

School Board Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2026 6:30 PM Central

Aitkin Public Schools - Media Center
306 Second Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

1. Call meeting to order by the chairperson

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. Student Council Reports

SP Goal 10

4.A. Rippleside Elementary - Student Council Updates

Thomas Ostrowski and Sahara DeMars gave updates on the Rippleside Student Council activities. They have been working on an "#IyouWe" challenge.

4.B. AHS - Student Council Updates

Maelie Kazmerzak gave updates on the high school student council activities.

5. *Comments from visitors

5.A.

- Comments from visitors must be in relation to Aitkin Public Schools and/or to agenda items.
- We recommend that you sign up at the comment table if you wish to speak. You will be called up in order as listed on the sign-up sheet. When you come forward to comment, please be seated at the comment table facing the Board Members. State your name prior to your comment. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.
- The Board will not engage in any discussion or debate during this comment session. The Board will take the information and find answers as appropriate.
- As part of Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a public board meeting.

Comments from the public were heard by the board.

6. Approval of agenda - revise or remove as needed

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

7. Scheduled presentations: (Max. 10 Minutes)

7.A. Presentation - ICS-MDE

Jeff Schiltz of ICS worked through a building exercise with the school board members. The website (weareaitkin.org) has been updated with the latest information regarding the April 14, 2026 Bond Referendum. Mr. Stifter reviewed a binder of information on the upcoming referendum project that was created for the board members. The Rippleside Elementary

School building needs were reviewed. The board scheduled a public forum on February 24th at 5:00 to 6:30 pm and 7:00 to 8:30 pm to answer questions regarding the upcoming bond referendum.

8. New business:

8.A. Approve consent agenda items as follows:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

8.A.1. Approve the following School Board Meeting Minutes:
Jan 12, 2026, February 2, 2026

8.A.2. Approve financials for the month of January 2026:

- Office receipts in the amount of \$1,744,727.37.
- Report of expenditures, including \$818,458.97 for bills and \$996,129.17 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Donations in the amount of \$500.00
- Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,400,000.00.
- Employee reimbursements.

8.A.3. Consider and approve extracurricular assignments:

8.A.3.a. Jeremy Janzen - Baseball Head Coach 26 Season

8.A.3.b. Nathan Ehnstrom - Baseball Assistant Coach 26 Season

8.A.3.c. Landon Janzen - Baseball C Squad Coach 26 Season

8.A.3.d. Tom Sanbeck - Baseball Jr High Coach - 26 season

8.A.3.e. Garrett Lee - Baseball Jr. High Coach - 26 Season

8.A.3.f. Jim Leiviska - Girls Softball Head Coach - 26 Season

8.A.3.g. Ben Schwarz - Girls Softball Assistant Coach -26 season

8.A.3.h. Lena Broeckel - Girls Softball Jr High Coach 26 season

8.A.3.i. Ava Carlson (Girls) Track Head coach 26 season

8.A.3.j. Adam Carlson Track (Boys) Head Coach -26 season

8.A.3.k. Jason Long (Boys) Track Jr. High Coach - 26 season

8.A.3.l. Jeri Forbord (Girls) Track Jr High Coach - 26 season

8.A.3.m. Jen Waldorf - (Boys) Tennis Head coach - 26 season

8.A.3.n. Julie Asmus - Tennis Boys Assistant Coach 26 Season

8.A.3.o. Blaise Sanford - Tennis Boys Assistant Coach 26 Season

8.A.4. Consider and Approve Volunteer Coaches

8.A.4.a. Camryn Leiviska - Softball volunteer coach 26 season

8.A.4.b. Josie Anderson - Softball volunteer coach 26 season

8.A.4.c. Mark Harmon - Softball volunteer coach 26 season

8.A.4.d. Brandon Edwards - Softball volunteer coach 26 season

8.A.4.e. Emily Kyllonen - Softball volunteer coach 26 season

8.A.4.f. Ryan Fowlds - Softball volunteer coach 26 season

8.A.4.g. Jeff Ehnstrom - Baseball Varsity volunteer assistant 26 season

8.A.4.h. Randy Stauter - Baseball Varsity volunteer assistant 26 season

8.A.4.i. Dave Ditty - Baseball Varsity volunteer assistant 26 season

8.A.4.j. Chris Sicaard - Baseball Jr High volunteer assistant 26 season

8.A.4.k. Scott Melz - Baseball Jr High volunteer assistant 26 season

8.A.5. Approve February 2026 Lane Changes:

8.A.5.a. Renee Voller - MA45 to MA60

8.A.5.b. Marie Waschek - MA15 to MA45

8.B. Discussion Items:

8.B.1. Committee Assignments

Committees will be updated and approved on the March agenda.

8.B.2. Adopt a resolution directing the superintendent to make recommendations for adjustments in curriculum, programs and staff for the following school year, if needed. Motion to adopt the resolution directing the superintendent to make recommendations for adjustments in curriculum, programs and staff for the following school year, if needed. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser, Passed.

8.B.3. Approve the Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the following Probationary Teachers: Due to teachers being on an Out of Field Placement license or a Tier 1 license

Motion to approve the resolution relating to the Termination and Non-renewal of the probationary teachers due to teachers being on an out of field placement license or a tier 1 license. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Holly Mindrum, Passed.

8.B.3.a. Tier I Non-Renewals:

8.B.3.a.1. Karen Stifter, Early Childhood Family Educator

8.B.3.a.2. Chelsie Meyer, Special Education Teacher

8.B.3.b. Tier 4 with Out of Field Placement

8.B.3.b.1. Michaela Monson, FACS Teacher

8.B.3.b.2. Holli Orpin, Early Childhood Education

8.B.3.b.3. Jared McCoy, Special Education Teacher

8.B.3.b.4. Sara Warren, Spanish Teacher

8.B.3.b.5. Joshua Voller, Agricultural Education

8.B.4. Discuss and Approve 2026-27 School Calendar

Motion to approve the 2026-27 School Calendar. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Kassie Peterson, Passed.

9. Administrative reports:

9.A. Board Members Reports:

9.B. Committee Reports:

9.C. Principal's Report:

Mr. Dokken, Rippleside Elementary School

Ms. DeMars, Aitkin High School

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9.D. Community Education - Nedra Henline

SP Goal 10

9.E. Superintendent's report:

9.E.1. Enrollment Update

9.E.2. Superintendent Search:

- MSBA will conduct a virtual question and answer on Tuesday, February 10 at 4:00, this will be recorded and shared to our website.
- Anonymous Public Survey is open to all stakeholders
- For more information go to the school website

9.E.3. Referendum:

Election Day, Tuesday April 14, 2026

9.E.4. Other:

9.F. Upcoming meetings:

February 25, 2026 - Personnel Meeting - 3:45 pm AHS Media Center

March 16, 2026 - School Board Meeting - 6:30 pm AHS Media Center

10. Other:

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Rev. Dawn Houser and seconded by Holly Mindrum,
Passed.

Recorded by Heather Hipp

Kassie Peterson

Dated: 3/16/26
