

OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Independent School District No. 492

Monday, May 11, 2026 5:30 pm

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Dube
Robert Hartman
Cece Kroc
Don Leathers
Carol McAlister
Peggy Young
Dan Zielke
Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 Young, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing was held on a tax abatement request from New Horizon Homes (PIN 34.468.0100). A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the tax abatement.

A public hearing was also held on a tax abatement request from Bigelow & Lennon Construction (PIN 34.523.0270). A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the tax abatement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Page recognized several students and staff for their recent achievements and provided an overview of the many events happening throughout the district.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS:

McAlister, Leathers, and Dube shared highlights of events they have participated in throughout the last month. Board members expressed their appreciation for all the invitations they have been receiving from the schools.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Kroc made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 4/13/26 and study session minutes of 4/27/26 as printed.

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

PERSONNEL REPORT APPROVED:

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

Contracts for Approval – Jenna Braaten, teacher, effective 8/10/26; Benjamin Brumbaugh, speech language pathologist, effective 8/10/26; Abby Harrer, teacher, effective 6/1/26-7/31/26; Elen Holdsworth, Kids Korner aide, effective 5/18/26; Kate Holtz, teacher, effective 8/10/26; Madison Keesey, noon supervisor at Ellis, effective 4/17/26; Nicole Loken, summer school teacher, effective 6/1/26-7/31/26; Jill Louters, summer school teacher, effective 6/1/26-7/31/26; Kara Page, teacher, effective 8/10/26; Jennifer Ramirez Garcia, teacher, effective 8/10/26; Caleb

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Rasmussen, noon supervisor at IJ Holton, effective 4/13/26; and Kearah Schafter, food service helper at AHS, effective 4/2/26

Resignations/Retirements – Connie Christianson, SPED para, effective 4/30/26; Mission Duop, SPED para, effective 5/15/26; Ashley Kaplan, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, effective 5/26/26; Taylor King, SPED para, effective 4/24/26; Harley Hamlin, noon supervisor, effective 4/1/26; Skylee Mensink, ECFE asst, effective 4/23/26; Olivia Mix, noon supervisor, effective 4/7/26; Clare St. Catherine, psychologist, effective 5/28/26; Karleen Vierkandt, SPED para, effective 5/28/26; and Natalie Wilson, ECFE asst, effective 4/23/26

Terminations – Karen Hillman, SPED para, effective 4/13/26 and Diana Howe, mental health practitioner, effective 4/22/26

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

BILLS APPROVED:

Kroc made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 5/11/26.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Kroc, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the March 2026 treasurer's report.

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

PRINCIPALS CONTRACT APPROVED:

Kroc made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the 2026-28 Austin Principals Association collective bargaining agreement. The two-year percentage increase is 11.42%.

ARUX SCHEDULING SOFTWARE APPROVED:

A motion was made by Kroc, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the use of Arux, a comprehensive cloud-based platform designed to streamline the management of facility scheduling and after-school programs and enrichment courses.

KELLY SERVICES RECOMMENDATION:

The Substitute Task Force was assigned to address the ongoing need for consistent classroom coverage by substitutes. The committee is recommending the use of Kelly Services to assist with staffing services. The recommendation will be brought forward to the board for a vote at their May 26 school board special meeting.

RED ROVER APPROVED:

A motion was made by Kroc, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the use of Red Rover as our absence management and hiring software. The implementation date for absence management is 7/1/26 and for hiring 10/1/26.

- REPORTS:** Department/school updates from Superintendent Cabinet members and principals were available for review.
- ASSURANCE SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE:** Riverland's Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship Program Coordinator Taylor Flugge provided an annual update on the Austin Assurance Scholarship Program. To date, 934 students have used the scholarship for an average of 120 students per year. Through the class of 2025, there have been 394 graduates.
- PACKER PROFILE UPDATE:** AHS Principal Matt Schmit, AOA/ALC Principal Dr. Jessica Cabeen, Packer Profile Coordinator Emily Hovland, and Packer Profile grade 10 student Talan Hall provided an update on the Packer Profile.
- CLERICAL STAFF LAYOFFS APPROVED:** Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the resolution laying off three clerical staff members effective June 30, 2026. The staff members include Sarah Nelson, due process clerk; Jolene Brandt, 3rd party billing; and Kellie Fiske, district cashier.
- CUSTODIAL POSITION ELIMINATION APPROVED:** A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the elimination of the District Utility Maintenance position, reassignment of Josh Marshall to custodian position, and the lay off of Chris Moore effective June 30, 2026.
- ULA APPROVED:** A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the resolution placing Assistant Principal Dr. Raymond Diaz on unrequested leave of absence effective June 30, 2026.
- ZIELKE LEFT MEETING AT 6:45 PM**
- DONATIONS:** A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.
- (A COMPLETE COPY OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)
- 2026-27 LEA APPROVED:** McAlister made a motion, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to appoint Dr. Katie Baskin as the Local Education Agent (LEA) for 2026-27.
- IOwA APPROVED:** Leathers made a motion, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to appoint Dr. Joey Page as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for 2026-27.
- MEETING REMINDER:** Chair Dube reminded School Board members of the study session scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.
- MEETING ADJOURNED:** A motion was made by Young, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm.