

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

May 6, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on May 6 2026, in the High School Auditorium. Members present: Directors Polcher, Gabardi, Egan, Chair Berklich and Student Director Sam Hardy.

Members Absent: Director Galatz

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Stephanĳ Vesel – Concerns with Mandy Huusko not being at the ELC for the 2026-2027 school year.

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director Gabardi reminder of the ticket sales for the All Night Grad party on June 5, 2026. Presale tickets online are \$25 and at the door tickets are \$40.

Student Director Sam Hardy shared information about the All Night Grad party and the Entrepreneurship club will be going on a field trip to local businesses on May 13, 2026.

Administrators and Staff:

Bob Bestul, Jen Forer, Hannah Wright and Samantha Pangrac shared an update from the Greenhaven on Literacy framework, Fastbridge, Tier 2 & 3 training, SEL & mental health, K-12 math standards, K-5 reveal curriculum, Teacher evaluations and the Greenhaven Celebration on May 21, 2026 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Kelly Belleville shared the Lake Country Power Grant she received for \$10,200 to upgrade technology.

Jennifer Toewe and Derek Gabardi shared an update from the High School on their current priorities which consists of Tier 2 & 3 meetings, Fastbridge/Capti, personal learning plans-Naviance, teacher development & evaluation model and their additional priorities which consists of 6th, 7th & 8th grade tours for students in May, middle school committee meetings-next meeting is May 19, Awards night is May 11, National Honor Society Induction is May 26, Pops concert is May 29 and Graduation is June 5, 2026.

Committee Report: None

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APPROVE AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF SECTION C OF THE
CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the April 22, 2026 Regular Meeting and the following: Approve the termination of reinstatement rights of Franklin "DJ" Jones, a teacher placed on unrequested leave of absence, effective April 2, 2026. Approve the termination of reinstatement rights of Leanne Schug-Johnson, a teacher placed on unrequested leave of absence, effective April 2, 2026. Approve the termination of reinstatement rights of Peter Thein, a teacher placed on unrequested leave of absence, effective April 2, 2026. Accept the resignation from Jacob Barker, Job #38 Custodian 1, High School, effective May 3, 2026. Posting and Transfers for the month of April, 2026: Approve the posting of Job #61 Interpreter, 30 hours per week, Districtwide, 2026-27 School year, effective April 14, 2026. Approve the posting of Job #50A District Plumber, 24 hours per week, Districtwide, effective April 15, 2026. Approve the posting of Job #41 Grounds Person, Districtwide, effective April 15, 2026. Approve the transfer of Timothy Entgelmeier to Job #41, Grounds Person, Districtwide, effective April 27, 2026.

Administrative Business:

APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR STUDENT ACCIDENT
INSURANCE WITH STUDENT ASSURANCE SERVICES FROM JULY 1,
2026 – JUNE 30, 2027

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to approve the application for student accident insurance with Student Assurance Services from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE SCHOOL MARKETING PROGRAM AGREEMENT
WITH NORTHRIDGE COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION EFFECTIVE JULY
1, 2026

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director Polcher to approve the School Marketing Program Agreement with Northridge Community Credit Union effective July 1, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

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ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER MATTHEW ANDERSON ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Matthew Anderson be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a Special Education Teacher of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year on June 3, 2026. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors Polcer, Egan, Gabardi, McLaughlin and Chair Berklich

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: Director Galatz

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 6th day of May 2026.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER JENNIFER HILTNER ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Jennifer Hiltner be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a Media Specialist of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year on June 3, 2026. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors McLaughlin, Gabardi, Egan, Polcher and Chair Berklich.

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: Director Galatz

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 6th day of May 2026.

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ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER RYAN OLSON ON UNREQUESTED
LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF 1.0 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Ryan Olson be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of 1.0 FTE as a Social Studies Teacher of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year on June 3, 2026. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors Gabardi, Egan, Polcher, McLaughlin and Chair Berklich

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: Director Galatz

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 6th day of May 2026.

ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED TEACHER SHANNON ROCCO ON
UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT OF .4 FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Shannon Rocco be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of .4 FTE as a Science Teacher of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year on June 3, 2026. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Directors McLaughlin, Gabardi, Egan, Polcher and Chair Berklich

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: Director Galatz

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 6th day of May 2026.

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ADOPT RESOLUTION PLACING A CONTINUING
CONTRACT/TENURED COMMUNITY EDUCATION DIRECTOR KIRK
LEWIS ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EXTENT
OF .4FTE

Member Polcher offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption: RESOLVED, by the School Board I.S.D. No. 701, Hibbing that Kirk Lewis be and hereby is placed on unrequested leave of absence, without pay or fringe benefits, to the extent of .4 FTE as a Community Education Director of I.S.D. No. 701 on the grounds of lack of pupils and financial limitations effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year on June 30, 2026. This is a final action by the School Board.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Berklich and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Chair Berklich, Directors Polcher, Egan, Gabardi and McLaughlin

And the following voted against the same: None

Absent: Director Galatz

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed this 6th day of May 2026.

SUPERINTENDENT MCDONALD PRESENTED BUILDING FOR THE
FUTURE

AWARD BID TO HAWK CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,484,000.00 FOR THE HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL CTE CLASSROOM
RENOVATION PROJECT

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director Gabardi to award bid to HAWK Construction in the amount of \$1,484,000.00 for the Hibbing High School CTE Classroom renovation project. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFER
FOR SALE OF THE GREENHAVEN BUILDING, LOCATED AT 323 E
37TH ST. IN HIBBING

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Chair Berklich to move the closed session to consider the development of offer for sale of the Greenhaven building, located at 323 E 37th ST in Hibbing to after Discussion Items. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Acting Superintendent McDonald gave an update on the additional \$600,000 non-teaching reductions for FY26 and the Chisholm joint meeting in July.

Director Egan discusses Co-op agreements and the naming of the press box at Cheever Field.

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ADJOURN

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director McLaughlin to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to go into closed session at 5:40 p.m. to consider the development of offer for sale of the Greenhaven building, located at 323 E 37th ST in Hibbing to after Discussion Items. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director Polcher to adjourn the closed session at 6:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK