

### FRESHWATER EDUCATION DISTRICT # 6004

Regular Board Meeting Minutes, August 19, 2026

2222 Industrial Drive, Wadena, MN

Chair Huttunen called the meeting to order at 5 P.M.

Board Members Present: **Chair** - Rod Huttunen-Sebeka, **V. Chair** - Barb Tumberg-Wadena-Deer Creek, **Clerk** - Scott Veronen-Verndale, **Treasurer** - Jodi Hillmer-Browerville, Russ VanDenheuvel-Bertha-Hewitt, Rodney Thalmann – Henning, Katie Howard-Menahga, Ryan Wright-Staples-Motley, Chuck Wolf-Long Prairie-Grey Eagle.

Superintendents: Scott Vedbraaten-Browerville and Dave Fjeldheim- Bertha-Hewitt.

FED Admin: Paul Brownlow, Jamie Wothe, Jordan Anderson and Sharon Thiel.

#### *Approving the Agenda*

MOTIONED BY VanDenheuvel and SECONDED BY Tumberg to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE- U/C

#### *Consent Agenda*

MOTIONED BY Veronen and SECONDED BY Hillmer to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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Payments 67981 - 68286

Personnel: *Lane Change Request: Robin Rothstein, SPED Program Specialist, from MA+10 to MA+20, effective for the 26/27 SY.*

*Resignation: Ashley Ladwig, SLPA, effective at the end of the 25/26 SY; Jessica Nelson, Social Worker, effective at the end of the 25/26 SY; Trent Becker, Transportation Assistant, effective August 13, 2026.*

*Hiring: Victoria Thompson, SPED Paraprofessional, for 1176 hours at Step 7 for 173 days, effective the 26/27 SY; Mike Kaluza, Todd County Collaborative Coordinator, for 50 hours, effective July 1, 2026; Michelle Halonen, SpEd Teacher, for 181 days, at MA/Step 14, effective for the 26/27 SY; Melissa Dosdall, SLPA, for 181 days, at BA/Step 14, effective for the 26/27 SY; Melisa Brever, ECSE Teacher, for 90.5 days, at Specialist/Step 10, effective for the 26/27 SY; Kristina Tiede, SpEd Paraprofessional, for 173 days, effective for the 26/27 SY.*

#### *Change in Hours:*

*Voluntary Decrease in Days: Ashtyn Wollenburg, School Social Worker, from 181 days to 109 days, effective the 26/27 SY.*

*Decrease in Hours effective for the 26/27 School Year: Cathy Newberry, PT Paraprofessional Sub, from 1,122 hours to 1,026 hours; Heidi Haase, ECFE Teacher, from 782 hours to 700 hours; Janet Becker, SR Paraprofessional, from 1,361.5 hours to 1,260 hours; Joni Schwartz, ECSE Teacher, .6 FTE to .5 FTE; Kelsi Schalow, ECFE/SR Teacher, 1,578 hours to 1,483 hours; Lisa Wright, SR Teacher, 1,603 hours to 1,552 hours; Michelle Olson, SALC Paraprofessional, from 1,162.5 hours to 1,117 hours; Susan Lowe, ALC Teacher, from 1,488 hours to 1,448 hours.*

*Increase in Hours, effective the 26/27 School Year: Brenda Faust, ECFE Teacher, from 1,406 hours to 1,411 hours; Emili Hibbs, ECFE/SR Teacher, from 1,195.5 hours to 1,502 hours; Heidi Haase, Local Literacy Lead (Read Act), from 61.5 hours to 289.6 hours; Lisa Hubbard, ECFE/SR Teacher, from 1,571 hours to 1,731 hours; Lori Larson, SR Paraprofessional, from 642 hours to 955 hours; Peggy Kellen, SR Paraprofessional, from 1,366.5 hours to 1,380 hours.*

Posting of the following Positions: *ASL Interpreter & Transportation Assistant (Internally)*

Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Contract Renewals:

Expense: *Interquest Detection Canines FY27; Academy School Nutrition Program Joint Agreement; 2026- 2027 Eluma PAWN Special Education Teacher Expansion Contract; IQ Testing Services FY27; Speak Courage SLP Service Agreement FY27; 2026-2027 Edmentum; Social Worker Supervision Service Agreement FY27 - C. Copeland; Social Worker Supervision Service Agreement M. Sutlief.*  
Renewal of Contracts: *26/27 WCMCA Head Start Collaborative Agreement; 26/27 CLC - PSEO Agreement.*

VOTE: U/C

#### Informational Items:

Executive Director: *Freshwater Education District reviewed **CIPA requirements** and confirmed compliance for E rate funding, examined **Policy #524** on Internet Acceptable Use & Safety, noted continued use of Lightspeed Filter Relay as the district's technology protection measure, and affirmed that internet safety instruction is provided through the Digital Citizenship Curriculum; additional updates included WAN status, the Wadena ALC property insurance claim, site visits to member districts and PAWN, progress on the Executive Director transition, program updates, attendance at the State Approved Alternative Programs Conference, and the appointment of Katie Howard as the Wadena County Family Services Cooperative Representative under Policy #213L, along with reminders of the upcoming Principal/Superintendent Meeting on August 12 and the FED All Staff Meeting on August 25.*

Special Ed Director: *Reported on SPED Trainings that took place in August and shared updates on the Academy and PAWN Level IVs.*

Finance Reports: *Reviewed general financial reports and business services.*

#### Old Business:

MOTIONED BY Tumberg and SECONDED BY Howard to approve the exclusion of Pillager #116 from the LTFM cooperative levy calculation. VOTE: U/C

MOTIONED BY Thalmann and SECONDED BY VanDenheuvell to approve the LTFM 10-year plan resolution as presented. VOTE:U/C

MOTIONED BY Wolf and SECONDED BY Veronen to approve the first and final reading of the policies presented, recommended by the Minnesota School Board Association. Policies: 208, 402, 423, 507.5, 509, 521, 524, 613, 621, 709, 722. VOTE: U/C

#### New Business:

MOVED BY Tumberg and SECONDED BY Wright to accept the following donations:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Freshwater Education District #6004 gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

Reading for the Future:

\$500 ~ Pillager Area Firemen's Department of Relief, Pillager, MN ~ Reading for the Future

FED Paraprofessional & SPED Teacher Training:

\$30 ~ Owly Coffee, Wadena, MN; \$50 ~ Super One, Wadena, MN; \$75 ~ Subway, Wadena, MN;

\$75 ~ Pizza Ranch, Wadena, MN; \$10 ~ Hometown Crafts, Wadena, MN; \$50 ~ Boondocks,

Wadena, MN; \$20 ~ Oma's, Wadena, MN; 2 - T-shirts ~ Maslowski Center, Wadena, MN; \$30 ~

BBQ Smokehouse, Wadena, MN; \$50 ~ Wal-Mart, Wadena, MN;

VOTE on adoption of the Resolution was as follows: ABSTENTIONS: None. AYE: Huttune, Tumberg, Veronen, Hillmer, VanDenheuvell, Howard, Wolf, Thalmann, Wright. NAY: None. ABSENT: None.

WHEREUPON, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

Next Board Meeting: *October 28, 2026.*

Adjournment- MOTIONED BY Wolf and SECONDED BY Hillmer to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

VOTE: U/C