

September 10, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on September 10, 2025, in the High School Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Polcher, Gabardi, Egan, Galatz and Chair Berklich.

Members Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Parent, Ashton Martin was inquiring an update on the number of Pupil Support Assistants in the district.

Administrative Reports:

Superintendent Aldrich announced Sam Hardy will be the 2025-2026 student director for the school board.

Directors / Student Director:

Director Sarah Gabardi attended the Washington for drop off / pick up last week with the start of school and the kindergarten classes started the first week with staggered classes and was successful. The district brochure is nice.

Administrators and Staff:

Mrs. Carrie McDonald, Director of Teaching and Learning, updated on the Career Academy, district priorities and test scores.

Mr. Nathan Lutzka, Special Programs Director, special education update and partnership with Rock Ridge schools.

Committee Report: None

APPROVE AGENDA

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Egan and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the August 27, 2025 Regular Meeting and the following: Approve the hiring of Emma Mekkes as a 1.0 FTE Title I teacher, Lincoln Middle School, effective September 9, 2025. Postings and Transfers for the month of August, 2025: Approve posting Job #38 Custodian I, Tuesday – Saturday afternoon shift 4:00 p.m. – 12:30 a.m., High School Districtwide, effective August 19, 2025. Approve the transfer of Stacey Johnson to Job #38 Custodian I, Tuesday – Saturday afternoon shift, 4:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m., High School Districtwide, effective September 2, 2025.

**Administrative Business:**

APPROVE PAYMENT #4 TO MAX GRAY CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$655,815.94 FOR WORK COMPLETED ON THE GREENHAVEN RENOVATION PROJECT

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Gabardi to approve payment #4 to Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$655,815.94 for work completed on the Greenhaven Renovation Project. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN I.S.D. NO. 701 AND FACTS EDUCATION SOLUTIONS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 – JUNE 2, 2026

Moved by Director Galatz, supported by Director Gabardi to approve the Purchase of Services Agreement between I.S.D. No. 701 and FACTS Education Solutions effective September 2, 2025 – June 2, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE LETTER OF COOPERATION BETWEEN HIBBING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF AN ALC, EFFECTIVE WITH THE 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the Letter of Cooperation between Hibbing Public Schools and Rock Ridge Public Schools to establish a collaborative agreement for the creation and operation of an ALC, effective with the 26-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion Items:**

Mr. James Plese, Activities Director gave an update to his meeting with Mr. Vake from Chisholm Schools regarding collaboration. Also, an update regarding coaching staff and supervision.

Superintendent Aldrich gave an update on the upcoming Referendum.

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

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JEFF POLCHER, CLERK