August 19, 2026

The School Board of District 261 met in regular session on August 19, 2026, in the Media Center at 7:30 am. Vice Chair S. Wing called the meeting to order at 7:30 am with members Hovland, Olson, Anderson, Rylander, and Stevens present. Absent: Ben Johnson and Sean Stevens. Also present were Superintendent/HS Principal Jon Moore, Elem/MS Principal Megan Peterson, Jason Kuehn, Suzanna Ecker, Meg Downer, Naomi Anderson, Brad Nelson, Brooke Smith and ICS representatives Lori Christensen and Justin Maaninga.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to approve the agenda. (Hovland/Anderson MCU)

Recognition of visitors. Lori Christensen and Justin Maaninga of ICS presented information on proposed Owner Representation and Project Management Services on behalf of the school district for the upcoming improvement projects.

Teacher representatives attending were Meg Downer and Naomi Anderson.

Motion to approve the following consent agenda (Hovland/Anderson MCU):

- Approval of July 15, 2026 minutes
- Financial Reports for July 2026
- Budgets Reports for July 2026
- Approval of bills: July Handpayables: $30,367.47.55, July Wire Payments: $189,043.62, and August bills: $80,785.91
- Student Activity Balances July 2026
- Approval of personnel changes: Hiring of Samantha Ellingson, paraprofessional
- Acknowledge Donations: To the Trap Team $2,590.00 from Coots Unlimited. To Robotics Team, Aagard $5,000.00. To Robotics Team, PMMI Education and Training foundation $5,000.00.

Susan Wing reported on the Lakes Country Service Coop.

Leslie Anderson reported on Region1.

Elem/MS Principal's Report

Mrs. Peterson reported on the following:

- New Staff Orientation
- Renaissance Gold Status
- Elementary morning drop-off procedure changes
- MS Early Entrance Conferences
- Interventions
- Elementary PLCs
- Teacher Observations
- Staff Development Special Ed Kick Off
- Ashby Appreciation Days Parade
- DAC

Superintendent/HS Principal Report

Mr. Moore reported on the following:

- Fergus Falls Special Education
- 8 Period Schedule to offer more electives
- New School Nurse, EMT class, Firemen Training class
- Conversation about building trades and sharing resources with other districts/partnerships
- Spark27
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Building and Grounds
- New signage in the gymnasium and auditorium
- Boiler issues
- Staff returning and new faces in the building
- Office remodel project

Meg Downer spoke on the Special Education kickoff training and breakout sessions attended by the department. Mrs. Downer is excited for the opportunities for students with the continuation of many classroom activities and experiences.

Naomi Anderson spoke on the upcoming fall musical, Guys & Dolls Jr. Co-Directors will be Naomi Anderson and Kelli Weinandt, and Elise LeMay will direct the music. Student participation will be open to grades 5-12. Mrs. Anderson suggested pairing with Brandon-Evansville in the One Act Play and is thankful for the newly painted stage and upgrades to the sound and light systems. Upcoming school year classroom novel studies were discussed as well as exploring changes in classroom management.

Discussion Items
Activities Update
Discuss pairing with B/E for Musical and one-act play
ICS Contract

Action Items
Approving 2026-2027 Student Handbook changes (Anderson/Hovland MCU)
Consider Approving 2026-2027 Staff Handbook (Anderson/Hovland MCU)
Approving 2026-2027 Coaches Handbook (Anderson/Hovland MCU)
Consider Approving 2026-2027 Activities Handbook (Anderson/Hovland MCU)
Approving 2026-2027 Youth Activities Handbook (Anderson/Hovland MCU)
Consider Approving the School District Policy for Electronic Transfer of Funds, authorizing Jason Kuehn and Jon Moore to transfer funds as allowed by MS471.38 electronically (Rylander/Hovland MCU)
Consider Approving Authorized Signers for the District Checking Account at Viking Bank of Ashby as follows: Suzanne Wing-Vice Chair, Leslie Anderson -Clerk, and Dallas Rylander -Treasurer (Hovland/Olson MCU)
Consider Approving a pairing agreement for Esports and Robotics with Battle Lake 1-year agreement (Anderson/Rylander MCU)
Consider Resolution Calling for an Abatement Hearing to Consider a Proposed Property Tax Abatement
Roll call vote: Hovland-yes, Olson-yes, Anderson-yes, Rylander-yes, Wing- yes. Absent: Johnson, Stevens. MCU
Consider approving a contract to work with ICS: tabled to next month.
Consider approving pairing with B/E for musical and one-act play (Anderson/Olson MCU)

Motion to adjourn (Rylander/Hovland MCU). Wing called the meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.

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Leslie Anderson, Clerk