

May 21, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:39 P.M. on May 21, 2025, in the High School Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Polcher, Galatz, Egan, Gabardi and Chair Berklich

Members Absent: Student Representative Arianna Ellis and Sara Cowles

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Director Egan excused himself from the meeting.

Public Comment: None

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director Gabardi thanked Carrie McDonald for hosting the AMFA meeting.

Director McLaughlin thanked all for the May 12th awards night over \$200 thousand in scholarships.

Administrators and Staff: None

Committee Report:

Director Gabardi discussed All night graduation party.

Superintendent Aldrich thanked the student directors for their service on the school board.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

Director Egan returned to the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Todd Rapp, Rapp Strategies and Mike Hoheisel, Baird Public Finance presented the school board referendum

Chair Berklich moved Item L from Administrative Business to approve the intent of the Hibbing School Board to propose a referendum.

APPROVE THE INTENT OF THE HIBBING SCHOOL BOARD TO
PROPOSE A REFERENDUM TO VOTERS OF I.S.D. NO. 701 DURING
THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 ELECTION

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Egan to approve the intent of the Hibbing School Board to propose a referendum to voters of I.S.D. No. 701 during the November 4, 2025 election. The district administration is directed to prepare the legal documents necessary to conduct the election, and it is the board's intent to proceed by adopting a resolution calling for an election no later than August 12, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin and approved 5-1 with Director Gabardi voting against to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the May 7, 2025 Regular Meeting and the following for the month of April, 2025: Consideration of Claims in the amount of \$1,577,949.51. Electronic Fund Transfers in the amount of \$33,234.16. Treasurer's and Investment Reports and Payrolls in the amount of \$2,206,987.75. Accept the resignation from Noah Taylor, pupil support assistant, Lincoln Middle School, effective May 30, 2025. Accept the resignation from Caitlyn Lindemoen, speech language pathologist, Washington ELC, effective June 4, 2025. Accept the resignation from Amy Mandt, as a Data Specialist, Districtwide, effective June 9, 2025. Approve the hiring of Lisa Aldrich, Data Specialist, Districtwide, effective June 9, 2025. Approve the hiring of Franklin "DJ" Jones as a Targeted Services Math teacher at LMS, 4 hours per day, Monday-Thursday, effective June 9-26, 2025, contingent upon student enrollment in the Targeted Services Program. Approve the hiring of Gracie Gabardi as a Targeted Services Math teacher at LMS, 4 hours per day, Monday-Thursday, effective June 9-26, 2025, contingent upon student enrollment in the Targeted Services Program. Approve the hiring of Thomas Bittmann as a Targeted Services Reading teacher at LMS, 4 hours per day, Monday-Thursday, effective June 9-26, 2025, contingent upon student enrollment in the Targeted Services Program. Approve the hiring of Jeri Ann Gabardi as a Targeted Services Reading teacher at LMS, 4 hours per day, Monday-Thursday, effective June 9-26, 2025 contingent upon student enrollment in the Targeted Services Program. Approve the hiring of Susan Schwartz as a summer school teacher, 60 hours, grades 9-12, effective July 7-24, 2025 contingent upon summer school numbers. Approve the increase assignment for Charles Wagner, an American Indian Language & Culture teacher from 0.2 FTE to 0.4 FTE at the HHS/LMS, effective with the 2025-2026 school year. Approve the hiring of Phillip McDonald as a head varsity girls' hockey coach, effective October 27, 2025.

Administrative Business:

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR DONATIONS

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

APPROVE ALEX KACZOR AND KIM MCLAUGHLIN AS
AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR ACCOUNTS AT NATIONAL BANK OF
COMMERCE, HIBBING, MN

Moved by Director Galatz, supported by Chair Berklich to approve Alex Kaczor and Kim McLaughlin as authorized signers for accounts at National Bank of Commerce, Hibbing, MN. Motion carried with Director McLaughlin abstaining.

APPROVE THE SELF-INSURED DENTAL RATES

Moved by Director Gabardi, supported by Director Polcher to approve the self-insured dental rates of \$34.90 single and \$92.65 family effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN I.S.D. NO. 701
HIBBING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND I.S.D. NO. 695 CHISHOLM PUBLIC
SCHOOLS FOR LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION
BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2027

Moved by Director Galatz, supported by Chair Berklich to approve the contract agreement between I.S.D. No. 701 Hibbing Public Schools and I.S.D. No. 695 Chisholm Public Schools for Leadership of Community Education beginning August 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER FRANKLIN “DJ” JONES ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Franklin “DJ” Jones be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a science teacher of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year on June 4, 2025. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors Polcher, Egan, Gabardi, Galatz, McLaughlin and Berklich

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 21st day of May 2025.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER LILLIAN KRISKE ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Lillian Kriske be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a social worker of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year on June 4, 2025. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors McLaughlin, Galatz, Gabardi, Egan, Polcher and Berklich

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 21st day of May 2025.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER LYNDALARSEN ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Lynda Larsen be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as an English teacher of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year on June 4, 2025. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors Galatz, McLaughlin, Berklich, Polcher, Egan and Gabardi

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 21st day of May 2025.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER DANIEL MERFELD ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Daniel Merfeld be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a German teacher of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year on June 4, 2025. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors Berklich, Polcher, Egan, Gabardi, Galatz and McLaughlin

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 21st day of May 2025.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER LEANNE SCHUG-JOHNSON ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Leanne Schug-Johnson be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a social worker of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year on June 4, 2025. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors Galatz, Gabardi, Egan, Polcher, Berklich and McLaughlin

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 21st day of May 2025.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER PETER THEIN ON UNREQUESTED
LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Peter Thein be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a social studies teacher of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year on June 4, 2025. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors Berklich, Gabardi, Egan, Polcher, Galatz and McLaughlin

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 21st day of May 2025.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER DARRELL “DJ” ZIESKE ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Darrell “DJ” Zieske be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a Behavior Interventionist teacher of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year on June 4, 2025. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors Polcher, Egan, Gabardi, McLaughlin, Galatz and Berklich

And the following voted against the same:

Absent:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 21st day of May 2025.

Discussion Items:

Superintendent Aldrich presented administrative assignment changes for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Derek Gabardi – High School Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Toewe – High School Assistant Principal
Mr. Chad Snider and Ms. Mandy Huusko will be Co-Principal’s at the Lincoln and Ms. Huusko will still keep her role at the Washington ELC.

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