

School Board Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026 6:30 PM Central

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

Jen Burgos: Present
Roland Hill: Present
Cindi Hills: Present
Rev. Dawn Houser: Present
Brian Leitinger: Present
Holly Mindrum: Present
Kassie Peterson: Absent
Present: 6, Absent: 1.

1. Call meeting to order by the chairperson

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hills at 6:30 p.m

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. *Comments from visitors

4.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.

5. Approval of agenda - revise or remove as needed

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

6. Scheduled presentations: (Max. 10 Minutes)

6.A. Student Council Reports

SP Goal 10

Student council member Maelie Kazmerzak updated the board on events.

6.B. Review of Dean/AD year and combined position: Jim Henrickson

7. Old Business:

7.A. Approve the following policies 2nd reading:

Motion to approve the 2nd reading of policies as presented. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Jen Burgos, Passed.

7.A.1. Policy 533 - Wellness

8. New business:

8.A. Approve consent agenda items as follows:

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

Kassie Peterson: Absent, Cindi Hills: Abstain (With Conflict), Jen Burgos: Yea, Roland Hill: Yea, Rev. Dawn Houser: Yea, Brian Leitinger: Yea, Holly Mindrum: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

8.A.1. Approve the following School Board Meeting Minutes:

April 20, 2026

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

- Office receipts in the amount of \$1,895,126.67
- Report of expenditures, including \$900,150.19 for bills and \$1,075,001.35 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Donations in the amount of \$56,265.38
- Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,700,000.00
- Employee reimbursements.

8.A.3. Approve Resignations

8.A.3.a. Julie Nowlan - Payroll Specialist

8.A.3.b. Taylor Meeks - Band Teacher, Instructional Music, Pep Band Advisor

8.A.4. Approve Hirings:

8.A.4.a. Leah Olk - Rippleside Principal July 1, 2026

8.A.4.b. Christian Jacobson - Elementary Special Ed Position 26-27 School Year

8.A.4.c. Karen Stifter - ECFE Parent Educator 26-27 School Year

8.A.5. Consider and approve extracurricular positions

8.A.5.a. Meredith Sander- Jr Sr Banquet 25-26 School Year

8.A.5.b. Landon Janzen- Head Boys Basketball coach 26-27 Season

8.A.5.c. Ava Christensen - Asst/JV Dance coach 26-27 season

8.A.6. Contracted District Literacy Lead - Letter of Intent 26-27

8.A.7. Approve the 2026 Graduates:

8.A.8. Approve Lakes & Pines Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year

8.A.9. Consider and approve PSEO contract Central Lakes College — 2026-2027

8.A.10. Consider and approve Sweetman Scholarship recipients

8.A.11. Consider and approve 10 additional days for Jim Henrickson — 5 days for Dean of Students, 5 days for Activities Director Work.

8.A.12. Clifton Larson Allen - Audit Services

8.B. Discussion Items:

8.B.1. Rippleside Staffing (tabled from April 20, 2026 meeting)
Mr. Stifter and the board discussed Rippleside staffing needs.

8.B.2. Project Oversight Committee Update
Mr. Stifter gave an update on the Project Oversight Committee meeting.

9. Administrative reports:

9.A. Board Members Reports:

9.B. Committee Reports:

9.B.1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting- April 27, 2026

9.B.2. Personnel Committee Meeting - April 29, 2026

9.C. Principal's Report:

Mr. Karelis, Rippleside Elementary School

Ms. DeMars, Aitkin High School

SP Goal 10

9.D. Community Education - Nedra Henline

SP Goal 10

9.E. Superintendent's report:

9.E.1. Enrollment Update

9.E.2. Other:

9.F. Upcoming meetings:

Personnel Committee - May 27-3:45 PM AHS Media Center

Graduation - May 29, 2026 - 7PM - Veterans Field

School Board Meeting- June 15, 2026 - Mille Lacs Trails Clubhouse

Motion to move June 15th board meeting to June 22nd at the AHS Media center. This motion, made by Holly Mindrum and seconded by Roland Hill, Passed.

10. Other:

Reschedule the regular June board meeting to June 22nd at 6:30 PM. Schedule a board work session for June 22nd from 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Jen Burgos and seconded by Rev. Dawn Houser,
Passed.

Recorded by Heather Hipp

Kassie Peterson

Dated: 6/22/26