

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

May 20, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on May 20, 2025, in the High School Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Egan, Galatz, Gabardi, Chair Berklich and Student Director Sam Hardy.

Members Absent: Director Polcher

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: None

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director McLaughlin gave kudos to middle school committee meeting and scholarship awards night.

Director Gabardi gave kudos to our PSEO students who graduated and the Lincoln color run.

Student Director Sam Hardy thanked the board for allowing him to be part of the school board this year. This is his last meeting of the year.

Administrators and Staff: None

Committee Report: None

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent McDonald provided updates on Owens Foundation donation, joint meeting with Chisholm, legislative session, middle school committee meeting, Bluejacket Bridge, strategic plan work and St. Louis County Schools wants to dissolve the Northwoods Girls Hockey Co-op.

APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director Gabardi to approve the agenda with the following addendum items: Administrative Business: Items D, E & F. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Chair Berklich and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the May 6, 2026 Regular Meeting, and the following for the month of April, 2026: Consideration of Claims in the amount of \$2,378,392.39. Electronic Fund Transfers in the amount of \$506,901.70.

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Treasurer's and Investment Reports and Payrolls in the amount of \$2,000,237.92. Accept the resignation from Jacob Barker, Custodian, Districtwide, effective May 3, 2026. Accept the resignation from Kylee Huusko, 9th grade volleyball coach, effective May 5, 2026. Accept the resignation from Chris Zubich, JV boys' hockey coach, effective May 6, 2026. Accept the resignation from Alexandra Hanson, Community Education Aquatics Coordinator, effective May 15, 2026. Accept the resignation for purposes of retirement from Michael Jandert, Custodian, High School, effective May 29, 2026. Approve the hiring of Shawn Blight, .6 FTE district plumber, effective May 26, 2026. Approve the hiring of Jennifer Hiltner, Media Specialist, Washington Elementary, effective August 31, 2026.

Administrative Business:

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR DONATIONS

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

APPROVE CHILDREN'S THERAPEUTIC SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH
HOMES, INC AND ISD 701

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Egan to approve Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports School-Based Services between North Homes, Inc and ISD 701. Motion carried unanimously.

RESCIND THE RESOLUTION PLACING JENNIFER HILTNER ON AN
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 Gabardi, supported by Director Egan to rescind the resolution placing Jennifer Hiltner on an 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.

AWARD THE BID FOR THE HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL CTE BOILER
BUILDING RENOVATION TO MAX GRAY CONSTRUCTION FOR
THEIR BASE BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,425,000.00

Moved by Director Gabardi, supported by Director Egan to award the bid for the Hibbing High School CTE boiler building renovation to Max Gray Construction for their base bid in the amount of \$2,425,000.00 Motion carried unanimously.

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MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS.

Moved by Director Berklich, supported by Director Gabardi to adopt the Resolution Directing the Administrations to Make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions.

1.0 FTE School Readiness

Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT RESOLUTION

Moved by Chair Berklich, supported by Director McLaughlin to adopt the Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenwal of the Teacher Contract of Wynona Butler, a Probationary Teacher at the close of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Possible sale of the Greenhaven-RFP was put in the paper on May 20th and May 23rd. Open house for realtors on May 30th from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK