

Albert Lea Area Schools
Albert Lea Minnesota
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
5:00 PM, March 16, 2026
Brookside Education Center

Members Present: Dave Klatt, Gary Schindler, Angie Hoffman, Kim Nelson, and Neal Skaar.
Board members present by Google Meet: Mary Jo Dorman and Davy Villarreal
Community/Staff Attendance: 23 members present.
Admin present: Superintendent Heil

Motion by Skaar/Hoffman to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0

Director Villarreal joined by Google-Meet

Motion by Nelson/Schindler to approve the donations as presented. Motion carried 7-0

Motion by Hoffman/Skaar to approve the consent items as presented. Motion carried 7-0

Reports

Superintendent Heil provided an overview of enrollment trends, noting a continued decline in student enrollment and its long-term financial impact on the district. Contributing factors include lower birth rates, open enrollment, and alternative education options. The district is also operating below building capacity. The district is working to address a projected \$2.6 million budget reduction for the 2026–2027 school year, following prior reductions in recent years. Additional reductions are anticipated, with further recommendations to be presented at a future meeting. With discussion from the Board, the need is to align staffing and resources with enrollment while maintaining a focus on student learning priorities.

The teacher's report was given by: Mike Leiste

School board reports were given by: Nelson, Skaar, Schindler, Hoffman, Dorman, Villarreal and Klatt

Effective and Efficient Operations

Chair Klatt introduced the Resolution Relating to the Termination and Non-renewal of the Teaching Contract of Probationary Teachers. Motion by Hoffman/Nelson to approve as presented. Motion carried 7-0

Chair Klatt introduced the Resolution Proposing to Place Teachers on Unrequested Leave of Absence. Motion by Skaar/Schindler to approve as presented. Motion carried 7-0

Executive Director Tonya Franks presented the Achievement & Integration Plan and Budget. The FY27–FY29 Achievement & Integration Plan and FY27 budget focused on reducing achievement disparities, improving equitable access to effective teachers, and increasing racial and economic integration.

Key strategies include instructional coaching, cultural competency training, and expanded student opportunities through programs and inter-district partnerships. Motion by

Schindler/Nelson to approve the FY27–FY29 Achievement & Integration Plan and FY27 budget as presented. Motion carried 7-0

Motion by Schindler/Hoffman to go into closed session at 6:15 pm, pursuant to Minn. Stat. sec 13D.03 - Labor Negotiations. Motion carried 7-0

Mary Jo Dorman and Davy Villarreal stopped joining by Google Meet

Motion by Skaar/Hoffman to go back into regular session at 7:47 pm, Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Schindler/Skaar to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. Motion carried 5-0

Chair

Clerk