January 21, 2026

The School Board of District 261 met in regular session on January 21, 2026 in the Media Center. Chair B. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with members Anderson, Hovland, Johnson, Olson, Rylander, Stevens, and Wing present. Absent: none. Also present were Superintendent/HS Principal Moore, Elem/MS Principal Megan Peterson, Renee Melby, Suzanna Ecker, Jason Kuehn, Taanna Henningsen, and Morgan Ryan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to approve the agenda. (Wing/Stevens MCU)

Recognition of visitors.

Board Reorganization with Election of Officers:
Chair: Ben Johnson nominated by Wing/Stevens MCU
Vice Chair: Suzanne Wing nominated by BJ/DR MCU
Clerk: Leslie Anderson nominated by MH/MO MCU
Treasurer: Dallas Rylander nominated by LA/SW MCU

Committee Assignments were selected:
Special Education Co-op Board: Suzanne Wing
MSHSL Representative: Melissa Olson
Legislative Liaison: Molly Hovland
Negotiations (3): Ben Johnson, Suzanne Wing, Leslie Anderson
Finance & Disbursement Review (3): Dallas Rylander, Leslie Anderson, Suzanne Wing
Activities Committee (3): Melissa Olson, Sean Stevens, Dallas Rylander
Building & Grounds Committee (3): Sean Stevens, Ben Johnson, Molly Hovland
Planning Committee (3): Dallas Rylander, Sean Stevens, Suzanne Wing
Policy Committee (3): Ben Johnson, Molly Hovland, Dallas Rylander
Wellness: Leslie Anderson
Official District Information

Motion to approve the following consent agenda (Rylander/Johnson MCU):

- Approval of December 17, 2025 minutes
- Financial Reports for December 2025
- Approval of bills: December Handpayables: $16,408.21, December Wire Payments: $205,241.22 and January bills: $132,588.47
- Approval of personnel changes: Deklin Goeden: paraprofessional; Justin Hammer: evening custodian; Tom Risbrudt: part time evening custodian. Retirement of Kris Roley at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Accept donations: To Letterwinners for Corporate Sponsorships: Rylander Insurance $3,000, Ashby Equity $3,000, Lakeside Lumber $3,000, Mike Rossum $200, Johnson-Nelson Masonry $500, Park Region Telephone $1,500; Ashby Lions to Robotics $500; Ashby Legion to Robotics

$2,000; Local Threads to Boys Basketball $150; Rylander Insurance for Scoreboard $4,5000; Lake Region Healthcare for CNA Health Class $500

Wing reported on Lakes Country Service Coop.

Anderson reported on Region1.

B. Johnson reported on negotiations in the works.

**Elem/MS Principal's Report**

Mrs. Peterson reported on the following:

- Student Achievement
- Student Support and Experiences
- Staff Growth, Achievement, and Support
- DAC: MCAs, ACCESS, and MTAS

**Superintendent/HS Principal Report**

Mr. Moore reported on the following:

- Academic Counselor
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers and staff
- Academic Achievement
- Interventions
- Differentiation
- Student Activities
- CORE
- Identifying how we communicate to stakeholders
- Identifying and clarifying roles and responsibilities
- Leadership Model
- Website and Social Media Relations
- Community Outreach
- Legislative Updates
- Building and Grounds
- Kitchen
- Transportation

Taanna Henningsen reported on first grade and winter benchmarks.

Morgan Ryan reported on first grade, Otter Cove field trip, and ALF quilt raffle.

**Discussion Items**

ALF Project

**Action Items**

Wing introduced resolution to approve Resolution Directing Administration to Recommend Program/Personnel Adjustments Due to Declining Enrollment and/or Diminishing Revenue. Stevens seconded. Roll call vote: Wing – yes, Hovland – yes, Stevens – yes, Olson – yes, Anderson – yes, Rylander – yes, Johnson – yes. (MCU)

Motion to name Official Depository: Viking Bank of Ashby (Rylander/Anderson MCU)

Motion to name Official Newspaper: Battle Lake Review/Ashby Dalton Post (Anderson/Rylander MCU)

Motion to set Board Compensation: Regular or Special $50, Committee Meeting $25, Chairperson Stipend $25/month (Hovland/Rylander MCU)
Motion to set Board Meeting Time, Day, and Place: 3rd Wednesday Monthly, 6:00 PM, Ashby Public School Media Center (Rylander/Wing MCU)
Motion to accept contract for Jason Kuehn as Business Manager. (Wing/Stevens MCU)
Motion for approval of School District Policy for the Electronic Transfer of Funds authorizing Jason Kuehn, Renee Melby, and Jon Moore to transfer funds as allowed by MS471.38 electronically. (Anderson/Hovland MCU)

Motion to adjourn (Stevens/Wing MCU). Johnson called the meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

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Leslie Anderson, Clerk