

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, MAY 11, 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 Jodi Westby
Nicole Culbert-Dahl Lisa Westby
Brandi Lautigar John Uhan
Tim Riordan

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent
Willie Spelts, Director of School to Work
Engagement/Fundraising Coordinator
Stephanie Aagenes, Special Education Director
Sheena Stefanich, Parkview & North Star Elementary Principal
Andrea Lintula, Business Manager

Members Absent: None

- I. Chair UHAN called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion to **approve the agenda** made by J. WESTBY, seconded by BONNER. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Molly Peltier – support of Music Task Force proposal; Sara Matuszak – support of Music Task Force proposal and concern for the lack of guidance from the high school counseling office.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. UHAN removed Item 4.14 *Acceptance of resignation of Parker LaLonde from the Level 1 Technology Support position effective May 8, 2026.*
 - B. UHAN added Item 4.19 *Approval of hire of Whitney Cobby for the Head Volleyball Coach position with a stipend of \$7,060 for the 2026-2027 school year.*
 - C. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda as amended** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
 1. Approval of April 27, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
 2. Approval of additional duties and stipends for the following staff for the 2025-2026 school year: Robert Kreegier (Leo's Assistant, \$505).
 3. Approval of hire of Summer Day Camp Counselors at a rate of \$15.00/hour effective June 1 - August 28, 2026: Emma Lintula, Sherry Salo, Sabrina Strangland, Lissa Kriefels, Jacqueline Hoag, Breanna Bridgewater, Amelia Sandnas, Danica Markasich, Alyssa Grahek, April Stupca.
 4. Approval of hire of Daniel Merfeld for the North Star Principal position with a salary of \$123,045.86 (46 weeks) effective July 2, 2026.
 5. Approval of hire of Dawn Alto for the Special Education Teacher (Setting 4) position (1404 Building) with a salary of \$76,384 (Step J BA+10) effective August 24, 2026.
 6. Approval of hire of Martha Jorgensen for the Special Education Elementary Teacher (Setting 4) position (1404 Building) with a salary of \$70,723 (Step F MA) effective August 24, 2026.
 7. Approval of transfer of Amber King from the Special Education Teacher (RRHS) position to the Special Education Coordinator (District) position with a salary of \$87,738 (Step J MA+10) effective August 10, 2026.
 8. Approval of transfer of Michelle Pietila, Special Education Teacher, from North Star Elementary to Rock Ridge High School effective August 24, 2026.
 9. Approval of transfer of Jace Friedlieb from the Special Education Teacher (NSE) position to the Dean of Students (Special Education, 1404 Building) with a salary of \$73,411 (Step J BA) effective August 24, 2026.

10. Approval of transfer of Cara Pond from the Special Education Teacher (RRHS) position to the Special Education Teacher (ASD Setting 2/3) position (NSE) with a salary of \$87,738 (Step J MA+10) effective August 24, 2026.
11. Approval of unpaid medical leave of absence for the 2026-2027 school year for Elementary Teacher Beth Bittmann.
12. Approval of a one-year leave of absence for Anita Leander-Flores from the 0.2 FTE ESL Teacher position for the 2026-2027 school year.
13. Acceptance of resignation of Sarah Zimmerman from the Playground Aide position effective May 1, 2026.
14. Acceptance of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Kimberly Bjork from the Paraprofessional position effective May 28, 2026.
15. Acceptance of resignation for the purpose of retirement of Sheila Wilcox from the Orchestra Teacher position effective May 29, 2026.
16. Acceptance and appreciation of two donations from Range Cooperatives Inc.'s "Pump Your Pride" program in the amounts of \$762.54 and \$582.57 for programs at RRPS that are in need of some funding.
17. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation from Lake Country Power in the amount of \$50,000 for the Deep Winter Greenhouse project.
18. Approval of hire of Whitney Cobby for the Head Volleyball Coach position with a stipend of \$7,060 for the 2026-2027 school year.

V. **REPORTS:**

- A. Willie Spelts provided an update on School to Work and Fundraising.
- B. Stephanie Aagenes gave an update from the Special Education Department – 1404 Building construction, 1404 Open House (Aug. 27 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM), hiring and staff shifting updates, and Unified Sports.
 1. Motion to **approve the name of the 1404 Building to the “Rock Ridge Life & Learning Center”** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
 2. The school board members were offered a tour of the Life & Learning Center. The tour was scheduled for 5:00 PM on June 8, prior to the 6:00 PM regular meeting.
- C. RRHS Seniors Samantha Bartovich and Emma Lintula presented their Rock Ridge Student Ambassador Senior Capstone to the school board.
- D. Principal Sheena Stefanich gave her report about the happenings and events taking place at Parkview Elementary.
- E. Principals Sheena Stefanich, Angie Williams, and Scott Manni went over the tentative staffing for the 2026-2027 school year.
- F. The school board discussed the Music Task Force request for an additional 0.5 FTE music staffing for the 2026-2027 school year.
 1. Motion to **approve the 0.5 FTE music hire** made by BONNER, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL.
 2. Following discussion, BONNER rescinded her motion.
 3. Item will be revisited at the June 8 regular meeting.
- G. Supt. Schmidt highlighted that the end of the school year is coming quickly and planning for summer school and for the upcoming school year are already in motion. Graduation is set for May 29 and will certainly be another great celebration at Rock Ridge.
- H. Motion to **approve the payment of the bills** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to **approve the renewal of property and liability (Wright) and workers’ comp insurance (SFM – State Fund Mutual)** made by BONNER, seconded by L. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Motion to **approve the easement (Laurentian)** made by CULBERT-DAHL, seconded by RIORDAN. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to **approve the weed and plant treatment plan for high school front entrance** made by RIORDAN, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Motion to **approve the Memorandum of Understanding between ISD 2909 and Education Minnesota Rock Ridge - Local 7394 (Teachers' Union) for the solution to the grievance on contractual grading time missed during the 2025-2026 school year** made by BONNER, seconded by J. WESTBY. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Motion to **approve the Facilities Use Contract between ISD 2909 and Rock Ridge Summer Softball effective May 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026** made by L. WESTBY, seconded by J. WESTBY. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Motion to **approve the Facilities Use Contract between ISD 2909 and Rock Ridge Baseball Association effective June 1, 2026 through August 9, 2026** made by LAUTIGAR, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion passed unanimously.
- G. Motion to **rescind Resolution #26-04 Relating to the Termination and Non-Renewal of the Teaching Contract of Shawn Johnson, a Probationary Teacher** made by BONNER, seconded by LAUTIGAR. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

CHAIR

CLERK