

**Special School Board Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2025**

APPROVED

1. Opening Items

1.1 Call to Order

The April 14, 2025, special school board meeting was called to order by School Board Vice President, Esme Martinson at 6:00 PM

1.2 Roll Call

Members present: Esme Martinson, Sarah Williams, Dionne Johnston, James Defoe, Elena Erickson
Members Absent: Nicole Boyd, Caitlin Penhollow

1.3 Confirmation of Meeting Posting

Confirmation of meeting notice posted to designated posting locations by school board secretary.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

Motion by James Defoe, second by Sarah Williams to approve agenda as presented.
Aye: Esme Martinson, Sarah Williams, Dionne Johnston, James Defoe, Elena Erickson
Final Resolution: Motion Carried

1.5 Land Acknowledgement Statement

The Land Acknowledge Statement was read by School Board Vice President, Esme Martinson.

1.6 Public Comments

None

2. Featured Communications

2.1 Budget Committee Update

Discussion: Budget Committee members and administrative staff provided an update regarding ongoing concerns about district revenue uncertainty and current expenditure levels. The importance of ensuring all board members are fully informed of budget discussions was emphasized. Immediate attention to budget planning was encouraged due to potential staffing nonrenewals. Updates were shared regarding anticipated Impact Aid payments, the state's delayed budget approval process, and the completion of food service audit corrective actions. The committee stressed the need for detailed financial reporting, greater transparency in staffing decisions, and a more collaborative approach to budget development. Discussions included consideration of temporarily pausing external hiring and increasing board oversight of staffing approvals; however, it was agreed that no action should be taken until complete budget information is available.

2.2 BEA Presentation

Discussion: Liz Bodin shared a staffing document with board members, noting that a previous recommendation was not presented last year due to a leak of raw data. The BEA is currently *not* recommending any staff layoffs or nonrenewals. Collaboration has begun with the Special Education Department to redesign the para support model. K-12 staff meetings have been requested by the BEA to ensure consistent communication and reduce isolated conversations. Some staff have expressed concerns about administrative resistance regarding staffing collaboration. Esme Martinson asked about staff reductions through attrition and island staff assignments; Mike Peterson detailed challenges with ferry schedules impacting specialist staffing. Liz Bodin confirmed the BEA has no recommendation for layoffs of support staff. Discussion followed on para assignments, with Lynn Lindahl explained that paras are assigned based on case managers' student needs and that shifting towards an inclusion model could optimize para use across classrooms. Beth Paap clarified secretarial staffing and work schedules. Questions about comp time and extra duties were addressed, with Liz Bodin noting that the Ad Hoc HR committee is reviewing related policies. Esme Martinson recommended the Policy Committee review the comp time language for possible updates.

2.3 Referendum Update

Discussion: Beth Paap reported that financing discussions with Kevin Mullen at Baird are ongoing, including a disclosure survey for bond assessment, with board action anticipated in May. Beth Paap, Joel Shilman, and Keeley Johnson are meeting regularly with DSGW and Kraus-Anderson regarding project timelines and budgets. User group assemblies will include staff, families, and community members. Joel Shilman noted that sprinkler and HVAC

work will begin next summer, with roofing work expected to be completed this summer; Kraus-Anderson will manage contractor coordination. Communication with the city regarding sprinkler system requirements is in progress, and booster pumps are expected to be needed. Beth Paap confirmed that despite the finance manager vacancy, external support from Quarles & Brady, Baird, and CESA #12 is available. Updates will continue to be provided at Buildings & Grounds meetings.

3. Closing Items

3.1 Adjournment

Motion by Dionne Johnston, second by Sarah Williams, to adjourn meeting at 8:01 PM.

Aye: Esme Martinson, Sarah Williams, Dionne Johnston, James Defoe, Elena Erickson

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Keeley Johnson
Recording School Board Secretary

Approve: _____
Esme Martinson
Board President

Approve: _____
Sarah Williams
Board Clerk