

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 5:30 pm

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carolyn Dube
Robert Hartman
Carol McAlister

Dan Zielke
Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cece Kroc, Don Leathers, and Peggy Young

**MEETING CALLED
TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall.

AGENDA APPROVED:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**TAX ABATEMENTS
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the HRA of Austin tax abatement requests for the construction of twin homes at 1104 and 1106 24th Avenue NW.

Hartman made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve a tax abatement request from Tim Sheedy for new construction located at 23711 513th Avenue in Austin.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Superintendent Page recognized Traci Braaten on her Rotary Educator of the Year award and the APEF committee for their work with the recent golf fundraising event. He also shared information on upcoming STEM opportunities with The Hormel Institute and potential referendum information.

**SCHOOL BOARD
REPORTS:**

Dube provided highlights of the July 13 Austin Public Education Foundation golf outing and thanked Executive Director Tim Ruzek for his work.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 6/8/26 and special meeting minutes of 6/22/26 as printed.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

**PERSONNEL REPORT
APPROVED:**

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

Contracts for Approval – Casondra Ciavarelli, ECSE teacher, effective 8/10/26; Jasmine Christianson, grade 1 teacher, effective 8/10/26; David Cunningham, varsity head wrestling coach, effective 7/1/26; Ryan Flanders, language arts teacher, effective 8/10/26; Lynsie Moritz, mental health supervisor, effective 7/1/26; Michelle Niska, EL and Curriculum Coordinator, effective 7/22/26; Rotsen Opena, special education teacher, effective 8/10/26; and Brigitte Rambadt, ECFE parent educator .5 FTE, effective 8/10/26

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Requests for Leave – Arielle Hernandez-Wiechmann, SPED teacher, effective 10/22/26-10/21/27 and Alicia Ree, SPED para, effective 2026-27
Resignations/Retirements – Paige Hanna, SPED teacher, effective 5/28/26; Kirstin Hughes, SPED teacher, effective 5/28/26; Lysie Moritz, mental health practitioner, effective 6/30/26; Patrick Murphy, science specialist, effective 5/28/26; Julie Overgard Espe, occupational therapist, effective 5/28/26; Paula Pike, SPED teacher, effective 5/28/26; Jenette Sullivan, food service helper, effective 6/30/27; Megan Watt, social studies teacher, effective 5/28/26; and Tami Yokiel, SPED para, effective 5/28/26
Termination – Abby Rangel, SPED para, effective 5/26/26

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE PERSONNEL REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

BILLS APPROVED:

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 7/14/26.

(A COPY OF THE BILLS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the May 2026 treasurer's report.

(A COPY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS CONTRACT APPROVED:

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the 2026-27 school resource officers contract with the City of Austin.

CMa AGREEMENT APPROVED:

Hartman made a motion, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Construction Manager as Advisor (CMa) agreement for upcoming projects with Knutson Construction.

(A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

EXCLUSIVE BEVERAGE AGREEMENT:

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve an exclusive beverage agreement with Pepsi for 2026-27 and 2027-28.

BOND SALE APPROVED:

A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the resolution relating to \$9,565,000 general obligation facilities maintenance and tax abatement bonds, series 2026A, ratifying the award of sale, prescribing the form and details and providing for the payment thereof.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD**REGULAR MEETING****TRUTH IN TAXATION
HEARING DATE
SET:**

McAlister made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve Monday, December 14, 2026 as the date to hold the annual Truth in Taxation hearing at 6 pm or later in the AHS Annex Recital Hall as part of the regular school board meeting.

DONATIONS:

A motion was made by Zielke, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
DATE CHANGE
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve moving the September study session from 4 pm on September 28 to 5 pm on September 21. The meeting location will remain in the AHS District Office Conference Room.

MEETING REMINDER:

Chair Dube reminded School Board members of the special meeting scheduled for Monday, July 27, at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Hartman made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 pm.

Daniel Zielke, Clerk