

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

September 9, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on September 9, 2026, in the High School Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Gabardi, Galatz, Polcher and Chair Berklich

Members Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Paul Peltier presented Permanent School Fund Amendment

Public Comment: None

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Director Gabardi visited the Washington on the first day of school and gave kudos to the staff for the welcoming atmosphere.

Student Director Sam Hardy discussed his survey idea and he gave kudos to staff and student for the first day of school where he saw kindness amongst everyone.

Administrators and Staff: None

Committee Report: None

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent McDonald provided an update on the open house and the first day of school and gave kudos to the staff. She discussed the next joint meeting with Chisholm. She expressed her appreciation for the School Board.

APPROVE AGENDA WITH ADDENDUM TO THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Galatz, supported by Director Polcher to approve the agenda with the addendum to the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the Minutes from the August 19, 2026 and the following: Approve the hiring of Sarah Houtkooper as an ALP night school teacher, grades 9-12, Monday 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. effective with the 2026-2027 school year. Approve the hiring of Emily Erickson as an ALP night school teacher, grades 9-12, Tuesday 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. effective with the 2026-2027 school year. Approve the hiring of Shannon Rocco as an ALP night school teacher, grades 9-12, Wednesday 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. effective with the 2026-2027 school year. Approve the hiring of Sue Schwartz as an ALP night school teacher, grades 9-12, Thursday 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. effective with the 2026-2027 school year. Approve the hiring of Bevie Fink, Pupil Support Assistant, 30 hours a week, Lincoln Elementary, effective September 10, 2026. Approve the

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hiring of Elisha Otonichar, .6 FTE Title I Teacher, High School, effective August 31, 2026. Approve the hiring of Steven Fetzik, long term sub, High School, effective August 31, 2026. Approve the hiring of Tina Carlson, special education teacher, Washington, effective August 31, 2026. Approve the hiring of Samantha Wohlsdorf, Title I Teacher, Washington, effective September 10, 2026. Accept the resignation for purposes of retirement from Lynn Stish, first grade teacher, Washington, effective June 4, 2027. Accept the resignation from Cassandra Jesperson, pupil support assistant, effective August 19, 2026. Accept the resignation from Trinity Hemmila, occupational therapist, effective August 24, 2026. Accept the resignation from Jennifer Fossell, Pupil Support Assistant, High School, effective September 6, 2026. Postings and Transfers for the month of August, 2026: Approve the posting of Job #38 Custodia 1, Monday – Friday, 3:00 P.M. – 11:30 P.M., ELC-Districtwide, effective August 10, 2026. Approve the posting of Job #38 Custodian 1, Monday – Friday, 3:00 P.M. – 11:30 P.M., effective August 10, 2026. Approve the transfer of Kyle Winchester to Job #41 Grounds Person, Districtwide, effective August 10, 2026. Approve the transfer of Jean Pajunen to Job #38 Custodian 1, Monday – Friday, 3:00 P.M. – 11:30 P.M., ELC-Districtwide, effective August 31, 2026.

Administrative Business:

APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR
ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICES BETWEEN HIBBING
PUBLIC SCHOOLS I.S.D. NO. 701 AND THE LIGHTHOUSE CENTER
FOR VITAL LIVING, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the purchase of service agreement for orientation and mobility services between Hibbing Public Schools I.S.D. No. 701 and The Lighthouse Center for Vital Living, effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE POLICY 531 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Moved by Director Galatz, supported by Chair Berklich to approve Policy 531. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION
SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED

Moved by Director Gabardi, supported by Director Polcher to approve the substitute employee compensation schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AGREEMENT
BETWEEN I.S.D. NO. 71 AND THE CITY OF HIBBINIG FROM
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 – AUGUST 31, 2027

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Galatz to approve the school resource officer's agreement between I.S.D. No. 701 and the City of Hibbing from September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

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APPROVE THE FACILITY USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
HIBBING AND I.S.D. NO. 701 FROM AUGUST 1, 2026 – JULY 31, 2029

Moved by Director Galatz, supported by Chair Berklich to approve the facility use agreement between the City of Hibbing and I.S.D. No. 701 from August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2029. Motion carried 5-1 with Director Egan against.

APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST TO THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE
VARIANCE FOR CARRIE MCDONALD TO SERVE AS THE DIRECTOR
OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOR HIBBING PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR
THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the submission of a request to the Minnesota Board of School Administrators for an administrative variance for Carrie McDonald to serve as the director of Community Education for Hibbing Public Schools for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Galatz to approve going into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D04, Subdivision 3(b)(3) to consider an offer on the Greenhaven building, located at 323 E 37th St in Hibbing at 4:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Egan to go into open session at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items: None

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Egan to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEFF POLCHER, CLERK