

WORK SESSION MEETING

Monday, January 26, 2026

The Monday, January 26, 2026 School Board Work Session meeting of Independent School Dist. #2687 (Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted) was called to order at 6:31 pm. by Chairperson B Borrell. After the pledge of allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: B Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon, Puncochar and J Borrell; Student Representatives: Brycen Diers, Arianna Grosshuesch and Julianna Peterson; Mulvihill arrived at 6:38 pm. Also present were Superintendent Dan Edwards and Board Secretary Marilyn Greeley.

(Item IV) Puncochar recommended approval of the agenda; J Borrell seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item V, Subd. A) Puncochar recommended approval of the overnight student trip for HS State DECA March 1-3, 2026 to Minneapolis; HS History March 18-27, 2026 Berlin, Prague, Kraków, Budapest; Koch seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item V, Subd. B) Superintendent Edwards reviewed the staffing adjustment for the high school.

Koch recommended approval of the staffing adjustment for the high school; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

Mulvihill arrived at 6:38pm

(Item V, Subd. C) Superintendent Edwards, Business Manager, Megan Tormanen and Matt Hammer from Ehlers and Associates reviewed the preparations that have been done with HLWW as part of preparations for the 2026-27 budget. The board discussed the information presented to help provide direction for the 2026-2027 school year that accounts for an anticipated decrease in student enrollment. The school board discussed various budget reduction ideas such as staff to student ratios at the secondary level, and explored previously considered reduction areas, all with the goal of helping the district to maintain the recent progress made in strengthening the district's fund balance. Increased revenue opportunities were also discussed including increasing fees where possible. These conversations will result in initial administrative recommendations related to staffing for the 2026-2027 school year that will be brought back to the school board at the February work session.

(Item V, Subd. D) Board members verbally recognized positive things in the district. Mulvihill recognized Board Member Brian Marketon and Superintendent Edwards for their work with the Ag Department and the FFA Alumni group.

Koch recognized the One Act Play who are performing at sub sections today. Koch indicated they have an abstract script on teen suicide which can be a challenging subject.

Marketon recognized the junior high staff for helping to create memories from their Deep Portage trip to the reward day activities such as roller skating.

Bauman recognized the teachers who go on the Deep Portage trip, it is three days of nonstop students and activities.

J Borrell recognized the people doing difficult things such as Principal Olson who has had to have some difficult conversations with staff and the Budget Committee who has highlighted things that are financial challenges and that we have a budget surplus right now.

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Puncochar recognized this board and those in the past cycle who helped maintain the budget situation we are in during challenging times. Puncochar also recognized the positive things staff are doing at the elementary buildings to keep students engaged and learning.

Diers recognized enjoying and learning in Mrs. Varner's class.

Peterson recognized Mrs. Main and the senior class who came together to support a classmate in need.

Grosshuesch recognized Mr. Hayes for all the things he does for students such as bringing recess back for the high school students, running two clubs' afterschool and assisting running a Well Being club; "he goes above and beyond".

B Borrell recognized James Carr and the Jr. Laker League for the fun event they put on each year; it is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

(Item VI, Subd. A) Upcoming Board Member Event Appearances:

Calendar Link

Students of Excellence April 22-Resource Training @ 4:30pm

(Item VI, Subd. B) Nothing new was reported.

(Item VII) Next Meeting Dates:

Regular Board Meeting-Monday February 9, 2026 6:30 pm HLWW HS Media Center

Work Session Meeting-Monday February 23, 2026 6:30 pm HLWW HS Media Center

(Item VIII) Items for next meeting

Regular Meeting:

- Bill Reader for January-Koch
- Bill Reader for February-Marketon
- Bill Reader for March-Mulvihill
- Resignations/Retirements
- Employment Recommendations
- Approve Second Reading of Policies
- Approve First Reading of Policies
- Approve Treasurer Report-January, April, July, October
- Monthly Budget Report
- Approve Spring Coaching Staff

Work Session:

- Discuss Score Card
- Budget update

B Borrell adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Koch, Clerk