

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 831
Forest Lake, Minnesota
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

April 20, 2026 & April 22, 2026

The special meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 831, Forest Lake MN, was called to order by Chair Rebelein at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2026 at the Forest Lake Area School District Offices. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called and the following members were present: Tessa Antonsen, Jill Christenson, Julie Corcoran, Mark Kasel, Curt Rebelein Jr., Gail Theisen, vacant seat open.

MEETING AGENDA

Member Kasel moved, 2nd by Member Theisen to approve the School Board Agenda as presented for April 20, 2026. All members present voted aye, the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATE FINALIST INTERVIEWS

- The Forest Lake Area Schools' School Board is conducting public interviews for the two remaining finalists selected for the district's superintendent position. The finalists were chosen from a pool of applicants based on criteria established through listening sessions, as well as survey input from staff, students, families, and the public and then narrowed down following semi-final interviews.
- Direction is given from Dr. Dan Bittman from Ray & Assoc. regarding procedures and decorum to be upheld during the interview process.

4.1 Interview: Finalist A - Tim Schochenmaier (scheduled: 5:15 – 6:30 pm)

- Candidate presented on assigned topic, followed up with questions and answer interview with the School Board.

Recess is taken from 6:38 – 6:45 pm. Upon return, roll is called with all members present.

4.2 Interview: Finalist B - John-Paul Jacobson (scheduled: 6:45 – 8:00 pm)

- Candidate presented on assigned topic, followed up with questions and answer interview with the School Board.

RECESS MEETING

As there was no further business for this portion, Chair Rebelein called a recess at 8:02 pm. with meeting scheduled to reconvene at 5:15 pm on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

RECONVENE RECESSED MEETING

The special meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 831, Forest Lake MN, was reconvened by Chair Rebelein at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at the Forest Lake Area School District Offices. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called and the following members were present: Tessa Antonsen, Jill Christenson, Julie Corcoran, Mark Kasel, Curt Rebelein Jr., Gail Theisen, vacant seat open.

DELIBERATION OF CANDIDATES

The Forest Lake Area Schools' School Board is reconvening for deliberation of the remaining two finalists vying for the district's superintendent position.

Direction is given to the board by Dr. Dan Bittman of Ray & Assoc. regarding next steps of reviewing materials and having positive discussion regarding each candidate.

Chair Rebelein moved, 2nd by Member Christenson that the Forest Lake Area School Board select Mr. John Paul Jacobson for the position of superintendent, and authorize the Board Chair, in conjunction of the Board Vice-Chair to enter into contract negotiations with the candidate to begin their new role on July 1, 2026.

Recess is taken to contact Mr. Jacobson to ensure that he is still interested in moving forward in the role from 6:12 – 6:20 pm. Upon return, roll is called and all members are present.

Following discussion the vote was called to approve the motion as presented. Members voting aye to move forward with entering contract negotiations with Mr. Jacobson: Antonsen, Christenson, Corcoran, Kasel, Rebelein, Theisen. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Chair Rebelein read the following statement:

Tonight marks a significant milestone for the Forest Lake Area Schools. After a comprehensive and rigorous review process the school board has reached a decision regarding the next leader of our district. From the very beginning of this search we were impressed by the exceptionally high caliber of applicants who expressed their interest in serving our community. This pool of candidates was a direct reflection of the high standards and clear priorities set by our parents, staff, and community members. We want to acknowledge all the semi-finalist and finalists who participated. Their professional expertise and dedication made this a difficult but rewarding decision for the board. Our goal was to find a leader who embodies the qualities of our community identified as essential. A strong communicator, a strategic thinker, a collaborative leader capable of navigating the complex needs of our geographically large and diverse community of communities. At this time, I'm proud to announce that the board has voted to move forward with Mr. John Paul Jacobson as our finalist to become the next superintendent of Forest Lake Area Schools. Mr. Jacobson's eleven years of dedicated leadership within our district and his intimate understanding of our people and our systems make him uniquely prepared to lead us forward. His proven ability to foster relational trust across our eleven municipalities have shown us that he is the right person for this next chapter.

As there was no further business, Member Antonsen moved, 2nd by Member Kasel to adjourn. All members present voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Curt Rebelein, Jr., Chair

Tessa Antonsen, Clerk

Approved Date: 5/07/2026