

February 4, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on February 4, 2026, in the High School Board Room with the addendum added under Administrative Business. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Polcher, Gabardi, Egan, Chair Berklich and Student Director Sam Hardy.

Members Absent: Director Galatz

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: None

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director Gabardi reported on the good things she heard regarding guest speaker at the Lincoln. Gave a shout out to Ben Hardy and Cayson Sirjord for running the scoreboards at Memorial Building and Cheever Field.

Student Representative Sam Hardy gave a recap on Jacket Jamboree, Business Club and Prom will be held April 18, 2026 with a Las Vegas theme.

Administrators and Staff:

Mr. BJ Berg, Washington Elementary Principal and the following staff: Lauren Huju, Melinda Ruzich, Paige Wallis, Denise Massich gave an update on Social Emotional Learning, Literacy and WIN Time (what I need), Tier 2 and 3 MTSS, Teacher development evaluation and for the Kids Committee.

Christina Majerle-Whiteside, Nicole Fagerstrom and Sueanne Reckmeyer, Lincoln Middle School staff gave an update on WIN Time, WIN Room, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Tier 2 & 3 meetings twice a month.

Emily Rudolph and Courtney Inmon, Early Learning Center staff gave an update on Social Emotional Learning, everyday speech, creative curriculum and Autism Spectrum Consultants Support (ASD) at the ELC.

Committee Report: None

APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin 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 January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting and the following: Accept the resignation from Lauren Huju as head volleyball coach, effective January 21, 2026. Approve the hiring of Shannon Ongalo as a long-term Form “B” substitute teacher, Lincoln Middle School, from approximately February 2, 2026 – April 17, 2026. Approve the hiring of Brittany Lindstrom as assistant varsity boys’ track and field coach, effective March 9, 2026. Accept the resignation from Brittany Lindstrom as a junior varsity assistant track and field coach, effective January 21, 2026. Approve the hiring of Jason Hirdler as 7th/8th grade head boys’ track and field coach, effective March 9, 2026. Accept the resignation from Lisa Smith as a ECSE teacher, effective June 3, 2026. Posting and Transfers for the month of January, 2026: Approve posting Job #60 Pupil Support Assistant, 30 hours per week, Greenhaven Elementary, effective January 5, 2026. Approve posting Job #60 Pupil Support Assistant, 30 hours per week, Washington Elementary, effective January 5, 2026.

Administrative Business:

APPROVE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN HIBBING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SOLIANT FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY VIRTUAL SERVICES, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 9, 2026 – JUNE 12, 2026

Move by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the contract between Hibbing Public Schools and Soliant for Physical Therapy Virtual Services, effective February 9, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT BY THE CHAIR OF TWO DIRECTORS TO SIGN AND DISTRIBUTE 2026 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Appointment by Chair Berklich of Directors Polcher and Chair Berklich to sign and Distribute 2026 High School Diplomas.

RESCIND THE APPROVAL OF CARRIE MCDONALD, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT, AND KIM MCLAUGHLIN, BOARD TREASURER, AS ACCOUNT SIGNERS WITH THE FOLLOWING DEPOSITORIES OF WELLS FARGO BANK, SECURITY STATE BANK, AND PARK STATE BANK

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to rescind the approval of Carrie McDonald, Acting Superintendent, and Kim McLaughlin, Board Treasurer, as account signers with the following depositories of Wells Fargo Bank, Security State Bank, and Park State Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CARRIE MCDONALD, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT, AND
KIM MCLAUGHLIN, BOARD TREASURER, AS ACCOUNT SIGNERS
WITH THE FOLLOWING DEPOSITORIES OF WELLS FARGO BANK,
SECURITY STATE BANK, PARK STATE BANK AND NATIONAL
BANK OF COMMERCE

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi to approve Carrie McDonald, Acting Superintendent, and Kim McLaughlin, Board Treasurer, as account signers with the following depositories of Wells Fargo Bank, Security State Bank, Park State Bank and National Bank of Commerce. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT RESOLUTION RELEASING LOCAL COMMITMENT OF OPEB-
DESIGNATED FUNDS

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi to adopt the Resolution releasing local commitment of OPEB-designated funds.

For: Directors Polcher, Egan, Gabardi, McLaughlin and Chair Berklich

Against: None

Absent Director Galatz

The foregoing resolution and upon a vote being taken thereon, this Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted on February 4, 2026.

Discussion Items:

Acting Superintendent McDonald discussed the FY26 and FY27 budget and asked for direction from the school board on pursuing 4-day school week and look at closing / sale of a building.

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK