

REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 8, 2025

The Monday, September 8, 2025 Regular School Board meeting of Independent School Dist. #2687 (Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted) was called to order at 6:30 pm. by Chairperson B Borrell. After the pledge of allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: B Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon, Mulvihill and J Borrell; absent: Puncochar. Also present were Superintendent Dan Edwards, Principals Stephanie Kuehn, Jim Schimelpfenig, and Jennifer Olson, and Board Secretary Marilyn Greeley.

(Item IV) Koch recommended approval of the agenda; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item V) Chairperson B Borrell reviewed the process for the visitors to speak during the questions or comments item on the agenda.

Karen Schafer expressed concern about the FFA program.

Abbie Ficker expressed concern about the Ag program.

Dwayne Diers expressed concern about the Ag teacher shortage.

(Item VI) Koch recommended approval of the consent agenda; J Borrell seconded; passed unanimously.

The consent agenda included the following:

- August 11, 2025 Regular Board meeting minutes
- August 25, 2025 Work Session meeting minutes
- Bills
- Treasurers report
- Enrollment
- Employment recommendations: **Rik Lee** as an evening custodian, effective September 2, 2025, replacing Barb Say; and **Jessica Donner** as a Para at Humphrey Elementary starting August 30, 2025, replacing Jessica Thom.
- The second reading and approval of the following policy: 722-Public Data Requests

(Item VII, Subd. A) B Borrell reported the board discussed at the last meeting about the superintendent evaluation plan.

Superintendent Edwards reviewed the evaluation plan which consisted of the following:

- Overall expectations:
 - Board relations and governance
 - Leadership and staff support
 - Community and stakeholder engagement
 - Organizational and operational management
 - Personal leadership and professionalism
- Goals
 - Facilities planning and infrastructure
 - Fiscal stewardship and budget development
 - Strategic plan scorecard development

J Borrell recommended approval of the superintendent's evaluation plan; Koch seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. B) J Borrell recommended approval of the overnight student trip for High School Boys Basketball students from December 12-13, 2025, to Rush City and East Central; and High School Wrestling students from January 1-3, 2026 to Fargo; Koch seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. C) Marketon recommended approval of Andy's Lawn Care and Central MN Lawn as our snow removal vendors for the 2025-26 season; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. D) Bauman recommended approval of the resolution accepting donations; Koch seconded; those in favor: Mulvihill, J Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon and B Borrell; those opposed: none; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. E) B Borrell indicated the following items are on the agenda for the work session:

- Approve the Proposed 2025 Pay 2026 Levy Certification
- Discuss Student board member representative

Koch recommended approval of the items for the work session; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. F) Board members will verbally recognize positive things in the district. Mulvihill recognized the student who spoke at the freshman orientation day, sharing their experience of things going well and those things that didn't.

Bauman recognized Char, the bus driver on bus five, who went above and beyond for a preschooler who was struggling today.

Koch recognized Mr. Hanson, a fifth-grade math teacher, every night my student comes home and talks about Mr. Hanson, and now he loves math.

Marketon recognized the FFA Alumni who have put in a lot of work over the years, and want to work collaboratively and support the program. Marketon also recognized the continued improvement of the volleyball team and congratulations to the football team.

J Borrell recognized all the work staff does for open houses and congratulations to the football team for winning against Dassel-Cokato Schools.

B Borrell recognized the football team as well and also thanked Drew Walbelig and James Carr for participating in the St. Mary's Festival. B Borrell also thanked the FFA Alumni for being supportive and solution orientated.

(Item VIII, Subd. A) Superintendent Edwards recognized the school board members and thanked them for their commitment on behalf of students, families and the community.

(Item VIII, Subd. B) Superintendent Edwards reported:

- The students are here and are transitioning to a new school year.
- We share the concern of the FFA program and want to sustain it and support the legacy of the program.
- With the new traffic flow, we had buses leaving at 3:09pm. We will be closely monitoring how the flow of traffic is going.
- We've had many families at our back to school and sporting events.
- Recent tragic events that have happened in the state remind us all of the importance of strong safety protocols.
- During workshop week we had many staff engaging in AI training.

(Item VIII, Subd. C) Principal Olson reported:

- We had a great start to the school year.
- We welcomed preschoolers today.
- We had the first of five fire drills.

Principal Schimelpfenig reported:

- During workshop week teachers were busy reviewing student data and setting goals for this year.
- Thank you to Nicole McKee and 4.O for a successful first day of school.
- The middle school had an excellent turnout at open house.
- The middle school is looking at ways to expand parent and student involvement and have invited our fifth-grade parents to join us on September 19th for "Laker's Roll" which will have information on the students day to day activities as well as Google Classroom, ParentVue and more.
- Teachers gave positive feedback from the AI training they received

Principal Kuehn reported:

- We have received a lot of positive feedback about the freshman students first day from both students and staff.
- The academic rally on the first day of school was a great way to start the year.
- We have temporary solutions to the Ag programming concerns and will continue to work towards a resolution.
- Thank you to the FFA Alumni and their solution focused approach.

(Item VIII, Subd. D) B Borrell indicated there is a Community Relations committee report enclosed.

(Item VIII, Subd. E) Upcoming Board Member Event Appearances:

Calendar Link

Leaders in Education Excellence (LEEA) October 29-Resource Training @ 4:30pm

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Educational Support Staff (ESS) November 19-Resource Training @ 4:30pm
Students of Excellence April 29-Resource Training @ 4:30pm

(Item IX) Next Meeting Dates:

Work Session Meeting- September 22, 2025 6:30 pm HLWW HS Media Center

Regular Board Meeting-October 6, 2025 6:30 pm HLWW HS Media Center

(Item X) Items for next meeting

Work Session:

- Approve the Proposed 2025 Pay 2026 Levy Certification
- Discuss student board representative

Regular Meeting:

- Bill Reader for October-Bauman
- Bill Reader for November-B Borrell
- Bill Reader for December-J Borrell
- Department Report-
- Leave/Resignations/Retirements
- Employment Recommendations/Lane Changes
- Approve First Reading of Policies
- Approve Treasurer Report-January, April, July, October
- Monthly Budget Report
- Board Recognition/Shout Outs

(Item XI) B Borrell indicated we will now close the meeting to discuss negotiations strategies.

Koch motioned to close the meeting at 7:23 pm; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

Koch motioned to open the closed meeting to discuss negotiation strategies; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously. Those present: Marketon, Bauman, Koch, Edwards, B Borrell, J Borrell and Mulvihill.

The board discussed negotiation strategies.

Marketon motioned to close the closed meeting; Koch seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item XII) Marketon motioned to re-open meeting; J Borrell seconded; passed unanimously.

B Borrell adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Koch, Clerk