INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111 **BOARD OF EDUCATION**
WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA 55388 **Regular Meeting**
August 24, 2026

I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Mayer City Hall on Monday, August 24, 2026 was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chair Hunter Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Burns, Danielson, Schulz, Neaton, and Onell. Board members absent: Guetzkow. Administrative team members present: HS Principal Hennen, MS Principal Guertin, ES Principal Hansen, SPED Director Peyton, CE Director Dalton, Teaching & Learning Director Vieau, Activities Director Szymanski, and Superintendent Schuler. Absent: None

Public Comments: No public comments at this time.

Moment of Silence was issued as well as a statement from Chair Feldt regarding the recent passing of WMHS student, Evan Pierce.

II. **Visitor requests and consideration of the agenda.** Visitor MMS (Motion made and Seconded by) Danielson and Neaton to approve the agenda as presented. Passes 6-0.

III. **Consent Agenda**

MMS Burns and Schulz to approve the following consent agenda items: Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 27, 2026; Personnel Consent Agenda; and Business Consent Agenda. Passes 6-0.

IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/ Showcase:**

A. Pat Hittle addressed the board to share and invite the board and the public to attend their fall fundraiser on Saturday, September 26th for "Casino Night" as well as a live and silent auction. Ms. Hittle noted that the Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation has given over $400,000 to the school students as part of their scholarship fund and their new endowment fund is almost $50,000. WMEF was thanked for their dedication to Watertown-Mayer students and their future success.

B. Watertown-Mayer Unified basketball team members were recognized for their accomplishments at the Special Olympics USA Games. Unified basketball earning a gold medal, member of the ESPN Sports Challenge earning a gold medal and 2 students participating in the USA games student youth leadership opportunities. Questions were asked and answered about their experience.

C. Building & Grounds Director, Jeff Liestman gave an annual update report to the board regarding buildings and grounds.

V. **Action Items -**

A. MMS Onell and Danielson to approve Resolution 27.03 acknowledging Donations, Contributions, & Fundraising received so far in the month of August. Passes 6-0.

B. MMS Schulz and Feldt to approve the updated lunch pricing for 2nd meals per state-established minimum charge requirements. Passes 6-0.

C. MMS Danielson and Neaton to approve a revision to the 2026-2027 Middle School Handbook regarding additions of cell phone use guidelines and expectations. Questions were asked and answered. Passes 6-0.

D. MMS Onell and Feldt to approve the district's Cardiac Emergency Response Plan as presented by District Nurse, April Gesinger. Passes 6-0.

E. MMS Burns and Schulz to approve the 2026-2027 Superintendent Goals as presented by Superintendent Schuler. Passes 6-0.

VI. Review/ Information Items:

A. Chair Feldt made his statement regarding the 2025-2026 Evaluation of Superintendent Schuler.
B. Chris Rear from SMX gave an update regarding the LTFM+ roofing projects currently happening in the district.
C. Principals Hansen, Guertin, and Hennen gave verbal reports regarding the data collected in the spring from students and changes they want to make for the 26-27 school year.

VII. Administrative Reports

HS Principal Hennen reported they are looking forward to having freshman orientation on Wednesday, as well as the new staff joining the team this year. Mr. Hennen gave a shout out to a recent staff activity facilitated by Mr. Janikula where staff explored personality groups and how this relates to the diverse personalities of the students they serve.

MS Principal Guertin reported a smooth start with 5th grade orientation, 8th grade WEB leader training and several new staff. Mr. Guertin reported that they will focus their first 30 days to develop good habits, routine, and relationships. The MS looks forward to having the 6-8th grade open house this week.

ES Principal Hansen reported the success of the extended school year program and the fun meeting families at the PTO- hosted event on July 21st. Ms. Hansen reported that her focus in August has been meeting with staff groups to discuss what is going well and identifying any roadblocks. The theme this year for ES is “Watch Us Grow” and every staff member received a plant in honor of the theme. The ES is looking forward to Royal Connections on September 1 and 2.

CE Director Dalton reported that they have hired a new Early Learning Coordinator, Katie Pugh, as a result of the recent resignation of Mackenzie Borntrager. As Katie was filling in over the summer, this will be a smooth transition. They have hired Karilyn Pawelk, who was a previous YR teacher, to fill Katie’s teaching spot for preschool. Noted was that the district was approved for VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten), but was not notified in a timeframe to be able to make adjustments to meet the requirements of the program. This year they will be taking a look to see if this is something that can be implemented here at WM. Mr. Dalton reported that childcare waitlists still exist and the main challenge is staffing. CE has transitioned from Eleyo to Arux as a registration and facilities platform and the transition has gone well. Mr. Dalton noted that they are implementing a change this year for preschool dropoff and pickup - Door 2 will be locked and families will be asked to enter through Door 4.

Activities Director Szymanski reported that they are already in their 2nd week of activities. At this time participation is up by 23 students and is the highest it has been over the last 9 years. He reported the new scoreboard has been installed in the pool area and the transition to BOUND as an activities platform is going well, but there are still challenges they are facing having BOUND “talk” with Arux and vice versa. They are continuing to learn this system and thanked everyone for their patience.

Superintendent Schuler reported welcoming 9 new teachers to the district the previous week with a shout out to both Mr. Vieau and Ms. Misuraca for all their work in helping to train them and give them a great foundation for their work here at WM. Mr. Schuler reported on legislative initiatives that have been concerning, specifically an initiative to decrease SPED dollars and potentially ADSIS dollars. This is concerning as these funds have allowed us to have interventionists which are an essential part of student support. There is also a high concern about a new proposal about doing compensatory aid based on paper applications for educational benefits only - this would be a large reduction to our district as most of our educational benefits has been determined by the direct certification process over the last several years. Mr. Schuler will be keeping a close eye on these initiatives. Mr. Schuler invited board members to attend the Wednesday district-wide breakfast and welcome address this Wednesday and reminded the board about the Reunification drill happening on Thursday morning relocating ES to the HS.

VIII. Board Member Reports

Chair Feldt discussed matters of MSBA, Finance Committee, and of the Minnesota Permanent School Fund option for voters this coming November. Clerk Danielson reported on her participation at a recent Watertown Chamber meeting and their upcoming annual Educators Dinner on September 9th. Treasurer Schulz thanked Chair Feldt for filling in for her at a recent SW Metro meeting.

IX. Adjournment

MMS Danielson and Burns to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM and was duly passed.

_____	_____	9.28.26
Chair	Clerk	Date