

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Board of Education of Independent
School District No. 701 of Hibbing, St. Louis County, Minnesota

April 22, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on April 22, 2026 in the Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Polcher, Egan, Gabardi, Galatz, Chair Berklich.

Members Absent: Student Director Sam Hardy

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Steve Matanich – Co-op for hockey with Cherry Schools

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director Gabardi attended kindergarten connection, thanked Dana Lindstrom and committee members for the prom and shared the ticket information for the All Night Graduation Party on June 5th. Presale tickets \$25 and tickets at the door \$40.

Administrators and Staff:

BJ Berg, Melinda Ruzich, Denise Massich & Tina Lease shared an update from the Washington on Social Emotional Learning, Literacy framework, WIN Time, Tier 2 & Tier 3, Hibbing Teacher Development & Evaluation Model & end of the year enrichment events.

Christina Majerle Whiteside, Staci Hukka, Cynthia Marturano & Shannon Rocco shared an update from the Lincoln on the WIN room, Tier 2 & Tier 3, Teacher evaluations, WIN time, Social Emotion Learning & health, field trips and the Wax Museum-A biography project.

Emily Rudolph & Courtney Inmon shared an update from the ELC on Social Emotional Learning, Tier 2 & Tier 3, 5 School Readiness Classes, Help Me Grow referrals, Creative curriculum & end of the year fun.

Committee Report: None

APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director Galatz to approve the agenda with the addendum to go into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D, Subdivision 3(b)(3) to consider appraisal and development of offer for sale of Greenhaven building, located at 323 E 37th St. in Hibbing. Motion carried unanimously.

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APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the April 8, 2026 Regular Meeting, and the following for the month of March, 2026: Consideration of Claims in the amount of \$2,146,925.54. Electronic Fund Transfers in the amount of \$1,015,319.15. Treasurer's and Investment Reports and Payrolls in the amount of \$2,138,234.41. Accept the resignation from Lauri Cary, Pupil Support Assistant, Greenhaven Elementary, effective April 8, 2026. Approve the hiring of Amy Hendrickson, Data Specialist, Districtwide, effective June 1, 2026.

Administrative Business:

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR DONATIONS

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

APPROVE PAYMENT #7 TO MAX GRAY CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,713.46 FOR WORK DONE ON THE GREENHAVEN ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS.

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve payment #7 to Max Gray Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$48,713.46 for work done on the Greenhaven Elementary Renovations. Motion carried unanimously.

RESCIND THE RESOLUTION PROPOSING TO PLACE MEGAN ZUBICH ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY OR BENEFITS TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE AT THE END OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR ON JUNE 3, 2026.

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to rescind the resolution proposing to place Megan Zubich on unrequested leave of absence without pay or benefits to the extent of 1.0 FTE at the end of the 2025-2026 school year on June 3, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL PSEO CONTRACT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR.

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Galatz to approve the Hibbing High School PSEO contract for students and parents for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi to go into closed session at 4:35 p.m. to consider appraisal and development of offer of sale of Greenhaven building. Motion carried unanimously.

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OPEN SESSION

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director Polcher to go into open session at 5:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT MCDONALD TO PROCEED
WITH PURSUING A POTENTIAL SALE OF THE GREENHAVEN
BUILDING

Moved by Director Gabardi, supported by Director Galatz to authorize Acting Superintendent McDonald to proceed with pursuing a potential sale of the Greenhaven building as discussed in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Acting Superintendent McDonald provided an update on the building reconfiguration.

Lance Takkunen, Business Manager, provided an update on the FY27 budget.

Director Gabardi requested an update on a future meeting with the Chisholm Schools.

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Egan to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK