

February 18, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on February 18, 2026 in the High School Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Polcher, Gabardi, Galatz, and Chair Berklich.

Members Absent: Director Egan and Student Director Sam Hardy

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

AFSCME Local 480 representatives Sarah Pierce, Katie Gustafson, Jamie Anderson and Kari Zieske presented a letter of no confidence.

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director McLaughlin proposed school board meetings to be held in the high school auditorium for future meetings with large groups attending.

Administrators and Staff: None

Committee Report: None

APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the agenda with the following addendum items: Consent Agenda: Accept the resignation from Daniel Schwartz, special education teacher, Washington Elementary, effective February 20, 2026. Administrative Business: Item E. Motion to approve the Interim Superintendent Contract with Carrie McDonald effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Item F. Motion to approve Lance Takkunen, Business Manager as an account signer with the following depositories of Wells Fargo Bank, Security State Bank, Park State Bank and National Bank of Commerce. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the February 4, 2026 Regular Meeting, and the following for the month of January, 2026: Consideration of Claims in the amount of \$9,830,208.64. Electronic Fund Transfers in the amount of \$494,609.26. Treasurer's and Investment Reports and Payrolls in the amount of \$1,898,016.32. Approve the hiring of Lance Takkunen as a Business Manager, effective February 23, 2026. Accept the resignation from Daniel Schwartz, special education teacher, Washington Elementary, effective February 20, 2026.

Administrative Business:

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR DONATIONS

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to approve the resolution for donations. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE POLICY 514 PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF PUPIL RECORDS

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Galatz to approve Policy 514 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE REVISED CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN I.S.D. NO. 701 HIBBING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND I.S.D. NO. 695 CHISHOLM PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2025 – FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Moved by Director Gabardi, supported by Director Galatz to approve the revised contract agreement between I.S.D. NO. 701 Hibbing Public Schools and I.S.D. No. 695 Chisholm Public Schools for Leadership of Community Education beginning August 1, 2025 – February 10, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE TO CONDUCT A PROFESSIONAL COMMERCIAL APPRAISAL OF GREENHAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 323 E 37TH STREET, HIBBING, MN 55746 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING A POTENTIAL SALE

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi to approve to conduct a professional commercial appraisal of Greenhaven Elementary School 323 E 37th Street, Hibbing, MN 55746 for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the purpose of evaluating a potential sale. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT WITH CARRIE MCDONALD EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Galatz to approve the Interim Superintendent Contract with Carrie McDonald effective July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE LANCE TAKKUNEN, BUSINESS MANAGER AS AN ACCOUNT SIGNER 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 Lance Takkunen, Business Manager as an account signer with the following depositories of Wells Fargo Bank, Security State Bank, Park Sate Bank and National Bank of Commerce. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Acting Superintendent McDonald announced Hibbing Public Schools will attend a joint meeting with the Chisholm Public Schools on February 25, 2026 at Valentini's Supper Club in Chisholm from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Discussion of building capacities and negotiations update.

Acting Superintendent will place a motion for the sale/closure of the Greenhaven Elementary School be put on the March 4, 2026 school board agenda.

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourn the meeting at 4:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK