

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

June 3, 2026

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

Members Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: None

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director Gabardi congratulated the graduates and reminded everyone that Graduation is June 5th with the all-night grad party afterwards. She thanked the staff for all they do throughout the year and thanked Superintendent McDonald for her commitment to the District and getting it where it needs to be.

Director Egan attended the Pop concert stating it was entertaining and full of amazing talent. He congratulated the track members who are going to state and offered his condolences to the Gail Nucech family on behalf of the Board.

Director McLaughlin attended the RAMS meeting and provided a recap.

Administrators and Staff: None

Committee Report: None

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent McDonald congratulated staff, students and the community on a great end to the school year. Joint meeting with Chisholm on July 8th, 10 a.m. at Valentini's. Boy's and Girl's club and Headstart lease agreements for next year. Superintendent survey and District priority surveys sent to staff. Greenhaven possible sale-received 2 RFP's and will bring a recommendation to the Board at the June 17th meeting. Received \$385,000 from IRRR for the FY27 year. Agreement with Chisholm and St. Louis County Family Service Collaborative to share a Community Navigator. Purchased a K-5 curriculum. Congratulated Tia Rasch on her retirement and thanked Kirk Lewis and Darryl Eskeli on their years of service.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

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APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting and the following: Accept the resignation for purposes of retirement from Tia Rasch, Speech Language Pathologist, Greenhaven, effective August 31, 2026. Accept the resignation from Darryl Eskeli, Electrician, Districtwide, effective May 12, 2026. Accept the resignation from Kirk Lewis, Community Education Director, effective June 30, 2026. Approve the hiring of Laurie Allison, .6 FTE Early Childhood Teacher, Early Learning Center, effective August 31, 2026. Posting and Transfers for the Month of May, 2026: Approve the posting of Job #38, Custodian I, 3:00 P.M. – 11:30 P.M., Monday – Friday, Lincoln Middle School, effective May 1, 2026. Approve the posting of Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help, 20 positions based on seniority, 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M., Districtwide, Custodian hourly rate \$26.22, approximately June 3-12, 2026, effective May 4, 2026. Approve the transfer of Jacob Reimer to Job #38 Custodian I, 3:00 P.M. – 11:30 P.M., Lincoln Middle School, effective May 26, 2026. Approve the transfer of Kelle Nenadich to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Lori Bandelin to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Lisa Dolinich to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Nicole Nadeau to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Sharon Brownell to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Sara Bjelland to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Traci Hedlund to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Tania Rosc to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Kathy Frider to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Angie Kimmey to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Deborah Gillitzer to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Holly Hodge to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Carrie Yuhala to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026. Approve the transfer of Kayla Kalibabky to Job #38 Custodian I, temporary summer help 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Districtwide from approximately June 2, 2026 – June 12, 2026.

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Administrative Business:

APPROVE THE 2026-2027 RESOLUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
MSHSL AS PRESENTED

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi to approve the 2026-2027 Resolution for Membership in the MSHSL as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RESCIND THE RESOLUTION DATED APRIL 8, 2026 PLACING
DARRYL ESKELI ON AN UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE
WITHOUT PAY OR BENEFITS TO THE EXTENT OF .4 FTE EFFECTIVE
MAY 29, 2026 DUE TO MR. ESKELI'S RESIGNATION FROM THE
DISTRICT.

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director Polcher to rescind the resolution dated April 8, 2026 placing Darryl Eskeli on an unrequested leave of absence without pay or benefits to the extent of a .4 FTE effective May 29, 2026 due to Mr. Eskeli's resignation from the District. Motion carried unanimously.

RESCIND THE RESOLUTION DATED MAY 6, 2026 PLACING KIRK
LEWIS ON AN UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY
OR BENEFITS TO THE EXTENT OF .4 FTE EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2026
DUE TO MR. LEWIS'S RESIGNATION FROM THE DISTRICT.

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Galatz to rescind the resolution dated May 6, 2026 placing Kirk Lewis on an unrequested leave of absence without pay or benefits to the extent of a .4 FTE effective May 29, 2026 due to Mr. Lewis's resignation from the District. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ISD 701 AND THE HIBBING UNITED EDUCATORS FOR THE PERIOD
OF JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2027

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Galatz to approve the collective bargaining agreement between ISD 701 and the Hibbing United Educators for the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027. Motion carried Unanimously.

APPROVE THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ISD 701 AND THE CONFIDENTIAL UNIT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY
1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2027

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Egan to approve the collective bargaining agreement between ISD 701 and the Hibbing Confidential Unit for the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027. Motion carried Unanimously.

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APPROVE PAYMENT #8 TO MAX GRAY CONSTRUCTION IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$107,488.51 FOR WORK COMPLETED ON THE
GREENHAVEN RENOVATION PROJECT

Moved by Chair Berklich, supported by Director Egan to approve payment #8 to Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$107,488.51 for work completed on the Greenhaven Renovation Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Jeff, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK