School Board Proceedings
Eden Valley-Watkins Public School #463
www.evw.k12.mn.us
July 13th, 2026

I. **No Forum: Work Session**

II. A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Eden Valley-Watkins Schools was held Monday, July 13th, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Eden Valley-Watkins District Office with Board Chair Jay Brovold, Members Ben Stommes, Jen Evens, Ann Lemke, Christina DeRose, Nate Haag, Superintendent Joel Baumgarten, and Business Manager Alisa Woolcott present. Call meeting to order @ 6:00

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. The Agenda was approved on a motion by Jen Evens and seconded by Ann Lemke. Motion carried unanimously.

V. The Consent Agenda was approved on a motion by Christina DeRose and seconded by Ann Lemke. Motion carried unanimously.

V.A. Minutes

V.B. Personnel Actions

Contracts:
-Approved a classified contract change for Amy Bischof, from Title I Assistant at 161 days, 6.0 hours per day, Eden Valley Elementary, to Kindergarten Assistant of 170 days, 7.0 hours per day, Watkins Elementary, effective August 26, 2026
-Approved a classified contract with Lexi Haan, Special Education Assistant, Eden Valley Elementary, Lane B, Step 5, effective August 26, 2026
-Approved a classified contract change for Kaila Schmitt, ADSIS Assistant, Eden Valley Elementary, from 5.0 hours per day to 6.5 hours per day effective August 26, 2026
-Approved a new certified contract with Miranda Scherer, Teacher, Eden Valley Elementary, BS, Step 4, effective August 24, 2026
-Approved a new certified contract with Samantha Streed, Special Education Teacher, Eden Valley Elementary, MA, Step 7, effective August 24, 2026
-Approved a new certified contract with Austin Willey, English Teacher, EVW Secondary, BS+60, Step 4, effective August 24, 2026
-Approved a Long-Term Substitute Nurse contract with Bernita Hinnenkamp, EVW School District, effective August 20 – approximately October 18, 2026, BS, Step 1
-Approved a Community Education contract with Madison Dvorak, Eagle Kids Childcare Aide, effective May 28, 2026
-Approved a Community Education contract with Tyanna Blaschko, Eagle Kids Childcare Aide, effective June 2, 2026
-Approved a Community Education contract with Nora Spitzley, Eagle Kids Childcare Aide, effective June 2, 2026

Volunteers:
Leaves:
-Approved a leave of absence for Samantha Athmann, ECSE Teacher, Watkins Elementary, beginning approximately August 24, 2026 through approximately September 28, 2026
-Approved a leave of absence for Catherine Birr, School Nurse, EVW School District, beginning approximately August 20, 2026 through October 18, 2026
Resignations:
-Approved resignation of Lizzi Koivisto, Elementary Special Education Teacher, Eden Valley Elementary, effective June 1, 2026, after 1.5 years in the district
P-Card Authorizations:
- Approved District Office to issue school P-Card to Miranda Scherer
- Approved District Office to issue school P-Card to Samantha Streed
- Approved District Office to issue school P-Card to Austin Willey

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VI. Finance

VI.A. The Board approved the July 13th, 2026 bills on a motion by Ann Lemke and seconded by Ben Stommes. Motion carried unanimously.

FUND 01	**GENERAL EDUCATION FUND**	**629,532.17**
FUND 02	**FOOD SERVICE FUND**	**168,103.30**
FUND 04	**COMMUNITY ED FUND**	**18,143.03**
		815,778.50

VI.B. Enrollment and projections will be reviewed at the August 17th Board meeting.

VI.C. **Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts**

Member Ben Stommes introduced the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS the following have generously offered to donate to the Eden Valley-Watkins School District:

Eden Valley Lions	$3,000.00	Trap Donation
Eden Valley Lions	$2,000.00	Special Olympics
American Legion Post #381	$1,000.00	Summer Rec Donation

WHEREAS the conditions on these gifts are also indicated above;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Eden Valley-Watkins School Board to gratefully accept these gifts.

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Jen Evens.

And upon vote being taken thereon,

The following voted in favor thereof: Jay Brovold, Ben Stommes, Jen Evens, Ann Lemke, Christina DeRose and Nate Haag.

And the following voted against the same: None

And the following were absent: Charlie Magedanz

VII. Board Business

VII.A. The Board reviewed district memberships and subscriptions.

VII.B. Joel Baumgarten, Superintendent, discussed the annual process for reviewing and updating the district policy manual.

VII.C. Joel Baumgarten, Superintendent, reported that he had reached out to Gail Gillman, MSBA, to revisit the process and time line of the upcoming strategic plan.

VII.D. Reviewed and approved the Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING DATES FOR FILING AFFIDAVITS OF CANDIDACY

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BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 463, State of Minnesota, as follows:

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 463
(EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS PUBLIC SCHOOL)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 463 shall begin on July 14, 2026, and shall close on July 28, 2026.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. At that election, three members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each.

Affidavits of Candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk, District Office (Door 13), Eden Valley-Watkins Schools, 298 Brooks Street North, Eden Valley, MN 55329. The period for filing will be Monday –Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and until 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026. The Affidavit of Candidacy filing fee for this office is $2.

Board member, Jen Evens, introduces the Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy. Board member, Nate Haag, seconds the motion.

The following voted in favor thereof: Jay Brovold, Ben Stommes, Jen Evens, Ann Lemke, Christina DeRose and Nate Haag

And the following voted against the same: None

And the following were absent: Charlie Magedanz

The foregoing resolution was approved this 13th day of July, 2026.

VII.E. The Board reviewed the recreational property tax levy information previously presented by Beth Downes from Ehlers. Following a detailed discussion, the Board requested that Ms. Downes attend the upcoming July 27th meeting to clarify specific details. This additional insight will ensure a fully informed decision regarding the optimal utilization of the levy apportionment.

VII.F. The Board was updated on the use of district property by the Wat-Kim-Valley VFW to build pickleball courts.

VII.G. The Board reviewed the regulatory guidelines for the athletic complex funds. Moving forward, the allocation of these previously designated assets will be restricted to authorized public purpose uses.

VII.H. Reviewed and approved the 2026-2028 Admin/Essential contract for Kelsey Magedanz. The 2026-2028 Admin/Essential contract for Kelsey Magedanz was approved on a motion made by Ben Stommes and seconded by Christina DeRose. Motion carried unanimously.

VII.I. Reviewed and approved the 2026-2028 Admin/Essential contract for Tracey Neugart. The 2026-2028 Admin/Essential contract for Tracey Neugart was approved on a motion made by Ben Stommes and seconded by Christina DeRose. Motion carried unanimously.

VII.J. Reviewed and approved the 2026-2028 Admin/Essential contract for Peter Stenger. The 2026-2028 Admin/Essential contract for Peter Stenger was approved on a motion made by Ben Stommes and seconded by Christina DeRose. Motion carried unanimously.

VII.K. Reviewed and approved the 2026-2028 Admin/Essential contract for Jerrod Nohner. The 2026-2028 Admin/Essential contract for Jerrod Nohner was approved on a motion made by Ben Stommes and seconded by Christina DeRose. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Board Member Updates and Reports:

1. Admin/Essential negotiations are going well

VIII.A. Student-Schoolboard Representative Updates:

1. None at this meeting

VIII.B. Superintendent, Joel Baumgarten reported:

1. Superintendent
   - Evaluation
   - Goals-New
2. Strategic Plan Starting this Fall
   - Reached out to Gail Gillman from MSBA
3. Election
   - November 3rd
   - 3 SB Positions
   - Ads in to Paper and on Social Media/Website
   - Filing Period 7-14 to 7-28
   - Finalize Ballots by 8-11
   - Recreational Levy $
   - Permanent School Funding Amendment
   - Community Meetings Informational Meetings and Advertisements
4. Staff Workshop Plan
   - Plan is ready
   - Trainings?
   - Letter to send out about 8-1
   - August 20, 24, 25, 26
   - Van training in afternoons
5. Summer Trainings
   - Crisis Training on 6-1
   - Election Training on 6-4 for Stearns County
   - SWWC Summer WS on 6-16
   - Leadership Training on 6-22
   - Election Training on 6-16 for Meeker County
6. Membership Renewal-MSBA, MREA, RTS...
7. New SB Calendar for 2026-27
   - Move August 10th to August 3rd in 2026
   - Tour of buildings on August 17th
   - Move day in July to June in 2027
8. Community Events
   - Glory Days
   - Valley Daze
   - BizNest-EVW
9. Facilities-Peter Stenger
   - Summer cleaning ahead of schedule-Good crew!

- Leaks in roofs-fixed
- Irrigation system repair-New Main Control System
- Valley Daze went well on school property
- Convert woodshop to LED lights
- Eagles Kids Painting of Building-Gray
- Mural finalize soon
- Painting classrooms
- New water softener at HS-About $15K? 3 Quotes?

10. Other
    - Teacher Grievance settled in mediation
    - Classified contract settled and ready for approval
    - Other negotiations are nearly done-Nice work!

VIII.C. Elementary Principal, Rob Pederson, Report:

VIII.D. Secondary Principal, Dave Schneider, Report:

IX. Other Business:

X. Items to be considered at the next meeting:

1. Review and approve 26-27 fee schedule
2. Review and approve 2026-2028 Classified Contract

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. on a motion by Jen Evens and seconded by Christina DeRose. Motion carried unanimously.

_____
Ann Lemke
CLERK