



MEEKER AND WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
Board Meeting - Joint Powers Board #0938
Tuesday, December 16, 2025 - 5:30 pm
Meeting Minutes - Official

Present: Sarah Baker, Gena Jacobson, Jessica Johnson, Cindy Miller, Kelsey Puncochar, Jen Rasset
Absent: Alex Carlson
Others Present: Melissa Hanson, Kate Ryan, Kim Geurts

I. Call to Order/Board Roll Call

The Regular meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

A roll call was conducted:

Sarah Baker: Present

Alex Carlson: Absent

Gena Jacobson: Present

Jessica Johnson: Present

Cindy Miller: Present

Kelsey Puncochar: Absent

Jen Rasset: Present

A quorum of five board members was established.

The following board member arrived after the meeting was called to order:

Kelsey Puncochar: Present (5:48 p.m.)

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Jessica Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Sarah Baker. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda which included:

- Minutes of Previous Board Meeting
- Bills for Payment and other financial reports as attached
- Personnel Items
 - There were no changes to personnel this month



V. Informational Items

A. Executive Director Report

Special Olympics Grant

MAWSECO Adapted Athletics has been awarded a \$4,000 Special Olympics “26 Weeks of Giving” Grant, submitted by DAPE teacher and consultant Vinne Pokornowski. The grant will support equipment, uniforms, and potential transportation needs for adapted floor hockey and unified events.

Wings Program

The Wings Adolescent Recovery Services residential program has recently been sold. The new co-owners are Turning Point Behavioral Health and Wylie Boehmlehner. MAWSECO looks forward to learning more about their vision for the future of the Wings program.

Testimony Submitted to State Seclusion Working Group

Written testimony on behalf of MAWSECO was submitted by the executive director and director of educational programs to the State Seclusion Working Group as it finalizes recommendations that could result in a statewide ban on seclusion in schools by 2026. Two approaches are being considered: an immediate ban that could pose safety risks for Setting IV programs without adequate resources, and a phased approach that maintains seclusion as a last resort while the state funds and supports evidence-based alternatives. Senator Judy Seeberger has requested public input from stakeholders on this issue.

Seeking Statewide Clarification

Understanding of IDEA consent and surrogate parent requirements varies across Minnesota counties. This inconsistency among judges and county social workers about who holds legal authority to provide special education consent for students involved in the child welfare system creates confusion. As a result, students can experience unnecessary delays. Melissa is partnering with MASE to request clear, statewide guidance. This work aims to establish consistent practice, reduce delays, and protect the rights of students under IDEA.

Kelsey Puncchar arrived at 5:48 p.m.



B. Director of Finance Report

The December 15, 2025 payroll was higher due to teacher contract back pay and salary increases. The SAM.gov renewal has been completed, with a new expiration date of December 8, 2026. Budget leader meetings are scheduled for January. Program area budgets will be given and updated on a monthly basis for budget leaders.

VI. Acknowledgements

A. Board Member Years of Service Recognition

MAWSECO is grateful for the contributions of its board members and recognizes their service in five-year milestones. This month, we thank board member Cindy Miller for her five years of dedicated service on the MAWSECO Board of Directors, acknowledging her leadership, commitment, and steady guidance, which strengthen our cooperative and support the success of every student we serve.

VII. Action Items

A. Old Business

1. Policy Review [Second Reading]

A motion to approve the listed policies changes was made by Sarah Baker and seconded by Jen Rasset. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 103 - Complaints - Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons

Policy 203.5 - School Board Meeting Agenda

Policy 205 - Open Meetings and Closed Meetings

Policy 206 - Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations

Policy 208 - Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies

Policy 210 - Conflict of Interest - School Board Members

Policy 301 - School District Administration

Policy 302 - Director of Special Education

Policy 303 - Director of Special Education Selection

Policy 304 - Director of Special Education Contract, Duties, and Evaluation

Policy 305 - Policy and Administrative Procedure Implementation

Policy 306 - Administrator Code of Ethics

Policy 404 - Employee Background Checks

Policy 407 - Employee Right to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substances



2. Policy Rescission [2nd Reading]

A motion to rescind the listed policy was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Kelsey Puncochar. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 250 - Publications

3. Short-Call Substitute Teacher & Paraprofessional Rates of Pay

A motion to approve the MAWSECO programs sub rates as presented was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Sarah Baker. Motion carried unanimously.

B. New Business

1. December 1 Seniority List

A motion to approve the December 1, 2025 Seniority Lists was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Jessica Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2025-2026 Student Handbook Updates

A motion to approve updates to the 2025-2026 Student Handbook was made by Sarah Baker and seconded by Jen Rasset. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolution Accepting Donation

A motion to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Cindy Miller.

Roll Call Vote:

Sarah Baker - aye

Gena Jacobson - aye

Jessica Johnson - aye

Cindy Miller - aye

Kelsey Puncochar -aye

Jen Rasset - aye

Motion carried with six votes in favor.

4. Resolution Directing the Administration to make Recommendations for Reductions

A motion to approve the Resolution Directing the Administration to make Recommendations for Reductions was made by Kelsey Puncochar and seconded by Jen Rasset.



Roll Call Vote:

Sarah Baker - aye

Gena Jacobson - aye

Jessica Johnson - aye

Cindy Miller - aye

Kelsey Puncochar -aye

Jen Rasset - aye

Motion carried with six votes in favor.

VIII. Discussion Item

A. Anticipated Changes to MAWSECO Board Representation for 2026

A discussion was held regarding potential changes to Board Representatives for 2026. Kelsey Puncochar indicated a preference not to serve on the Negotiations with Union Contracts Committee, and Cindy Miller expressed willingness to join that committee. The discussion will continue at the Organizational Meeting; however, the current plan is for Cindy to serve on the Negotiations with Union Contracts Committee and for Kelsey to join the Non-Union Contracts Committee.

IX. Future Board Meetings

- A. December 16, 2025, 6:15 p.m., Special Education Supervisor Negotiations Committee Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake
- B. January 7, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Special Education Supervisor Negotiations Committee Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake
- C. January 27, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Organizational and Regular Board Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake
- D. February 24, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake
- E. March 24, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kelsey Puncochar and seconded by Cindy Miller. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

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