

January 7, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on January 7, 2026, in the High School Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Polcher, Gabardi, Egan, Galatz, Chair Berklich.

Members Absent: Student Representative Sam Hardy

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Director Polcher added the following addendum items: Accept the resignation for purposes of retirement from Richard Aldrich, Superintendent, effective April 14, 2026. Discussion items: Business Manager Vacancy and Superintendent of Schools Vacancy.

**Reorganization of School Board:**

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to keep the school boards same positions as the previous year. Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

Chair Berklich remains as Chair of the Board for the ensuing year.

ELECT CLERK

Director Polcher remains as Clerk of the Board for the ensuing year.

TREASURER

Director McLaughlin remains Treasurer of the Board for the ensuing year.

CHAIR PRO TEM

Director McLaughlin remains Chair Pro Tem of the Board for the ensuing year.

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.

Director Galatz supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION – SALARIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

Director Galatz 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 2025-26 contract year.

Director Polcher supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION – OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Director McLaughlin 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 Gabardi supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION – DATES AND TIMES OF BOARD MEETINGS

Chair Berklich 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.

Director Egan 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 Polcher supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS

Director Egan 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.

Director Galatz supported the foregoing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO MSHSL

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

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to keep the Committee Representatives the same as the previous year. Motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE TO MSBA

Chair Berklich remains as the representative to the Legislative Liaison to the Minnesota School Boards Association.

REPRESENTATIVE TO TITLE I PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Director Galatz remains as the representative to the Title I Parent Advisory Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE TO COMMUNITY ED ADVISORY COUNCIL

Director Galatz remains as the representative to the Community Education Advisory Council.

REPRESENTATIVE TO DISTRICT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Director Polcher remains as the representative to the District Health and Safety Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE TO COMPREHENSIVE ACHIEVEMENT AND CIVIC READINESS COMMITTEE

Director McLaughlin and Director Gabardi remain as the representatives to the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Directors Polcher, McLaughlin and Chair Berklich remain as the representatives to the Negotiations Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE TO AD COMMITTEE

Directors Gabardi and Polcher remain as the representatives to the AD Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

Directors McLaughlin, Gabardi and Chair Berklich remains as the representatives to the Finance Committee.

Public Comment:

Angela Tresemer addressed the school board advocating for the small pool as the adult aquatic class instructor.

Joe Baratto and Terri Roeber also addressed the school board regarding the small pool.

Administrative Reports: None

Directors / Student Director: None

Administrators and Staff: None

Committee Report: None

APPROVE AGENDA

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Chair Berklich and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting, December 10, 2025 Truth-in-Taxation Hearing and December 17, 2025 Special Meeting and the following: Accept the resignation from Steffanie Lynn, pupil support assistant, Washington Elementary, effective December 16, 2025. Approve the posting of Job #60 Pupil Support Assistant, 30 hours per week, Washington Elementary, effective December 1, 2025. Approve posting Job #60 Pupil Support Assistant, 30 hours per week, Early Learning Center, effective December 1, 2025.

APPROVE RICHARD ALDRICH'S REQUESTED MEDICAL LEAVE

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Chair Berklich to approve Richard Aldrich's requested medical leave January 5, 2026 – April 14, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative Business:**

APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO BE COVERED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE POLICY

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

APPROVE THE CORPORATE AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT DEPOSITORIES

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Egan to approve the Corporate Authorization Resolutions for school district depositories:

Park State Bank  
MN Liquid Asset Fund  
PMA Financial Network, Inc.  
Robert W. Baird & Company  
Security State Bank – Hibbing  
US Bank – Hibbing  
Wells Fargo Bank – Hibbing  
National Bank of Commerce – Hibbing

Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT THE FOLLOWING AS SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE 2026 CALENDAR YEAR: SQUIRES & WALDSPURGER AND MACE, P.A., COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY & BRUNFELT, LTD AND FRYBERGER, BUCHANAN, SMITH & FREDERICK, P.A.

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to appoint the following as school district legal counsel for the 2026 calendar year: Squires & Waldspurger and Mace, P.A., Colosimo, Patchin, Kearney & Brunfelt, LTD and Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT DONATIONS

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the resolution to accept donations. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAYMENT #6 MAX GRAY CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,166.01 FOR WORK COMPLETED ON THE GREENHAVEN ELEMENTARY RENOVATION PROJECT

Moved by Director Polcher supported by Chair Berklich to approve Payment #6 Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$11,166.01 for work completed on the Greenhaven Elementary Renovation project. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF RETIREMENT FROM RICHARD ALDRICH, SUPERINTENDENT, EFFECTIVE APRIL 14, 2026

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Egan to accept the resignation for purposes of retirement from Richard Aldrich, superintendent, effective April 14, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion Items:**

Business Manager Vacancy

Superintendent of Schools Vacancy

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

---

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

---

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK