

January 8, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on January 8, 2025, in the High School Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Polcher, Gabardi, Galatz, Chair Berklich and Student Representative Ariana Ellis.

Members Absent: Director Egan and Student Representative Sara Cowles

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Newly elected board members Berklich, Galatz and McLaughlin accepted the oath of office.

Reorganization of School Board:

ELECT CHAIR

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Director Gabardi that Chair Berklich be named Chair of the Board for the ensuing year. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECT CLERK

Moved by Polcher, seconded by Director Gabardi that Director Polcher be named Clerk of the Board for the ensuing year. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECT TREASURER

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Director Gabardi that Director McLaughlin be named Treasurer of the Board for the ensuing year. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECT CHAIR PRO TEM

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Director Gabardi that Director McLaughlin be named Chair Pro Tem of the Board for the ensuing year. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – BLANKET BOND

Director McLaughlin offers the following Resolution and moves its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board, ISD #701, Hibbing, that the District purchase a blanket bond for \$100,000 to cover the board members and school employees.

Chair Berklich supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – SALARIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

Director Gabardi offers the following Resolution and moves its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board, ISD #701, Hibbing, that the salaries of the school board members will be \$400.00 per month, payable monthly, for regularly scheduled board meetings. The Chairperson of the school board shall receive \$450.00 per month, payable monthly, for regularly scheduled board meetings. \$50.00 per meeting shall be allowed for additional Negotiation meetings and special meetings beginning with the 2024-25 contract year.

Director Polcher supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Director Polcher offers the following Resolution and moves its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board, ISD #701, Hibbing, that The Mesabi Tribune be designated the official newspaper of the School District to publish the proceedings of the Meetings of the School Board and legal notices and display advertising at the legal rate. The officers are authorized to enter into a contract for the same.

Director McLaughlin supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – DATES AND TIMES OF BOARD MEETINGS

Director Polcher offers the following Resolution and moves its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board, ISD #701, Hibbing, that the regular school board meetings be held on the first Wednesday after the first Monday of each month unless otherwise designated.

The second meeting will be held two weeks after the first meeting unless that day is a legal holiday, when it will be held on the next day when legal business can be transacted unless otherwise designated. The starting time will be 3:30 P.M. and the place will be the Board Room in the High School unless otherwise designated.

Chair Berklich supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN CLAIMS

Director McLauhglin offers the following Resolution and moves its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board, ISD #701, Hibbing, that the Business Manager be authorized to prepay certain claims to take advantage of discounts.

Director Gabardi supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS

Director McLaughlin offers the following Resolution and moves its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board, ISD #701, Hibbing, that the Business Manager be authorized to make payments through the use of electronic fund transfers, and shall report the same to the School Board each month.

Chair Berklich supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO MSHSL

Moved by Director Polcher seconded by Chair Berklich that Directors Gabardi and Polcher be appointed as the Board's representative to the Minnesota State High School League. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO MSBA

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Chair Berklich that Chair Berklich be named the Legislative Liaison to the Minnesota School Boards Association. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO TITLE I PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved by Chair Berklich, seconded by Director Polcher that Director Galatz be appointed to the Title I Parent Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO COMMUNITY ED ADVISORY COUNCIL

Moved by Chair Berklich, seconded by Director Polcher that Director Galatz be appointed to the Community Education Advisory Council. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO DISTRICT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Chair Berklich that Director Polcher be appointed to the District Health and Safety Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO COMPREHENSIVE ACHIEVEMENT AND CIVIC READINESS COMMITTEE

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Chair Berklich to appoint Director McLaughlin and Director Gabardi to the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Chair Berklich to appoint Directors Polcher, McLaughlin and Chair Berklich to the Negotiations Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO AD COMMITTEE

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Chair Berklich to appoint Directors Gabardi and Polcher to the AD Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Chair Berklich to appoint Directors McLaughlin, Gabardi and Chair Berklich to the Finance Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Presentation – Sterle & Co. fiscal year 2024 audit.

APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 AUDIT FINANCIAL REPORT

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the fiscal year 2024 audit financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director McLaughlin commented on parent registration night a success and on the new furniture in cafeteria.

Administrators and Staff:

Mr. James Plese, Activities Director – gave an update on booster club communication with the school district, attendance policy, grade check policy, upgrade social media focus on activity base, update website, cashless options, winter sports and Hockey Day Minnesota.

Mr. Nathan Lutzka, Special Programs Director – gave an update on special education audit, working on ways to find money for our schools to operate, third party billing and working with North Homes cost.

Committee Report: None

APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the December 4, 2024 Regular Meeting, Truth-in-Taxation Hearing and the following for the month of November, 2024: Consideration of Claims in the amount of \$946,036.28. Electronic Fund Transfers in the amount of 734,948.61. Treasurer's and Investment Reports and Payrolls in the amount of \$2,683,948.95. No postings or transfers for the month of December, 2024. Accept the resignation of Sven Pieper as head girls' soccer coach, effective October 28, 2024. Accept the resignation of James Plese, Jr. as head boys' track coach, effective December 18, 2024. Approve the hiring of Elisha Otonichar as a 1.0 FTE Title I teacher, Lincoln Middle School, effective January 6, 2025. Approve the hiring of Hailee Eleven to Job #60 pupil support assistant, 30 hours per week, Lincoln Middle School, effective January 9, 2025.

Administrative Business:

RESOLUTION WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve a Resolution to allow school board members to be covered by the School District Workers Compensation Insurance Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CORPORATE AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

Moved by Director Gabardi, supported by Director Galatz to approve the Corporate Authorization Resolutions for the following school district depositories:

1. Park State Bank
2. MN Liquid Asset Fund
3. PMA Financial Network, Inc.
4. Robert W. Baird & Company
5. Security State Bank - Hibbing
6. US Bank - Hibbing
7. Wells Fargo Bank - Hibbing

Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT THE FOLLOWING AS SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR SQUIRES WALDSPURGER & MACE, P.A., COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY & BRUNFELT, LTD AND FRYBERGER, BUCHANAN, SMITH & FREDERICK, P.A.

Moved by Director Polcher, seconded by Director McLaughlin to appoint the following as School District legal counsel for the 2025 calendar year Squires Waldspurger & Mace P.A, Colosimo, Patchin, Kearney & Brunfelt, LTD and Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR DONATIONS

Moved by Director Gabardi, supported by Director Polcher to approve the resolution for donations. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAYMENT #1, FINAL PAYMENT, TO HARBOR CITY MASONRY INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,883.80 FOR WORK COMPLETED ON LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL BRICK REPAIR PROJECT

Moved by Director Galatz, supported by Director Polcher to approve payment #1, final payment, to Harbor City Masonry Inc. in the amount of \$72,883.80 for work completed on Lincoln Middle School brick repair project. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE POLICY 617 CREDIT FOR LEARNING

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi to approve Policy 617 Credit for Learning. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE POLICY 806 INFORMATION SECURITY

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to approve Policy 806 Information Security. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE A JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY OF HIBBING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025 AT 3:45 P.M. IN THE HIBBING CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Galatz to approve a joint meeting with the City of Hibbing on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 3:45 p.m. in the Hibbing City Council Chambers. Motion carried unanimously.

CHANGE THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING TIME ON
FEBRUARY 5, 2025 FROM 3:30 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M. IN THE HIGH
SCHOOL BOARDROOM

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to change the regular school board meeting time on February 5, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the high school boardroom. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items: None

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK