

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

**ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 PROGRESS PARKWAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Members Present:

Jennifer Bonner
Nicole Culbert-Dahl
Brandi Lautigar
Tim Riordan

Jodi Westby
Lisa Westby
John Uhan

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent
Scott Manni, Rock Ridge High School Principal
Stephanie Aagenes, Special Education Director

Members Absent:

None

- I. Chair UHAN called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:**
 - A. Uhan added two submitted purchase agreements for the Gilbert school property to Reports 6.2.1.
 - B. The wording for Item 6.5. *Discussion on four or five-day school week for 2026-2027* was changed to *“Discussion and possible action on a four or five-day school week for 2026-2027.”*
 - C. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by J. WESTBY, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Kelsey Norvitch – music program; Kimberly Mattila – counseling department shortage; Matt Luoma & Justine Herberg – update on the successful first Rock Ridge Archery season; Corbet Hainey, Cassandra Hainey, Stephanie Aho – discussion on a 4 or 5-day school week.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Discussion was held on Item 4.18 *Spring 2025-2026 overnight/out-of-state athletic trips*. Going forward, the board would like to know how much the school is responsible for financially for these trips. The retirement of Jackie LeBeque was also acknowledged and her years of dedication to the district were applauded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - A. Approval of March 23, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
 - B. Approval of hire of Howard Anthony for the Basketball League Supervisor position with a stipend of \$20.00/hour effective December 15, 2025 through February 2026.
 - C. Approval of hire of Pete Pellinen for the Spring Play Director position with a stipend of \$3,278 for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - D. Approval of ECSE - Part C, 0.14 FTE overload for Laura Bakhtiari with a salary of \$6,565.35 (prorated overload) effective December 1, 2025 through May 29, 2026.
 - E. Approval of additional duty and stipend for the following staff for the 2025-2026 school year: Andy Tikkanen (Math League \$1,008), Jessica Kortekass (WEB Coordinator \$2,018).
 - F. Approval of hire of Jim Prittinen for the Head Girls Tennis Coach position with a stipend of \$6,052 for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - G. Approval of hire of Daniel Spaeth for the Industrial Technology Teacher position with a salary of \$50,163 (BA Step B) effective August 24, 2026.
 - H. Approval of hire of Bryce Negen for the DAPE Teacher position (pending licensure from MDE and completion of the DAPE endorsement within three years of employment) with a salary of \$47,598 (Step A BA) effective August 24, 2026.
 - I. Approval of extended unpaid leave of absence for Alice Pelton, RRHS Counseling Secretary - originally approved through April 8, 2026. Now extended through May 14, 2026.

- J. Approval of volunteer coaches for the 2025-2026 school year: Josh Nevala (Baseball), James Bonicatto (Baseball), Mary Beth McReynold-Pellinen (Assistant Play Director).
- K. Acceptance of resignation of Cullen Warren from the AM Door/Lunch Duty effective March 10, 2026.
- L. Acceptance of resignation of Spencer Aune from the Head Boys Basketball Coach position effective March 23, 2026.
- M. Acceptance of resignation of Paul Gregersen from the Spring Play Director position effective March 24, 2026.
- N. Acceptance of resignation of Sara Szweduk from the Paraprofessional position effective May 1, 2026.
- O. Acceptance of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Brian Roggenbuck from the Custodian/GM/Grounds/Driver position effective May 28, 2026.
- P. Acceptance of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Jacquelyn LeBeque from the Elementary Teacher position effective June 1, 2026.
- Q. Approval of Separation Agreement between Rock Ridge Public School, Education Minnesota Rock Ridge, Local #7394, and Angela Kemp.
- R. Approval of Spring 2025-2026 Athletic Overnight/Out-of-State Trips.
- S. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation of 200 decks of cards from Black Bear Casino to Laurentian Elementary for "Title Family Night".

V. **PARAPROFESSIONAL/AIDES HIRE RECOMMENDATIONS:** Motion to **approve the transfer of Karilynn Niska from Custodian/Driver to the Paraprofessional/Driver position at a rate of \$23.96/hour effective April 8, 2026** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. **REPORTS:**

- A. Special Education Director Stephanie Aagenes discussed the recent paraprofessional openings and asked the board whether to fill the vacancies using TOC substitutes or post the positions and hire for the last 28 days of school. Motion to **use TOC to fill the vacancies** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Principal Scott Manni gave his report about the happenings and events taking place at Rock Ridge High School.
- C. The two purchase agreements for the Gilbert school property were presented to the school board. Motion to **approve the offer of \$150,000 for the Gilbert school property** made by BONNER, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed 6-0-1 with CULBERT-DAHL abstaining.
- D. Supt. Schmidt outlined the process for staffing for the 2026-2027 school year.
- E. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by J. WESTBY, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Discussion was held on the 4 or 5-day school week for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - 1. Motion to **adopt a 4-day school week** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by UHAN. Motion failed 1-6 with RIORDAN, CULBERT-DAHL, UHAN, J. WESTBY, L. WESTBY, and BONNER voting NO.
 - 2. Motion to **maintain a 5-day school week for the 2026-2027 school year** made by RIORDAN, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed 6-1 with LAUTIGAR voting NO.

VII. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:** Motion to **approve the Professional Services Contract between Rock Ridge Public Schools and Range Mental Health Center for mental health and related services effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027** made by J. WESTBY, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed 6-0-1 with LAUTIGAR abstaining.

VIII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

CHAIR

CLERK