



DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AGENDA
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 6, 2025 - 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers, 1025 Roosevelt Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

The mission of Detroit Lakes Public schools is to ensure consistent expectations, opportunities, meaningful support, and strong relationships so that every student develops the skills, confidence, and connections needed to thrive beyond graduation.

District Office ~ 702 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 ~ 218.847.9271 ~ Website: www.dlschools.net
Superintendent: Mark Jenson Director of Finance & Operations: Jason Kuehn Education Director: Renee Kerzman

BOARD MEMBERS:

Julie Smith-Yliniemi, Clerk
25961 Brolin Beach Rd
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218.204.0420

Michael Walther
28030 County Hwy 34
Callaway, MN 56521
218.841.3709

Michelle Okeson, Treasurer
24842 County Rd 113
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218.841.6065

Mary Rotter, Vice Chair
23625 Pebble Beach LN
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
651.335.0396

John Steffl, Chair
104 Manitoba St.
Callaway, MN 56521
218.850.5060

Sanford Nelson
28633 North Buffalo Lake Rd
Callaway, MN 56521
218.847.8360

Student Representative: Marian Martin 26martimari@detlakes.k12.mn.us, Hayden Wilson 27wilsohayd@detlakes.k12.mn.us

I. CALL TO ORDER

Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

A. Laker Pride

II. ROLL CALL

Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

A. Agenda Approval

Approval of the Agenda for the August 6, 2025 Special School Board Meeting as presented.

V. Public Hearing on the Necessity and Practibility of the Proposed Closing of Lincoln Education Center, located at 204 Willow St. E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

A fifteen-minute time limit will be allowed for audience comment. Those requesting audiences will inform either the Board Chairman or the Superintendent prior to the meeting that you wish to address the Board.

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

Action is requested on the following items of the consent agenda. Consent agenda items are typically adopted without discussion of the individual items because they are routine or ordinary in action. Any consent agenda item may be removed for further discussion and deliberation by any member of the board.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

Action items receive individual attention because of the nature of the issues, the need to discuss or review the information prior to taking action, or the specific kind of action required for the item.

A. Motion to Approve the Schoolhouse Closing Resolution and Findings

B. Motion to Approve the Resolution Approving the Redevelopment Plan for Redevelopment Project No. 44 and the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 44-1.

VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

A. Work Session- 08/06/25 6:00 PM City Council Chambers.

B. Transportation Committee- 08/07/25 8:00AM District Office

C. Finance Committee - 08/19/25 11:30 AM - District Office

D. Policy Committee- 08/20/25 7:00AM Middle School Conference Room

E. August Board Meeting- 08/25/25 5:30 PM City Council Chambers.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNED

Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

Laker PRIDE

	Purpose our intention, what drives us	Deliver educational excellence.
	Relationships the ways we connect and behave toward each other	Care and communicate positively and respectfully within and across our schools and community. • District ↔ parents and community members • District ↔ building • Building ↔ teacher • Building ↔ parents • Teacher ↔ parent • Teacher ↔ students
	Innovation the creation, development and implementation of a new idea or concept to enhance educational opportunities	Embrace creativity and critical thinking. • Renew and bring up to date all systems and practices • Utilize growth mindset to hone existing intentions/objectives and explore new ideas • Support diverse ways of thinking and doing • Embed equity continually in every facet of our work
	Development a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components	Foster the academic, social, emotional, and cultural needs of all learners. • Implement and sustain PBIS at all levels • Hone our support for social/emotional health • Further learning and implementation of equitable feedback, assessment, grading and reporting • Provide professional development that supports PRIDE
	Equity the quality of being fair (not equal) and impartial	Ensure that our values, policies, and practices are equitable for our students, staff, and community. • Clarify and support understanding of equity vs. equality for all • Actively promote equity (institutional, personal, and instructional) • Remove systemic barriers • Accommodate different learning styles • Give students a voice

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation under God,
indivisible,
with Liberty and Justice
for all.



**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22
DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**In the Matter of the Proposed Closing
of the Lincoln Education Center**

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A public hearing on the proposed closing of the Lincoln Education Center was held on August 6, 2025 at 5:30 PM at the City Council Chambers, 1025 Roosevelt Avenue, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

The hearing was conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 123B.51, subdivision 5. The hearing was recorded. All individuals wishing to speak and offer evidence in favor of or in opposition to the closing were given the opportunity to testify during the hearing.

FINDINGS

1. Lincoln Education Center is located at 204 Willow St. E, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.
2. The Lincoln Education Center was built in 1961 and contains approximately 13,237 square feet.
3. The Lincoln Education Center housed the District's preschool, early childhood family education ("ECFE"), school readiness, and Community Education programming since 1997.
4. In 2023, the District contracted with ICS Consulting, Inc. to complete a LTFM/Facility Assessment ("Facility Assessment") on the District's buildings. The Facility Assessment identified a number of significant issues with the Lincoln Education Center. For example, the Lincoln Education Center is in the need of a complete HVAC system replacement with dehumidification, window and carpet replacement, upgrade to LED light fixtures, a replacement of 9,500 square feet of the roof, and parking lot repairs.
5. The total cost for the Lincoln Education Center repairs identified in the Facility Assessment is \$2,178,000.
6. The Lincoln Education Center's 13,237 square feet of building space represents approximately 2.1% of the total District-owned building space identified in the Facility Assessment (with a total square footage of 628,437 feet). Despite

representing only 2.1% of the total square footage, the estimated cost of the repairs at the Lincoln Education Center is approximately 8.4% of the total District repair cost (\$2,178,000.00 of the total \$25,999,817.00).

7. In 2023, the District hired a demographer to analyze the District's historical enrollment and projected future enrollment. From 2013 through December 2023, the District's enrollment decreased by 1.7 percent. Resident K-12 enrollment decreased by 3.1 percent.
8. While the report projected a potential overall increase in K-12 enrollment by the 2033-2034 school year, the report identified a decline in resident births in Becker County and Minnesota overall that would result in smaller kindergarten classes over the next several years.
9. When reviewing programming needs for School Readiness, the District determined that the Lincoln Education Center would not have enough space and capacity to meet those programming needs desired by the community education department, such as all-day preschool and other programming.
10. The two elementary schools – Roosevelt Elementary School and Rossman Elementary School – have the capacity to house the preschool programming that was previously at Lincoln Education Center.
11. The District is able to house the other programming – including ECFE, School Readiness, and Community Education - at other District owned or leased sites.
12. The closure of the Lincoln Education Center will have minimal impact on District operations. There will be no reduction in programming as a result of the closing of the Lincoln Education Center. All programming at the Lincoln Education Center will continue at other District sites.
13. By closing operations and seeking to sell the Lincoln Education Center, the District would avoid the need to expend \$2,187,000 in LTFM and repair costs. Additionally, the District would save approximately \$25,000 in annual utility expenses, \$15,000 in contracted services, and other miscellaneous costs.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The closure of the Lincoln Education Center is necessary and practicable.

2. The District has complied with the procedural requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 123B.51, subdivision 5, for the purpose of closing the Lincoln Education Center.

Member _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION CLOSING LINCOLN EDUCATION CENTER

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on August 6, 2025 on the proposed closing of the Lincoln Education Center located at 204 Willow St. E, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501;

WHEREAS, during this hearing, people wishing to give testimony for and against the proposed closing were heard, and such testimony was considered by the School Board; and

WHEREAS, published notice of this hearing was given in compliance with Minnesota Statutes section 123B.51, subdivision 5.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 22, Detroit Lakes Public Schools, as follows:

1. The attached Findings of Fact and Conclusions regarding the closing of the Lincoln Education Center are hereby adopted.
2. The closing of the Lincoln Education Center is necessary and practicable.
3. The Lincoln Education Center is closed effective immediately.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member _____ and upon vote being taken thereon,

the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against:

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22

HELD: August 6, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular or special meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 22, Becker County, Minnesota, was duly called and held at the City Council Chambers in the City of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota (the "City") on August 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

and the following were absent:

Member _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR
REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT NO. 44 AND THE TAX INCREMENT
FINANCING PLAN FOR TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT NO. 44-1

A. WHEREAS, the Detroit Lakes Development Authority (the "Authority") and the City of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota (the "City") propose to construct a 36-unit multifamily market-rate workforce residential housing project (the "Project") in the City; and

B. WHEREAS, in connection with the Project it has been proposed that the City and Authority establish Redevelopment Project No. 44 (the "Project Area"), adopt a Redevelopment Plan for the Project Area (the "Redevelopment Plan"), establish Tax Increment Financing District No. 44-1 within the Project Area and adopt the related Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "TIF Plan" and together with the Redevelopment Plan, the "Plans");

C. WHEREAS, the City has performed all actions required by law to be performed prior to the approval of the establishment of the TIF District and the adoption of the Plans, including, but not limited to, notification of Becker County and Independent School District No. 22 having taxing jurisdiction over the property to be included in the TIF District and the holding of a public hearing upon published and mailed notice as required by law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board (the "School Board") of Independent School District No. 22 (the "School District"), as follows:

1. Redevelopment Plan for Redevelopment Project No. 44. The School Board hereby approves the Redevelopment Plan.

2. Tax Increment Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 44-1. The School Board hereby approves the TIF Plan as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.176, Subd. 4c.(d)(3) for the TIF District.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by member _____ and duly seconded by member _____ and, upon a vote being taken thereon after full discussion thereof, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BECKER)

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting School Board Clerk of Independent School District No. 22 (the "School District"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the attached and foregoing extract of minutes with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a full, true and complete transcript of the minutes of a meeting of the School Board of the School District, duly called and held on the date therein indicated, insofar as such minutes relate to the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 44-1.

WITNESS My hand this ____ day of August, 2025.

School Board Clerk