

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
JUNE 15, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Aakhus, Anna Manecke, Dave Wall, Todd Haugen and
Superintendent Jeremy Olson
Finn Jorgensen – Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jenny Frenzel and Ann Long Voelkner
Jacobi Burmeister Pater – Student Representative

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:30 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Terah Snobl – BESP Contract
Sarah Erickson – BESP Contract

REQUEST TO REMOVE TOPIC(S) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from the May 18, 2026 and May 27, 2026 School Board Meetings
- B. Bills Totaling: \$5,215,227.06
- C. Certified Staff Appointments
- D. Non-Certified Staff Resignations
- E. Request for Extended Leave – Robert Brink
- F. Second Reading of Revised MSBA 506R:Code of Conduct

SPECIAL TOPICS

Spotlight Presentation “Activities Report”

Kristen McRae, Director of Activities, spoke about the number of students that participated in both high school and middle school sports and activities. There was an increase in both participation and funds brought in. There are 128 coaches and 58 activities are available at the high school. The high school hosted 151 events at the high school.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Welcome to new student representative Finn Jorgensen.

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

There were no participants in listening session.

ACTION ITEMS

Tentative Agreement with the Custodians and Maintenance Personnel Bargaining Unit for 2025-2027

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of SBR 200-40-1, the employment agreement between Independent School District No. 31 and the MSEA for Custodians and Maintenance Personnel for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027 and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to sign the Memorandums of Understanding as indicated herein.

2026-27 Budget Book and Adoption of Preliminary Operating Budget

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Jack Aakhus and, carried by all in attendance to approve the 2026-27 Operating Budget as presented and grant authorization to make transportation fleet purchases up to \$270,000 if the District's expenses are tracking at or below the budgeted expenses.

Resolution Requiring the Tally of Write-In Votes only if Write-In Votes are Greater than a Ballot Candidate's Total Votes

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.09, provides that a school board may adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for school board elections. The resolution may require that write-in votes for an individual candidate for the school board only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate; and

WHEREAS, the write-in vote counting process can be overly time consuming and require resources that does not result in a change of election results unless a single write-in candidate receives more votes than a ballot candidate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji Area Schools, State of Minnesota, that the school board requires that write-in votes for an individual candidate for the school board will only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate. If not enough people filed for open positions and one of the open positions needs to be filled by a write-in candidate, then all write-in votes will be counted.

This resolution shall remain effective for all future elections until and unless a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the school board.

The motion for adoption for the Resolution was made by Member Dave Wall, duly seconded by Member Jack Aakhus,

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye: Jack Aakhus, Dave Wall, Anna Manecke and Todd Haugen

Nay: None

Absent: Ann Long Voelkner, Jenny Frenzel

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted by Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji Area Schools, State of Minnesota, this 15th day of June, 2026

Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election

WHEREAS, the general election in each Minnesota school district must be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of either the odd-numbered or the even-numbered year.

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the school district to hold its general election for the purpose of electing three school board members for terms of four (4) years each.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 Bemidji Area Schools, State of Minnesota as follows:

The clerk shall include on the ballot the names of the individuals who file or have filed affidavits of candidacy during the period established for filing such affidavits, as though they had been included by name in this resolution. The clerk shall not include on the ballot the names of individuals who file timely affidavits of withdrawal in the manner specified by law.

The general election is hereby called and elected to be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for this general election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district and which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as for the state general election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said general election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, at least eighty-four (84) days before the date of said election. The notice shall include the date of said general election and the office or offices to be voted on at said general election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district for public inspection at least ten (10) days before the date of said general election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said general election for public inspection. The clerk shall also cause two sample ballots to be posted in each polling place on Election Day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot. The sample ballot for a polling place must reflect the offices, candidates, and rotation sequence on the ballots used in that polling place. The sample may be either in full or reduced size.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be published in the official newspaper of the school district for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of said election.

The notice of election so posted and published shall state the offices to be filled set forth in the form of ballot below and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

The clerk is authorized and directed to cause the rules and instructions for use of the optical scan voting system to be posted in each polling place on Election Day.

The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this election, and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting other elections on that date. The clerk and members of the school district administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may

be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate election officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.

The clerk is further authorized and directed to cause or to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the form below, with such changes in form, color and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate an optical scan voting system.

The motion for adoption of the Resolution was made by Member Anna Manecke, duly seconded by Member Dave Wall,

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye: Jack Aakhus, Dave Wall, Anna Manecke and Todd Haugen

Nay:

Absent: Ann Long Voelkner, Jenny Frenzel

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted by Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji Area Schools, State of Minnesota, this 15th day of June, 2026.

Student Handbook Approval

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2026-2027 student handbooks as presented.

Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the Minnesota Department of Education External User Access Recertification System

Anna Manecke introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

DESIGNATION OF IDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY FOR THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXTERNAL USER ACCESS RECERTIFICATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, The IOwA is responsible for authorizing, reviewing, and recertifying user access for their LEA in accordance with the State of Minnesota Enterprise Identity and Access Management Standard, which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually. The IOwA will authorize user access to State of Minnesota Education secure systems in accordance with the user's assigned job duties, and will revoke that user's access when it is no longer needed to perform their job duties.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board of Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Minnesota, designates Dr. Jeremy Olson, Superintendent of Schools, as the Identified Official with Authority with the Minnesota Department of Education for External User Access Recertification System of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji Area Schools effective July 1, 2026.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Jack Aakhus, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

YES: Jack Aakhus, Dave Wall, Anna Manecke and Todd Haugen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jenny Frenzel, Ann Long Voelkner

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Certification of Updated District Population Estimate

Dave Wall introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

CERTIFYING THE POPULATION ESTIMATE FOR THE 2026 PAYABLE 2027 LEVY OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 31

WHEREAS, the Independent School District # 31 has experienced an increase in population from the 2020 census figure of 38,981, to the current census figure of 40,152 as determined by the State Demographer.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District # 31 that the census figure of 40,152 be certified to the State Demographer for approval of use in the 2026 payable 2027 revenue calculations.

For the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Jack Aakhus and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Jack Aakhus, Dave Wall, Anna Manecke and Todd Haugen.

And the following voted against: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Policy to Rescind

SBR 200-10-15R:Evaluation the Superintendent - this is a procedure

The motion was offered by Jack Aakhus, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to rescind the above named policy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Regular School Board Meeting, July 20, 2026, 6:30 PM, District Office Board Room

OTHER

Spring State Participant Recognition

The spring state participants were listed.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Olson shared about the Minnesota Permanent School Fund.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Jack Aakhus, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn the meeting. Time: 7:33 p.m.

Jenny Frenzel, Clerk

Date Approved

Todd Haugen, Chair

Date Approved