



Meeker and Wright Special Education Cooperative

370 Annandale Blvd, Annandale, MN 55302

Joint Powers Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - 5:30 pm

Meeting Minutes - *Unofficial*

Present: Sarah Baker, Gena Jacobson, Jessica Johnson, Cindy Miller, Kelsey Puncochar, Jen Rasset
Absent: Alex Carlson
Others Present: Colleen Carlson, Kim Geurts, Chad Johnson, Melissa Hanson, Kate Ryan

I. Call to Order/ Board Roll Call

The Regular meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

A roll call was conducted:

Sarah Baker: Present

Alex Carlson: Absent

Gena Jacobson: Present

Jessica Johnson: Present

Cindy Miller: Present

Kelsey Puncochar: Present

Jen Rasset: Present

A quorum of six board members was established.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Kelsey Puncochar. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Kelsey Puncochar and seconded by Sarah Baker. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda which included:

- Minutes of Previous Board Meeting
- Bills for payment and other financial reports as attached
- Personnel Items
 - Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
 - Termination: Brenda Brandvold, Paraprofessional, VRAP, Effective 4/13/2026
 - Termination: Diana Jimenez, Paraprofessional, VRAP, Effective 4/13/2026
 - Recommendations for Employment
 - Employment: Kayla Ertl, On Call Substitute Paraprofessional, Effective April 6, 2026
 - Contract Changes/Approvals/Position Changes



- Contract Change: Alexis Waldin, Behavior Analyst, moving from 1.0 FTE to 0.8 FTE, Effective August 1, 2026
- Contract Items
 - Member District Purchased Services Contracts
 - Annandale Purchase Service Contract 2026-2027
 - Dassel-Cokato Purchase Service Contract 2026-2027
 - Delano Purchase Service Contract 2026-2027
 - Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Purchase Service Contract 2026-2027
 - Litchfield Purchase Service Contract 2026-2027
 - Maple Lake Purchase Service Contract 2026-2027
 - Rockford Purchase Service Contract 2026-2027
 - Other Contracts
 - FY27 Goodwill Industries, Inc. Contract

V. Informational Items

A. Executive Director Report

DAPE Updates

The DAPE Extravaganza was held on April 22 at the Rockford Community Center, offering students opportunities to build motor, coordination, and social skills through engaging activities, with appreciation extended to Rockford for hosting the second annual event. Additionally, MAWSECO's DAPE instructor will provide services to the Maple Lake District during a teacher's leave of absence this spring, with hours tracked and billed directly to the district.

Summer Programs and Staffing Needs

Information is currently being gathered to determine staffing needs for summer programming, including extended school year services within MAWSECO programs, summer school for Care & Treatment programs, extended school year services provided by itinerant staff for district students, and Birth-to-3 summer services delivered by itinerant providers.

MDE Indicator Data Collection

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has begun the 2026 Indicator Data Collection (IDC) process, an annual requirement tied to state performance and federal compliance under IDEA, with each district selected to participate through file reviews and compliance submissions separate from other monitoring processes. Leadership of these reviews will be shared, with the Director of Special Education overseeing member district files and the Director of Educational Programs and Executive Director Hanson handling MAWSECO program reviews, including Part C. Any identified non-compliance will be addressed through required corrections, training, or other actions to ensure full compliance.



Professional Learning Special Education Finance

Executive Director Hanson has taken several steps this year to expand her expertise in special education finance, including attending both in-person and online sessions of the MASE Finance Academy. She has also joined an informal study group with Region 5 and 7 executive directors to collaboratively deepen knowledge and support one another in this complex area. Additionally, she is attending the MASBO conference from April 29 to May 1 with colleagues.

B. Director of Finance Report

The majority of the Student Support Personnel Aid has been received from the districts. The FY27 preliminary budget is currently in process and will be presented at the next board meeting. Additionally, SEDRA has been updated in preparation for the April 30 rollover.

C. Sholund School for Girls Program Administrator Report & Tour of Program

Enrollment

The program is currently serving 10 students, with enrollment fluctuating between 7 and 13 students throughout the school year.

Program Highlights

Staffing has remained consistent, with veteran teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrative support continuing in their roles, helping foster strong relationships and stability for students. A completed grant through Resource Training & Solutions funded the addition of wobble chairs and rocking chairs, expanding sensory and regulation options across classrooms and shared spaces. The program continues to build a positive community through engaging activities like dress-up weeks, while also celebrating successful student transitions to home settings or new placements. Students are currently preparing for a production of *The Little Red Hen* on May 21st, and overall, the program remains focused on providing a structured, supportive environment that promotes student growth and maintains close collaboration with residential staff for consistency.

VI. Action Items

A. Old Business

1. Policy Review [Second Reading]

A motion to approve the listed policy changes was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Sarah Baker. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 501 - School Weapons Policy

Policy 507 - Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint

Policy 507.5 - School Resource Officers

Policy 508 - Extended School Year for Certain Students with Individualized Education Plans

Policy 514 - Bullying Prohibition Policy

Policy 516 - Student Medication and Telehealth



Meeting Date
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Policy 519 - Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies
Policy 532 - Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds
Policy 533 - Wellness
Policy 535 - Service Animals in Schools

2. Policy Rescission [Second Reading]

A motion to rescind the listed policy was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Gena Jacobson. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 555 - Loitering on School Grounds

VII. Future Board Meetings

- A. May 19, 2026, 5:30 pm, Regular Board Meeting, Wings Alternative Program, Litchfield
- B. June 23, 2026, 5:30 pm, Regular Board Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake
- C. July 28, 2026, 5:30 pm, Regular Board Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Cindy Miller. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

**A tour of the Sholund School for Girls by Chad Johnson was taken after the meeting adjourned.*

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