

MINUTES: Meeting of the Monona Grove School District Board of Education, held Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:30pm (Closed Session) at the Cottage Grove Village Hall

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Janice Stone, Stephanie Lehmann, Philip Haven, Elizabeth Cook, Rachele Miller, Susan Manning, Eric Hartz

ADMINISTRATORS & STAFF PRESENT: Tanya Fredrich, Katy Byrnes Kaiser, Jesse Starr, Emily Foster, Allison Friberg, Reed Foster, Kris Langer, Rebecca Fox-Blair, Mitch McGrath, John Hagen, Dan Hillgartner,

- A. Call to Order – Elizabeth Cook called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
- B. Declaration of Public Notice – acknowledged
- C. Order of Business
- D. Consent Agenda
 1. Meeting Minutes
 2. Staff Hirings
 - **Adam Pittner** - 1.0 FTE Business Education Teacher, Glacial Drumlin School, replacing Nate Verhage, effective January 5, 2026.
 - **Ian Theissen** - 1.0 FTE 6th grade Social Studies Teacher, Glacial Drumlin School, replacing Shana Link, effective December 8, 2025. This is a one year contract through the end of the 25-26 school year.
 - **Kathryn Williams** - 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher, Monona Grove High School, replacing Emily Nelson, effective December 1, 2025.
 - **Heidi Gulachek** - 0.4 FTE Occupational Therapist, District Wide, replacing Jennifer Rauch, effective 1/5/26
 3. Vouchers Payable
 4. School Safety Drills
 5. Donations

Motion: Rachele Miller moved approval of the consent agenda as presented. Janice Stone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. Celebration of Excellence
 1. Glacial Drumlin School students, Jayanna and Coleette shared information about the GDS Glow Dance that was held on October 23, 2025.
- F. Student Board Report

Elsa Beuthling, the 2025-2026 Student Representative to the Board, shared a report in BoardDocs with the Board.
- G. Public Appearances
 1. Mike Swanson of Cottage Grove
 2. Kathy Carew of Monona
 3. Nikki Schoenbeck-Claas of Monona
 4. Becky Pfaller of Monona
- H. Discussion Items
 1. 2024-2025 State Report Cards

Angie Fassl, Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning and Rob Meyer, Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning shared 2024-2025 State Report Card results with the Board. Building administrators also shared information with the Board.

2. 2025-2026 10-Year Capital Project Plan

Kristin Sobocinski, Deputy Superintendent shared the 2025-2026 Capital Project Plan with the Board. The plan will be on the January agenda as an Action Item.

I. Action Items

1. 2026-2027 Secondary Course Proposals

Motion: Philip Haven moved approval of the 2026-2027 Secondary Course Proposals, as presented. Rachelle Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Relocation of Taylor Prairie Students/Staff to Cottage Grove School under a 4K-2 grade Consolidation Beginning in the 2026-2027 School Year, Including a Traffic Reduction Solution to Support this Transition.

Motion: Rachelle Miller moved approval of the Relocation of Taylor Prairie Students/Staff to Cottage Grove School under a 4K-2 grade Consolidation Beginning in the 2026-2027 School Year, Including a Traffic Reduction Solution to Support this Transition, as presented. Philip Haven seconded. Roll call vote: Miller - aye, Hartz - aye, Lehmann - aye, Haven - aye, Stone - aye, Manning - aye, Cook - aye. The motion carried 7-0.

3. Move approval of Authorization to Engage a Licensed Real Estate Broker to Gather Information on the Fair Market Value and Potential Sale of Maywood School and to Bring Findings and Recommendations to the Board for Review

Motion: Philip Haven moved approval of the Move approval of Authorization to Engage a Licensed Real Estate Broker to Gather Information on the Fair Market Value and Potential Sale of Maywood School and to Bring Findings and Recommendations to the Board for Review, as presented. Stephanie Lehmann seconded. Roll call vote: Miller - aye, Hartz - aye, Lehmann - aye, Haven - aye, Stone - aye, Manning - aye, Cook - aye. The motion carried 7-0.

4. Authorization to Engage a Licensed Real Estate Broker to Gather Information on the Fair Market Value and Potential Nichols Property, and bring Findings and Recommendations to the Board for Review

Motion: Susan Manning moved to authorize the Superintendent or designee to Engage a unbiased commercial appraiser at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 to Gather Information on the Fair Market Value for Nichols Property, and bring Findings and Recommendations to the Board for Review Janice Stone seconded. The Board discussed the motion.

Motion: Susan Manning moved to **amend** the motion to delete unbiased commercial appraiser at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 and replace it with Engage a Licensed Real Estate Broker. Philip Haven seconded. Roll call vote: Miller - aye, Hartz - aye, Lehmann - aye, Haven - aye, Stone - aye, Manning - aye, Cook - aye. The motion carried 7-0.

Amended Motion: Move to authorize the Superintendent or designee to Engage a Licensed Real Estate Broker to Gather Information on the Fair Market Value for Nichols Property, and bring Findings and Recommendations to the Board for Review.

Roll call vote: Miller - aye, Hartz - aye, Lehmann - aye, Haven - aye, Stone - aye, Manning - aye, Cook - aye. The motion carried 7-0.

5. Authorization of Financial and Operational Planning Necessary to Study Relocating District Office Staff and the MG21 Charter School to the Taylor Prairie Facility and to Bring Findings and Recommendations to the Board for Review.

Motion: Eric Hartz moved to approve Authorization of Financial and Operational Planning Necessary to Study Relocating District Office Staff and the MG21 Charter School to the Taylor Prairie Facility and to Bring Findings and Recommendations to the Board for Review. Philip Haven seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Miller - aye, Hartz - aye, Lehmann - aye, Haven - aye, Stone - aye, Manning - aye, Cook - aye. The motion carried 7-0.

6. Policy 2nd Reading - Policy & Legislative Engagement Committee

Motion: Eric Hartz moved approval of po0167.3 as presented. Philip Haven seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Policy 2nd Reading - Finance & Operations Committee

Motion: Rachelle Miller moved approved of the Finance & Operations Policy Series as presented. Janice Stone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Informational Items

1. Teaching, Learning & Equity Committee – no report shared.
2. Policy & Legislative Engagement Committee - no report shared.
3. Finance & Operations Committee – no report shared.
4. Monona Grove Education Foundation – Susan Manning shared a brief report.

K. Superintendent Report

Dr. Fredrich shared a brief report with the Board.

L. Future Meeting Dates

- Finance & Operations Committee - December 20, 2025 at 4:00pm, virtually
- Personnel Committee - January 5, 2026 at 5:00pm at Granite Ridge School, First Floor Flex Cafe
- Board of Education - January 13, 2026 at 6:00 (Closed Session, if necessary) Open Session to begin no earlier than 7:00pm; Monona Grove District Office, Room 306

M. Adjournment

Motion: Phillip Haven moved to adjourn at 10:43pm. Rachelle Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: Monona Grove Board of Education
January 13, 2026