

MINNETONKA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #276
District Service Center
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, Minnesota

Minutes of April 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026 in the Community Room at the District Service Center, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka, Minnesota. Chairperson Kemerie Foss presided. Other Board members present were: Sally Browne, Karen Jordan, Taunya Kolbinger, Dan Olson, Michael Remucal, Meghan Selinger and Superintendent David Law, ex officio. Student representatives in attendance were Micah Lazarus and Christy Watras. The meeting was also livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Prior to the regular meeting, the Board recognized, via a video, Boys Hockey State Runners-up, Boys Swimming and Diving State Runners-up, Boys Wrestling State Qualifier, Mock Trial State Qualifiers, Science Bowl State Qualifiers, Science Olympiad State Qualifiers, and Chess State Qualifiers.

Chairperson Foss then called the regular meeting to order and asked that everyone stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1. AGENDA

Olson moved, Selinger seconded, that the School Board approve the agenda, as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

2. SCHOOL REPORTS: EXCELSIOR AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Excelsior Elementary Principal Jennifer Smasal, Assistant Principal David Wicklund, and 5th grade teacher Jennifer Kitt joined Excelsior 5th grade students to share their school's progress on two of the District's key goals: Excellence in Well-Being, Connection and Belonging, and Excellence in Student Learning and Support. The highlight of the presentation was a student-led 5th grade morphology lesson — giving Board members a firsthand look at learning in action.

Board member Selinger thanked the students for teaching us a new word. She asked school leaders about any correlation between a decrease in kids presenting as at-risk in a screening tool and behavioral referrals and whether the activities discussed in the report are helping with behavioral issues. Assistant Principal Wicklund explained some of the work that is being done to study the data to inform the school's best practices in that area. Board member Kolbinger thanked the school leaders and teachers for their work and the students for their presentation. Board member Remucal said that understanding the roots of words will serve students for the rest of their lives.

Executive Director of Community Education Kim Carlson, Director Jenny Bodurka, and Coordinator of Minnetonka Preschool, ECFE & Jr. Explorers Molly Bahneman shared a presentation on MCE program and marketing information, along with Ellery Funk, Aquatics Rec Program Coordinator and Louise Weir, Marketing Specialist, and with the help of a preschool student, Ben.

Chairperson Foss thanked the Community Ed Team and student Ben for their presentation. Board member Kolbinger said her family has used the ECFE and Community Education programming for years and they have found the services invaluable. Board member Selinger said she thinks rebranding to Tonka Swim School makes good sense and she loves the idea of the Lunch Bunch that the team spoke about. Board member Jordan thanked the Community Education Team and Ben for their presentation and said the aquatics rebranding is a good idea.

3. **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Chairperson Foss noted that this opportunity for comment was available to community members who wished to address the Board on any item on that night's agenda. She also read the guidelines for Community Comments, for the benefit of those who wished to speak.

MHS student Raymond Taha and Scenic Heights Chinese Immersion teacher Fei Wang both spoke about the 2027-28 draft calendar and expressed their support for making Chinese New Year a non-student day.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINNETONKA FOUNDATION TEACHER GRANTS**

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation annually funds a significant number of innovative grants for teachers. Teacher Grant Committee Chairs Heather Markert and Jamie Hansen presented the list of grants to the Board for approval, noting that the Foundation had been able to fund over 75 different grants this year.

Remucal moved, Jordan seconded, that the Board approve the list of grants. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

In alignment with the School Board's goals for the District, and, specifically, the goal of Excellence in Leadership and Organizational Support, District leadership continues to take significant strides in its efforts to strengthen relationships with its constituents. District Administrators and the School Board believe that community engagement is vital for innovation and for best practices in leadership. Convening and valuing voices from all constituents clarifies District priorities and the strategies by which those priorities will be pursued.

From community surveys to listening sessions, visits to senior living communities, presentations at Rotary clubs and other organizations, meetings with lawmakers, and engagement opportunities through events, volunteering, mentoring and community education classes for community members, Minnetonka Public Schools' leadership is committed to hearing observations, reflections and feedback and to providing real opportunities for constituents to engage with the District. Together, all of this input allows District leadership to help to shape the District that the community envisions, and that makes the District stronger.

Executive Director of Communications Dr. JacQui Getty and Executive Director of Community Education Kim Carlson provided a summary of the various outreach and engagement efforts and opportunities the District has undertaken and provided throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Board Chair Foss thanked the presenters for the valuable information.

6. APPROVAL OF BID FOR SITE WORK COMPONENT OF MMW PROJECT

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented this item to the Board. He noted that as part of the voter-approved project to construct additions and renovations at Minnetonka Middle School West, it is necessary for several key items related to work on the MMW site to be completed before the start of school on September 1, 2026 and to also set up the layout of the MMW site to facilitate construction of the main portion of the project.

The site work bid package contains the following key components:

- Relocate the driveway to the South Parking Lot to facilitate a simplified traffic pattern and create space on the site to stage construction materials
- Relocate the track and internal playing fields and rotate them 90 degrees to create space for construction of a stormwater retention pond that is a regulatory-necessary part of the project
- Construct the stormwater retention pond
- Install storm drainage piping on the site that is needed for the new building additions

The budget estimate for the site work portion of the project is \$2,500,000. Bids were opened at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026. Six bids were received for the project as follows:

Rachel Contracting, LLC	\$2,360,000.00
Dimke Excavating, Inc.	\$2,545,000.00
Peterson Companies, Inc.	\$2,749,000.00
Veit & Company, Inc.	\$2,892,518.00
Max Steiniger, Inc.	\$3,465,000.00
Urban Companies, LLC	\$4,131,000.00

Mr. Bourgeois recommended that the Board approve the low bid of Rachel Contracting, LLC.

Browne moved, Jordan seconded, that the Board approve the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 does hereby accept the low bid of Rachel Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$2,360,000.00 for completion of the site work portion of the additions and renovations project at Minnetonka Middle School West.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF 2027-28 CALENDAR

Minnesota State law requires the School Board to adopt a calendar prior to April 1 of the school year preceding the year the calendar will be in effect. As is the District's practice, the calendar is set a full year in advance of its due date. Accordingly, on February 24, a committee of teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, parents, and students worked to develop the draft of a calendar to recommend to the School Board. The Committee followed contractual and state law parameters in developing this recommendation.

Superintendent Law provided some context, and in particular, he spoke about how the calendar committee works, how members are added to it, and what its work entails. He also clarified that the district administered a survey earlier in the year regarding Chinese/Lunar New Year to gather feedback from Chinese Immersion teachers about the Chinese New Year Event and the time and effort it takes to put that event on. This survey was unrelated to the calendar committee's work.

Executive Director of Human Resources and General Counsel Anjie Flowers provided the highlights of the proposed calendar for the 2027-28 school year. She emphasized the discussion the calendar committee had about its proposal to add Chinese/Lunar New Year as a non-school day for the 2027-28 school year.

Board Chair Foss then read the following resolution, which was moved by Board member Selinger and seconded by Board member Remucal:

WHEREAS, the Minnetonka School Board has the authority and responsibility to approve the annual school calendar; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the importance of ensuring that our school community's observances are meaningfully recognized, while also considering the impact that adding instructional or non-instructional days may have on students, staff, and families; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that additional time and information are needed to further study cultural observances as they relate to the proposed 2027-28 school calendar;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnetonka School Board directs the administration to continue studying cultural observances and the potential impact on the 2027-28 school calendar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed 2027-28 school calendar shall be brought back to the Board for further discussion and action following completion of this study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be effective upon adoption by a majority vote of the Minnetonka School Board.

In the discussion that followed, several Board members expressed their thoughts on this, with many stating, for various reasons, they would be willing and supportive of additional research and discussion before approving the 2027-28 calendar.

Upon vote being taken on the foregoing resolution, the motion carried unanimously.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Olson moved, Jordan seconded, that the Board approve the recommendations included within the following Consent Agenda items:

- Minutes of March 5, 2026 regular meeting
- Study session summary of March 17, 2026
- Payment of Bills
- Recommended Personnel Items
- Gifts and Donations for March 2026: \$4,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation and \$1,376.44 from the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation, both to be placed in the MHS Scholarship Fund for Graduating Seniors. \$8.40 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MMW Principal Discretionary Fund. \$223.04 from the Benevity Giving Fund to be placed in the Scenic Heights Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$15.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund and \$30.00 from Charities Aid Foundation, both to be placed in the MHS Principal Discretionary Fund. \$431.84 from the Excelsior Elementary School PTO to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary School Mural Supplies Fund. \$102.00 from the Excelsior Elementary School PTO to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary School Field Trip Fund for Orchestra. \$108.32 from the Excelsior Elementary School PTO to be placed in the Excelsior Elementary School Fund for Flex Furniture. \$1,515.80 from Snap Mobile, Inc. to be placed in the MMW Women of Color Fundraiser Fund. \$50.00

from Charities Aid Foundation to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$1,000.00 from the Glen Lake Optimist Club and \$250.00 from Seacole-CRC, LLC to be placed in the MHS Seniors Serve 2026 Fund. \$2,000.00 from the Minnewashta Elementary School PTO to be placed in the Minnewashta Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$500.00 from the Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club to be placed in the MHS Perfumery Club Fund. \$700.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MME Casey McBride Memorial Fund. \$150.00 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the Deeplaven Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. \$24.55 from American Online Giving to be placed in the Groveland Elementary School Principal Discretionary Fund. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2025-26: \$744,808.02.

- Electronic Fund Transfers
- Extension of Cell Tower Lease
- Nutrition Services Prime Food Supplier
- Apple Lease Purchase Agreement

Upon vote being taken on the foregoing Consent Agenda items, the motion carried unanimously.

9. **BOARD REPORTS**

Board member Olson said a lot of great things are happening in Community Education, as we heard earlier in the meeting tonight. Board member Selinger said that on April 18 there is a “Reuse and Recycle” event at MHS from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. There is also a Tonka Pride Sale happening at the District Service Center on April 17 & 18. Board member Kolbinger shared highlights of the Teaching and Learning Advisory meeting. Board member Remucal reminded our community that May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

10. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

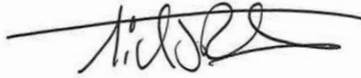
Superintendent Law noted that we have started the fourth quarter and there are many great events coming up, including the Spring Musical (Spamalot) at MHS. He also noted that at the April 23 study session, student School Board representatives will present to the Board about their experiences this year in this pilot program.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member Jordan reminded the community that the CASE Committee’s Day at the Capitol is this coming Monday, April 13. Those who are interested in attending can find more information on the District website.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Kolbinger moved, Selinger seconded, adjournment at 8:55 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Remucal", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Remucal, Clerk