

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 9, 2026

The Monday February 9, 2026 Regular School Board 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, Principals Stephanie Kuehn, Jim Schimelpfenig, and Jennifer Olson, and Board Secretary Marilyn Greeley.

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

(Item V) There were no questions or comments from visitors.

(Item VI) Puncochar recommended approval of the consent agenda which included the January 12, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes, January 26, 2026 Work Session meeting minutes, P-Card, January Bills, February 9, 2026 Check Register, monthly treasurer report, January 2026 Enrollment, the resignations of **Jacob Piehl** as Technology Specialist effective January 28, 2026; **Heather Struthers** as an Elementary teacher effective the end of the 2025-26 school year; **Tracie Will** as an Intervention Teacher at Humphrey Elementary effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year; and **Emily Ziemer** as a High School Ag Instructor effective January 30, 2026; and the retirement of **Brad Ryan** as the Behavior Interventionist effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year; hiring **Makayla Bogema** part-time as a Para effective February 9, 2026, replacing the part-time open position, the second reading and approval of policy **613**-Graduation Requirements; the Elementary Laker Newsletter and a Thank you from Rathkamp Family; Koch seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. A) Superintendent Edwards gave an update about the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) and requested its approval.

Puncochar recommended approval of the AIPAC report; Marketon seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. B) Puncochar reported the district requested transportation quotes. Puncochar indicated the district wanted continuity during the transition of elementary grade buildings and the current vendor also has predetermined a increase of 3.25% over the next four years. Superintendent Edwards also indicated we would like to continue our partnership with 4.O School Services. Marketon also indicated we feel it has been a good partnership.

Koch recommended approval of the transportation contract with 4.O School Services; J Borrell seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. C) B Borrell reviewed the 2025-27 teacher contract information and indicated that the Negotiations Committee recommends its approval. Koch also reported that some language items went into the staff handbook instead of the contract and there were percentage and step increases as well.

Marketon thanked the Negotiations Committee and others who assisted with the negotiations process. Marketon expressed concern about what the settlement will do to the budget. Puncochar agreed with Marketon that she is concerned about the budget as well and knows we will need to have some tough conversations.

Koch recommended approval of the 2025-27 teacher contract; Puncochar seconded; those in favor were: Bauman, Koch, J Borrell, Puncochar, Mulvihill and B Borrell; Marketon was opposed; passed by majority.

(Item VII, Subd. D) B Borrell read the donations.

J Borrell recommended approval of the resolution accepting donations; Marketon seconded; those in favor: Mulvihill, Puncochar, J Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon and B Borrell; those opposed: none; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. E) The Policy Committee recommended the first reading of policy 621-Literacy & Read Act.

Mulvihill asked if there are any concerns about the specifics in the policy. Superintendent Edwards reported the committee discussed that and feel confident that we are working toward the changes.

Koch indicated we are not looking to add a new position for the Literacy Lead; however it would be part of an existing position, and this policy does align with State expectations.

(Item VII, Subd. F) B Borrell indicated the following items are on the work session agenda:

- Approve Spring Coaching Staff
- Discuss Scorecard
- Budget update

Marketon recommended approval of the items for the work session; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. G) Board members verbally recognized positive things in the district.

Bauman recognized the Negotiations team for their work and support on her first round of negotiations.

Marketon also recognized the Negotiations team for all the work they did.

Koch recognized the elementary teaching staff who met with their new teams Friday afternoon.

J Borrell recognized the Southpoint City Budget simulation that staff put on for students to experience life skills.

Diers recognized the students who are involved with Speech, they feel comfortable with what they are doing and are happy.

Grosshuesch recognized all the teachers and Mrs. Holm for their help with scholarships and writing recommendation letters.

Peterson recognized the choir teachers.

Puncochar recognized the Negotiations Committee and thanked them for their work. Puncochar also recognized Shannah Mulvihill for leading the charge on implementing a new school website.

Mulvihill recognized Superintendent Edwards and Brian Marketon for all the work and time they put in with the FFA and Ag Department and parent groups.

B Borrell recognized Southpoint City Budget simulation as well. B Borrell also recognized the elementary school Olympics program, students were very excited to participate.

(Item VIII, Subd. A) Superintendent Edwards reported:

- He was the master of ceremony for the Elementary Olympics
- He was a mystery reader in the kindergarten class at Winsted Elementary
- We are working on curriculum adoption
- The elementary team met with their new team on Friday afternoon.
- Kindergarten registration is going on tonight at Humphrey Elementary.

(Item VIII, Subd. B) Principal Kuehn reported:

- Laker Pantry received a donation from the PTA to purchase food supplies.
- The Laker PTA helped the fund the freezer campaign and we were able to purchase a freezer to keep frozen items.
- Congratulations to Julianna and Arianna on being selected as part of the snow fest court.
- The Southpoint City budget event was a great opportunity for our students.
- Superintendent Edwards, Mrs. Hendrickson and Principal Kuehn will be attending a CTE conference.

Principal Schimelpfenig reported:

- The middle school is wrapping up the eighth grade registration for ninth grade.
- We will be starting student lead conferences next week and there will be a book fair at the same time with proceeds going to purchase new middle school library books.
- The two hour late start was a successful professional development day.

(Item VIII, Subd. C) Student representatives gave a brief report.

Brycen Diers reported he is concerned about the mental health of students. Diers indicated students are working hard during school and outside of the school day and has noticed students are exhausted. Diers suggested possible solutions would be to send students regular reminders of resources that are available for them and also to use advisory time to connect with students about their mental health.

Julianna Peterson reported she is concerned about the vaping in the school. Peterson indicated statistics show it is happening as early as sixth grade, which can be very dangerous and lead to health problems and addiction. Peterson suggested possible solutions would be to increase the education of the side effects, create an anonymous reporting system, and educate teachers and staff of signs of vaping, and focus on support instead of punishment.

Arianna Grosshuesch reported student council is working on snow fest. Grosshuesch also reported the gratitude boxes have been good; however it is been challenging to keep individuals and teachers involved. Grosshuesch feels we have been creating a positive culture.

(Item VIII, Subd. D) B Borrell indicated the school board committee reports are enclosed.

Mulvihill gave a updated on the Community Relations Committee. Mulvihill indicated the committee has been meeting every two weeks, and we still plan to launch the new website April 1st. Mulvihill also reported the committee is looking into developing an annual report which would include some of our main accomplishments, challenges, etc., and we hope to partner with the Newspaper to further promote our District.

(Item VIII, Subd. E) Upcoming Board Member Event Appearances:
Calendar Link

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

Superintendent Edwards indicated that MSBA and MASA are coming together March 9, 2026 for a day at the capital, if any board members are interested, please let us know by the March 2nd deadline.

(Item IX) Next Meeting Dates:

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

Regular Board Meeting-March 9, 2026 6:30 pm HLWW HS Media Center-may be out of town-may attend remotely

(Item X) Items for next meeting

Work Session:

- Approve Spring Coaching staff
- Discuss Scorecard
- Budget Update

Regular Meeting:

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

B Borrell adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Koch, Clerk