

WORK SESSION MEETING

Monday, February 23, 2026

The Monday, February 23, 2026 School Board Work Session meeting of Independent School Dist. #2687 (Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted) was called to order at 6:30 pm. by Chairperson B Borrell. After the pledge of allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: B Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon, Mulvihill, Puncochar and J Borrell; Student Representatives: Brycen Diers, Arianna Grosshuesch and Julianna Peterson. Also present were Superintendent Dan Edwards and Board Secretary Marilyn Greeley.

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

(Item V) Koch recommended approval of the consent agenda; Marketon seconded; passed unanimously.

The consent agenda included the retirement of **Mark Nelson** as the Head Custodian at Winsted Elementary effective July 7, 2026; and **Sharon Christianson** as Special Ed Assessment Teacher effective the end of the 2025-26 school year.

(Item VI, Subd. A) Marketon recommended approval of the following overnight student trips: High School Spanish Class grades 11-12 to Peru approximately June 8-16, 2026; High School Student Council State Convention in Owatonna, MN April 11-13, 2026; High School Students, recent graduates and parents trip to Greece and Italy June 8-17, 2026; and High School Track & Field student going to La Crescent April 17-18, 2026; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VI, Subd. B) Superintendent Edwards reviewed information about a sample scorecard. Mulvihill suggested that we include information about outcomes and how information will be measured. Superintendent Edwards indicated we will have some results from various testing that the district does.

J Borrell indicated the military uses a process of measurable performance; are you doing the right things, and are you doing them effectively; are we doing those things right.

Mulvihill also asked if the measurable goals would be tied to things that staff/administration are working on. Superintendent Edwards indicated this is something we are looking into. Edwards also indicated that some results could come from the survey we are sending out which could be part of information in an annual report.

Koch indicated that she liked the idea of an annual report and a simple scorecard with the ability to look at more details if you want it.

Mulvihill suggested reviewing how we send out the information to the community. Mulvihill indicated the information should be clear and simple to understand and if they want more details, those can be reviewed as well. Mulvihill indicated our first year would be more of this is what we are implementing and then subsequent years there would be more detailed.

(Item VI, Subd. C) Superintendent Edwards reviewed the process of what we are looking at for a revised budget for the current school year, 25-26. Edwards indicated we hope to have information to present to the Budget Committee at the March 9, 2026 Committee meeting. A key component of the development process for the upcoming budget year, 26-27, that was discussed in great detail were the HS course offerings and master schedule. Edwards presented information based upon January registration that was just completed which helps us build a master schedule. As a follow up to our January 25th school board work session, the board reviewed courses with 15 or less students registered. Edwards reported that approximately 25%

of the junior and senior classes are participating in PSEO courses, thus resulting in lower actual student numbers, post-registration.

Puncochar asked if it's possible to have a club vs a class if there is only minimal interest. Superintendent Edwards responded that we are looking for creative solutions.

Puncochar also asked if there are areas/classes that could be combined and possibly taught together. Superintendent Edwards indicated those are conversations we intend to engage in with the staff.

B Borrell asked if we should be looking at classes with only 17-18 students registered knowing that it could be reduced by 25% because of PSEO enrollment.

Mulvihill asked Superintendent Edwards what the school board should be thinking about.

Superintendent Edwards indicated he is looking for direction from the school board on short and long term guidance on budget decisions. Edwards indicated for example if we know we have a vacancy that we need to fill that we post the position and if we have a vacancy that we think we may not need to fill with new staff we will wait to post the position until we engage in conversations with staff. Edwards reminded the board we are not taking action on the budget tonight, however if there are vacancies to fill or to hold that we can administratively do so.

Mulvihill indicated that it made sense.

Koch agreed.

The consensus of the board was to proceed as Superintendent Edwards indicated with the hiring process where specific needs have been identified.

Superintendent Edwards reported that for the long term we want to analyze the numbers of students registered for classes and also the number of class periods in a day to see if there is a way we can deliver our secondary schedule in a more efficient and cost effective way for students and staff, while maintaining strong student outcomes and opportunities.

Mulvihill asked how the board can help support the next steps.

Superintendent Edwards indicated that the school day offerings, i.e. master schedule or current 7-period day, should be considered for study. Edwards reminded the board that at this stage we are not making any changes for next school year, however we need to begin to discuss and define classes in October-December to determine what classes should be offered for registration in January of 2027, for the 27-28 school year. Edwards indicated that there are more cost-effective models for secondary schedules that are utilized in other school districts that we could consider and that a comprehensive study process involving a broad representation of teaching staff would be necessary in order to determine any changes.

Koch reminded the board to consider graduation requirements and how we should align our District to the Minnesota Graduation requirements.

Mulvihill asked what the implementation time frame is.

Superintendent Edwards indicated that it is a 9-10 month timeframe, while we certainly need to make decisions about next year in the near future; it would take six to nine months to study and gather data to review to be able to make a decision regarding any change for the 27-28 school year..

Superintendent Edwards indicated to think about this and we will be looking at the March 9, 2026 meeting to approve our direction.

(Item VI, Subd. D) Board members verbally recognized positive things in the district.

Diers recognized Noel and Mrs. Holm for their work and time on Snow Fest and the Sadie's Dance.

WORK SESSION MEETING

Monday, February 23, 2026

Page 3

Grosshuesch recognized Noel and Mrs. Holm also and indicated the students were very involved and competitive. Grosshuesch also recognized the Speech team competed on Saturday and that the school culture last week was good for Snow Fest.

Peterson recognized the student council for holding a fundraiser sponsoring staff who are competing in a polar plunge.

J Borrell recognized Mr. Granrud who is finding creative ways to help a student who is struggling.

Bauman recognized the students and staff who participated and helped with the third and fourth grade musical and also congratulations to Lilly Loge on advancing to the State competition for Gymnastics this past weekend.

Koch recognized the PTA members who are working hard to make their presence known at the middle and high schools.

Marketon recognized the Wrestling team for their comradery and for winning against Dassel-Cokato/Litchfield. Marketon also recognized the Boys Basketball team who after they won went onto the court and sang the school song along with younger basketball students.

Puncochar recognized the Wrestling team for their comradery, showing they really care about each other, and for Logan Diers who still gave it his all even though if he won his match the team as a whole wouldn't win.

Mulvihill recognized the student board representatives for taking an active role and bringing issues to the board to consider.

B Borrell recognized the students and staff who participated in the third and fourth grade musical, it was great.

(Item VII, Subd. A) Upcoming Board Member Event Appearances: Calendar Link

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

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

(Item VIII) Next Meeting Dates:

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

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

(Item IX) Items for next meeting

Regular Meeting:

- Bill Reader for March-Mulvihill
- Bill Reader for April-Puncochar
- Approve Spring Coaching List
- Resignations/Retirements
- Employment Recommendations
- Approve Second Reading of Policies
- Approve First Reading of Policies
- Approve Treasurer Report-January, April, July, October
- Monthly Budget Report/Revised Budget
- Adopt Wright Tech LTFM Resolution
- Approve Lawn Care Estimates
- Discuss School Day Setting

WORK SESSION MEETING
Monday, February 23, 2026

Page 4

Work Session:

- Preview New Website
- Discuss School Day Setting
- Discuss Budget

B Borrell adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Koch, Clerk