

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

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September 23, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 3:30 P.M. on September 23, 2026, in the High School Board Room. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Polcher, Gabardi, Galatz and Chair Berklich

Members Absent: Director Egan, Student Director Sam Hardy

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: None

Administrative Reports: None

Directors / Student Director: None

Administrators and Staff: None

Committee Report:

Director Galatz attended the Community Ed Advisory Meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> and had a positive experience. There was a lot of collaboration and representation and she gave kudos to a great start to Community Ed.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent McDonald gave a recap from the Community Ed Advisory Meeting and the Youth Mental Health Day, which was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Minnesota Discovery Center for the students in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

APPROVE AGENDA WITH THE BUDGET DISCUSSION HELD  
BEFORE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Galatz to approve the agenda with the budget discussion held before the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE ADDENDUM

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Galatz and approved unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda with the addendum which consists of the Minutes from the September 9, 2026 Regular Meeting and the following for the month of August, 2026: Consideration of Claims in the amount of \$2,047,113.10. Electronic Fund Transfers in the amount of \$474,621.53. Treasurer's and Investment Reports and Payrolls in the amount of \$345,155.01. Approve the list of 2026-27 Fall Coaches. Approve the hiring

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of Doug Mihin, Job #38 Custodian 1, High School, 3:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. effective September 28, 2026. Approve the hiring of Deb Teiken, ALP Night School Teacher, Monday – Thursday, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. effective September 23, 2026 contingent upon receiving an OFP Licensure from MN PELSB. Approve the hiring of Tia Ferrell, Job # 60 Pupil Support Assistant, Lincoln, 30 hours a week, effective September 24, 2026. Approve the hiring of Maggie Iverson, Job #60 Pupil Support Assistant, Lincoln, 30 hours a week, effective September 28, 2026.

**Administrative Business:**

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR DONATIONS

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to approve the resolution for donations. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE 2026 PAYABLE 2027 PROPOSED LEVY WITH MAXIMUM AUTHORITY

Moved by Director Gabardi, supported by Chair Berklich to approve the 2026 payable 2027 proposed levy with Maximum authority. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAYMENT #3 TO MAX GRAY CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$387,688.30 FOR WORK DONE ON THE HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL BOILER BUILDING

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve payment #3 to Max Gray Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$387,688.30 for work done on the Hibbing High School Boiler Building. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAYMENT # 4 TO HAWK CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$417,686.55 FOR WORK DONE ON THE HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL CTE CLASSROOMS

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve payment #4 to HAWK Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$417,686.55 for work done on the Hibbing High School CTE Classrooms. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE AGREEMENT FOR TARGETED SERVICES BETWEEN I.S.D. NO.701 AND THE CLOQUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Galatz to approve the Agreement for Targeted Services between I.S.D. No. 701 and Cloquet Public Schools effective October 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

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APPROVE TO DISCONTINUE THE GIRLS HOCKEY COOPERATIVE  
BETWEEN NORTH WOODS AND HIBBING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND  
CHISHOLM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Gabardi to approve to discontinue the girls hockey cooperative between North Woods and Hibbing Public Schools and Chisholm Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE TO DISCONTINUE THE BOYS AND GIRLS WRESTLING  
COOPERATIVE BETWEEN NORTH WOODS AND HIBBING PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS AND CHISHOLM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve to discontinue the boys and girls wrestling cooperative between North Woods and Hibbing Public Schools and Chisholm Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GIRLS HOCKEY  
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIBBING PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
AND CHISHOLM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Moved by Director McLaughlin, supported by Director Polcher to approve the establishment of a girls hockey cooperative between Hibbing Public Schools and Chisholm Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOYS AND GIRLS  
WRESTLING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIBBING  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHISHOLM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Moved by Director Galatz, supported by Director Gabardi to approve the establishment of a girls hockey cooperative between Hibbing Public Schools and Chisholm Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS AN OFFER ON THE GREENHAVEN  
BUILDING

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to go into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D04, Subdivision 3(b)(3) to consider an offer on the Greenhaven building, located at 323 E 37<sup>th</sup> St in Hibbing at 4:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Chair Berklich returned to open session at 5:00 p.m.

**Discussion Items:**

Enrollment Report  
Chisholm and Hibbing Joint Board Meeting on October 29, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.  
Budget

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ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourn  
the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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JOHN BERKLICH, CHAIR

ATTEST:

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JEFF POLCHER, CLERK