their decisions. We are encouraged by the early results we are seeing and are genuinely eager for winter FastBridge testing to determine whether these efforts are translating into strong student growth.

Following winter FastBridge assessments, we will begin our second round of 1:1 data discussions between teachers and myself. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to reflect on what is working well in individual classrooms and to identify any instructional adjustments that may be needed—another clear example of our commitment to allowing data to drive instructional practices.

This is a brief update, but I want to share that I am excited about the work we are doing and look forward to what 2026 will bring. I continue to feel very fortunate to serve our students, families, and staff in this role. I hope you all had a happy holiday season and wish you a wonderful new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Kern

Principal, LSH Elementary School

BOARD OF EDUCATION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2397
LE SUEUR-HENDERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MS/HS MEDIA CENTER
DECEMBER 15, 2025

Item 1.0 **Call to Order:** The special meeting of the Le Sueur-Henderson Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 PM. Board members in attendance were Christa Luna, Jenny Burns, Brigid Tuck, Matt Hathaway, Gretchen Rehm, Brooke Wenzlaff.

Members Absent: Kelsey Schwartz

Also in attendance: Superintendent Jim Wagner; Administrative Assistant, Rachel Scheffler, Henderson Independent, Beth Cornish.

Item 2.0 **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Item 3.0 **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Rehm, second by Wenzlaff, carried 6-0 , to approve the meeting agenda.

Item 4.0 **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Wenzlaff, second by Burns , carried, 6-0 to approve the following consent items:

Item 4. 1 District Office Consent Items:

Item 4.1.1 Minutes of 12.1.25 School Board Meeting

Item 4.2 Personnel Consent Items:

Item 4.2.1 Hirings:

Item 4.2.1.1 Paraprofessionals - Kim Bach & Dulce Garcia Trejo

Item 4.2.1.2 Elementary Sub - Addison Reichenberg

Item 4.2.1.3 Head FB Coach - Colin Everson

Item 5.0 **New Business**

Item 5.1 Motion by Tuck, second by Rehm, carried 6-0, to approve hiring Asst. Facilities Director.

Item 5.2 Motion by Rehm, second by Burns, carried 5-0, Luna opposed, to approve the 26-27 District Calendar.

Item 6.0 **Adjourn:** Motion by Hathaway, second by Tuck, carried 6-0, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Board Clerk

Board Chair

Approved on: January 5, 2026



Employment Recommendation Le Sueur - Henderson School District

Position: Assistant High School Boys & Girls Golf Coach

Recommended Candidate: Ian Krenik
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Recommended by: Paul Theorin	Start Date: 3/17/26

To be completed by an administrator:

Candidate has current & appropriate certification:

Reference checks completed:

Years of experience granted:

Step Placement:

Highest degree currently held:

Lane Placement:

Credits beyond highest degree granted:

Hourly/ Salary Rate

NA
NA
NA
NA
NA
NA
NA
\$

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Position
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Existing Position	Replacing:
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Additional Information:

Approval of Admin: Paul Theorin

Electronic Signature

Date

Approval:

Share with District Office (Jim, Rachel, Ky, Rod), Todd & Bruce via Google Drive



Employment Recommendation

Le Sueur - Henderson School District

Position: Assistant Facility director

Recommended Candidate: Jeremy Bahr

Recommended by: Todd Vrklan **Date:** 12/30/2025

To be completed by administrator:

Candidate has current & appropriate certification (if applicable):

N/A

Reference checks completed:

Yes

Years of experience (Step Placement):

7

NEW

EXISTING

REPLACING:

Additional Information:

Moving into this position. Starting January 1st 2026. Salary 60,000

Approval of administrator: Todd Vrklan

12/30/2025

Electronic Signature

Date

Approval of Superintendent:

Electronic Signature

Date

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 204

Orig. 1995

Revised: _____

Rev. 2024

204 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

[NOTE: The provisions of this policy are required by statute.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures relating to the maintenance of records of the school board and the publication of its official proceedings.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school district to maintain its records so that they will be available for inspection by members of the general public and to provide for the publication of its official proceedings in compliance with law.

III. MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND RECORDS

A. The clerk shall keep and maintain permanent records of the school board, including records of the minutes of school board meetings and other required records of the school board. All votes taken at meetings required to be open to the public pursuant to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law must be recorded in a journal or minutes kept for that purpose. Public records maintained by the school district must be available for inspection by members of the public during the regular business hours of the school district. Minutes of meetings shall be available for inspection at the administrative offices of the school district after they have been prepared. Minutes of a school board meeting shall be approved or modified by the school board at a subsequent meeting, which action shall be reflected in the official proceedings of that subsequent meeting.

B. Recordings of Closed Meetings

1. All closed meetings, except those closed as permitted by the attorney-client privilege, must be electronically recorded at the school district's expense. Recordings of closed meetings shall be made separately from the recordings of an open meeting to the extent such meetings are recorded. If a meeting is closed to discuss more than one (1) matter, each matter shall be separately recorded.
2. Recordings of closed meetings shall be preserved by the school district for the following time periods:
 - a. Meetings closed to discuss labor negotiations strategy shall be preserved for two (2) years after the contract is signed.
 - b. Meetings closed to discuss security matters shall be preserved for at least four (4) years.
 - c. Meetings closed to discuss the purchase or sale of property shall be preserved for at least eight (8) years after the date of the meeting.
 - d. All other closed meetings shall be preserved by the school district for at least three (3) years after the date of the meeting.

- e. Following the expiration of the above time periods, recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained as set forth in the school district's Records Retention Schedule.
3. Recordings of closed meetings shall be classified by the school district as protected non-public data that is not accessible by the public or any subject of the data, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Recordings of labor negotiations strategy meetings shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all labor contracts are signed by the school district for the current budget period.
 - b. Recordings of meetings related to the purchase or sale of property shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all real or personal property discussed at the meeting has been purchased or sold or the school district has abandoned the purchase or sale.
 - c. Recordings of any other closed meetings shall be classified and/or released as required by court order.
4. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained separately from recordings of open meetings, to the extent recordings of open meetings are maintained by the school district, with the exception of recordings that have been classified as public data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above. Recordings of closed meetings classified as non-public data also shall be maintained in a secure location, separate from recordings classified as public data.
5. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained in a manner to easily identify the data classification of the recording. The recordings shall be identified with at least the following information:
 - a. The date of the closed meeting;
 - b. The basis upon which the meeting was closed (i.e.: labor negotiations strategy, purchase or sale of real property, educational data, etc.); and
 - c. The classification of the data.
6. Recordings of closed meetings related to labor negotiations strategy and the purchase or sale of property shall be maintained and monitored in a manner that reclassifies the recording as public upon the occurrence of an event reclassifying that data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above.

IV. PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

- A. The school board shall cause its official proceedings to be published once in the official newspaper of the school district within thirty (30) days of the meeting at which the proceedings occurred; however, if the school board conducts regular meetings not more than once every thirty (30) days, the school board need not publish the minutes until ten (10) days after they have been approved by the school board.

[NOTE: In 2024, the Minnesota legislature enacted two laws regarding publication of school board minutes. Under Chapter 109 (2024), five school districts are authorized to publish their minutes on their websites; this section expires on August 1, 2026.

Under Chapter 115 (2024), the Minnesota legislature enacted the following:

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, when a qualified newspaper designated by a school district ceases to exist for any reason except consolidation with another newspaper, the school district may publish its proceedings on the school district's website instead of publishing the proceedings in a newspaper. The school district must also request that the same information be posted at each public library located within the school district for the notice's publication period. This section expires August 1, 2026.

(b) If, before August 1, 2026, there is a newspaper located within a school district's boundaries that is qualified to be designated as the school district's official newspaper pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 331A.04, then the exemption provided in this section shall not apply, provided that the qualified newspaper's legal rate is not more than ten percent above the rate charged by the school district's previous official newspaper and the qualified newspaper provides some coverage of the activities of the school district that is publishing the notice.

[NOTE: MSBA has not inserted paragraph (a) into this model policy because its application is limited to specific circumstances and for a defined period. School districts that meet the conditions in paragraph (a) may choose to publish on the school district's website.]

- B. The proceedings to be published shall be sufficiently full to fairly set forth the proceedings. They must include the substance of all official actions taken by the school board at any regular or special meeting, and at minimum must include the subject matter of a motion, the persons making and seconding the motion, a listing of how each member present voted on the motion, the character of resolutions offered including a brief description of their subject matter and whether adopted or defeated. The minutes and permanent records of the school board may include more detail than is required to be published with the official proceedings. If the proceedings have not yet been approved by the school board, the proceedings to be published may reflect that fact.
- C. The proceedings to be published may be a summary of the essential elements of the proceedings, and/or of resolutions and other official actions of the school board. Such a summary shall be written in a clear and coherent manner and shall, to the extent possible, avoid the use of technical or legal terms not generally familiar to the public. When a summary is published, the publication shall clearly indicate that the published material is only a summary and that the full text is available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the school district and that a copy of the proceedings, other than attachments to the minutes, is available without cost at the offices of the school district or by means of standard or electronic mail.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, Subds. 4-6 (Meetings Must be Open to the Public; Exceptions Open Meeting Law)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 10 (Boards of Independent School Districts)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.14, Subd. 7 (Officers of Independent School Districts)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.01 (Definitions)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.05, Subd. 8 (Form of Public Notices)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.08, Subd. 3 (Computation of Time)

Op. Atty. Gen. 161-a-20, December 17, 1970

Ketterer v. Independent School District No. 1, 248 Minn. 212, 79 N.W.2d 428 (1956)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 205 (Open Meetings and Closed Meetings)