

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 37

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 17, 2026

Call to Order

At 6:00 p.m., the meeting of the Gavin School Board of Education was called to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, by President Miller.

Roll Call

Present

Mr. James Miller, III - President
Mrs. Amber Sederstrom - Vice President
Mrs. Sarah Brezinski - Secretary
Ms. Jenny Meyer
Mrs. Brandy Barth
Dr. Bridgett Payseur

Absent

Mrs. Kristin Bloniarczyk

Also Present - Dr. Scott Schwartz, Mrs. Diana Miletich-Wester, Dr. Meagan Dwyer and Mrs. Deanna Kelly

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

No citizens requested to address the Board at this time.

Student Spotlight

Recognition of Central Leaders of the Month and South Students of the Month.

Committee Reports

The Finance and Facilities Committee reported that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to 4.2% in May, largely driven by higher gas prices. The committee highlighted several facility improvements, including renovated cafeterias at Central and South, new classroom furniture installations at Central and South, a pre-K fence project funded through the pre-K grant, and refinished gym floors at South which are expected to remain in good condition for many years with proper maintenance. The annual audit is scheduled for July 27–August 5, and the committee is seeking July board approval for a pre-K grant-funded storage shed at Central to improve equipment storage.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Schwartz reported that summer preparations for the 2026–27 school year are progressing well. District enrollment is down slightly (just under 3%), with a larger decline at Central offset by growth at South; however, class sizes and operations remain stable, and regional enrollment trends suggest similar declines in neighboring districts. The superintendent also reviewed new athletic conference sportsmanship policies for players and coaches and noted that local spectator expectations will be developed this summer and added to the parent handbook. Board discussion highlighted housing market conditions and broader demographic trends as factors influencing enrollment patterns.

Board President's Report

The Board President reported on a recent leadership seminar attended with the Vice President, highlighting the district's strong governance, positive board-superintendent relationship, and effective communication compared to many districts that experience significant challenges. The President expressed appreciation for the board's collaborative culture, which allows meetings to remain productive and efficient. The seminar also reinforced the value of ongoing board training, and members were encouraged to participate in future professional development opportunities.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

No citizens requested to address the Board at this time.

Discussion, Fee Waivers

The superintendent and business manager reviewed declining fee collection rates and proposed strategies to improve revenue while supporting families in need. The board discussed increasing communication through regular billing statements, promoting fee waiver applications, offering payment plans, and educating families about how registration and participation fees support student programs and activities. Board members supported a communication-focused approach to improve collections before considering more aggressive measures.

Discussion, SEDOL Tuition Model

Dr. Dwyer, Executive Director for Student Services, provided an update on changes to SEDOL's tuition and membership fee structure, noting that while the district's membership costs remain relatively stable, tuition expenses for specialized placements continue to rise as programs move to a true-cost funding model. The district is offsetting some of these increases through transportation efficiencies and expanded collaboration with neighboring districts. The most significant update was the continued success of strengthening in-district special education services, allowing more students to return from out-of-district placements and receive support within their home schools.

Discussion, Tax Limiting Rate and Life Safety Bond

The superintendent presented data showing that Gavin's teacher salaries remain below those of neighboring districts, creating increasing recruitment and retention challenges despite the district's success in attracting quality staff. The board reviewed timelines and considerations for potential future funding measures, including a tax referendum and life safety bond, to address both competitive compensation and facility needs. Board members expressed interest in gathering additional information, including survey and communication support costs, while monitoring the outcome of the proposed sales tax referendum before making any decisions.

Approval, Consent Agenda

- Open/Closed session Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on May 20, 2026
- Board Bills of May 2026
- Imprest Bills for Payment
- Summary of Bills over \$2,500
- Financial Reports

Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of the consent agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Meyer, Barth, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Bloniarczyk

Motion carried

Approval, Personnel Report

Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve and Mrs. Sederstrom seconded approval of the personnel report.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Meyer, Barth, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Bloniarczyk

Motion carried

Approval, Final 2025/2026 School Calendar

Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve and Mrs. Sederstrom seconded approval of the final 2025/2026 school calendar..

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Meyer, Barth, Payseur
- Nays: None
- Absent: Bloniarczyk

Motion carried

Freedom of Information Requests Status

The Board reviewed the status of 7 Freedom of Information requests.

Items for Future Agendas

A Board member requested future discussions on expanding student enrichment opportunities, including adding clubs at Central, and potentially reviving a school play or musical program. A board member also expressed interest in recognizing younger students through pre-K and kindergarten graduation ceremonies. The administration will add this topic to the next Board agenda.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Mrs. Sederstrom made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Barth seconded approval to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Deanna Kelly
Recording Secretary

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