

FRESHWATER EDUCATION DISTRICT # 6004

Special Board Meeting Minutes, May 20, 2026

2222 Industrial Drive, Wadena, MN

The meeting was called to order by Chair Huttunen at 2:30 PM.

Board Members Present: **Chair** - Rod Huttunen-Sebeka, **Clerk** - Scott Veronen-Verndale, Russ VanDenheuvel-Bertha-Hewitt, Katie Howard-Menahga, Chuck Wolf- Long Prairie-Grey Eagle, Rodney Thalmann – Henning, Ryan Wright-Staples-Motley.

Board Members Absent: Barb Tumberg-Wadena-Deer Creek and Jodi Hillmer-Browerville.

Superintendents Present: Lee Westrum- Wadena-Deer Creek & Scott Vedbraaten - Browerville.

FED Admin: Eric Weber, Jamie Wothe, Jordan Anderson & Sharon Thiel.

Others in Attendance: Bryan Tollefson, Jesse Ashbaugh, Jena Osberg, Lisa Wick, Mike Kaluza, Shawn McAllister, and Leah Bloemendaal.

MOTIONED by VanDenheuvel and SECONDED by Wright to approve the agenda for the special meeting as presented. VOTE - U/C

Supervising Supt. Westrum & Vedbraaten provided an overview of the interview process and procedures. Two interview committees were established: the FED Governing Board Members and Supervising Superintendents, and the FED Leadership Team and Staff. Candidates considered for interviews included Paul Brownlow of West Central School District and a proposal from Verndale School District for shared superintendent services, utilizing 0.5 FTE of Superintendent Mayers' time.

The two interview committees proceeded with the interview process and later reconvened with the FED Governing Board to present their recommendations regarding the candidate to whom the position should be offered. Following discussion and deliberation, Board Chair Huttunen called for a motion.

MOTIONED by VanDenheuvel and SECONDED by Wolf to move to the full-time Executive Director model and offer the Executive Director position to Paul Browlow, with direction to the Personnel Committee to begin contract negotiations.

Roll Call:

Abstentions: None.

Aye: Wolf, Veronen, VanDenheuvel, Howard, Wright, Huttunen.

Nay: Thalmann

Absent: Hillmer and Tumberg

Motion carried with a majority.

Consent Agenda

MOTIONED by Thalmann and SECONDED by Wolf to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- Governing Board Minutes: April 29, 2026.
- Resignation of S. McKeever, Behavior Specialist
- Permission to advertise and hire for the following positions:
 - 1.0 FTE Behavioral Specialist for the 26/27 SY
 - 1.0 FTE ALC Teacher (Online Instructor)
 - 0.2-0.5 FTE Temporary Business Manager Assistant
 - SPED Academies Paraprofessional for the 26/27 SY
 - PT ALC Teacher
 - PT Program Assistant (MARSS)
 - PT School Cleaner

VOTE: U/C

MOVED by Wright and SECONDED by VanDenhuevel to accept the following donations:

Donor	Item	Designated Purpose (if any)
Freshwater Education Foundation, Wadena, MN	\$225	Mobility Meet Up
B&Ds Foods, Henning, MN	Four Dozen Cookies	Mobility Meet Up
Abby's Bakery/Mason Bros, Wadena, MN	Three Dozen Cookies	Mobility Meet Up
Casey's New York Mills, MN	Coffee Creamer	Mobility Meet Up
City of New York Mills, MN	Building Usage	Mobility Meet Up
Frazee Lions Club, Frazee, MN	\$200	Spring Fling

VOTE on adoption of the Resolution was as follows;

ABSTENTIONS: None

AYE: Huttunen, Veronen, VanDenheuvel, Howard, Wolf, Thalmann, and Wright.

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hillmer and Tumberg.

WHEREUPON, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

MOTIONED by Veronen and SECONDED by Howard to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.