Park Rapids Area School Board
Working Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 20th, 2026
6:00 PM
Park Rapids School Board Room

Chairperson Safratowich called the Meeting to order. Members present and order to vote were Diekman, Hoyt, Pike, Kocka & Safratowich. Morgan was absent. Principals Jeff Johnson & Mike LeMeir were present, as were Business Manager Kent Fritze, Superintendent Lance Bagstad along with staff and community members.

RECITED the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVED Agenda and Addendums as presented. **Hoyt/Kocka**

PRESENTATION:

a. Seasonal Tax Base Replacement Aid – Matthew Hammer from Ehlers discussed the potential of seasonal tax funding by the state through an operating referendum. Currently, with an operating referendum, we would receive $665k in extra funding with neutral tax impact to our taxpayers. Discussion on how we would spend the funding and how it would be presented on the ballot. This will need to be decided on before August 11th and submitted for the November election. The board recommended proceeding with the process to be approved at the August 10th board meeting.

APPROVED Consent Items as follows: **Kocka / Diekman**

b. Approve Minutes of the July 6th, 2026 Working Board Meeting
c. Approve donations made to the Park Rapids School District
d. Approve payments Presented for July 2026
e. Approve Resignation – Kayla Vitti, Co Asst. Speech Coach
f. Approve Resignation – Melissa Kramer, PAWN Secretary
g. Approve Resignation – Kevin Cederstrom, JV Softball Coach
h. Approve Rescinding Employment Offer – Bonnie McNeese, Elementary Teaching
i. Approve Rescinding Employment Offer – Mike Donnay, HS Custodian
j. Approve Hire – Bill Dent, JV Boys Basketball Coach
k. Approve Volunteer - Bryan Hirt, Volunteer Girls Swim Coach
l. Approve 26-27 Contract – Mike Ridlon, Facility Director

Leadership Reports:

HEARD Monthly Superintendent Report – Discussion on the seasonal tax base replacement aid. Project 309 is continuing to wrap up. Solar project is moving forward looking at sites.

HEARD Monthly Business Manager Report – Working on the upcoming audit and looking for more funding with the Season Rec referendum.

HEARD Monthly Principals' Report – Lemier discussed hiring potentials and getting ready for the school year. Johnson reported the building trades house is paid for and will be moved. Hiring discussions. Discussion on a grant to have a pow wow in November. Handbooks and fall agenda for staff return.

HEARD Monthly Community Education Report – Dickinson discussed summer programs. Fall programing is opening up and the fall catalog will be coming out.

HEARD Monthly Facilities Director Report – Ridlon reported 80% done with cleaning and starting maintenance projects.

HEARD Monthly Activities Directors Report – Nordick reported activities schedules are online. Fall athletic meeting on July 30th. Fall sports start on August 17th.

HEARD Monthly Special Education Directors Report – Introduction of Jamie Wothe from Freshwater Special Ed District.

HEARD Old Business:

a. Airplane Donation – Denny Sleen said the airplane could not be hung in the school due to fire marshall standards. Therefore, he is withdrawing the donation to the school.

HEARD New Business:

a. Review and Approve Volunteer insurance with Berkley Accident and Health for 2026-2027. **Diekman/Pike**
b. Approve Resolution Approving School District No. 309 Long Term Facility Maintenance ten-year plan. Roll Call Vote. **Kocka/Diekman**
    a. Diekman – Aye
    b. Hoyt – Aye
    c. Pike – Aye
    d. Kocka – Aye
    e. Safratowich - Aye

DONATIONS Received and Appreciated

TO	FROM	AMOUNT/ITEM
Century Adventures	Hackensack Lumber & Hardware	$250 - Lumber raised beds

ADJOURN at 7:05 pm. Diekman/Pike