

**SIBLEY EAST PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2310  
ARLINGTON-GAYLORD-GREEN ISLE  
ARLINGTON CAMPUS-MEDIA CENTER  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 @ 6:30 P.M.**

A call to order with a Salute to the Flag started the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Jon Hazelwood, Sarah Ziegler, Greg Homme, Laura Reid, Ashley Latzke and Rachel Lueth. Members Absent: None.

**Approval of Agenda:** Member Reid moved, second by Member Latzke to approve the agenda with the following additions: **Resignation:** Sonja Highum, Licensed School Nurse, **Donations:** \$1,000.00, This Old House "Garden and Gifts" to the FFA, \$100.00, Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce to the FFA for Animal Meet and Greet, and \$100.00, Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce to the FFA for Mini Spruce Station, **Administrative Reports:** Reports from the elementary principal, secondary principal, and superintendent. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0

**Visitor Comments:** Carol Mader, Arlington Resident, addressed the board regarding the closing of the pool. She indicated the group she represents is not looking to delay the closing of the pool, but is looking to save the pool. They have received funding to support the project from all three communities. She ran out of time and Sheila Arneson finished her comments for her. Bud Bruhzell, Arlington Resident, addressed the board about the pool and concerns he has about the transparency of the information and decision to close it. Kim Quast, Arlington Resident, addressed the board asking that they consider livestream/broadcasting of the board meetings. Ross Arneson, Arlington Resident, addressed the board with some history on the pool and indicating there is a group of community members upset with the decision to close it.

**Consent Agenda:** Approval of January 21, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes, **Resignations:** Sonja Highum, Licensed School Nurse, **Hires:** Kara Scholla, Long-Term Substitute in ECSE for Morgan Kurth, Cristin Forsythe, ECSE replaces Morgan Kurth upon MDE licensure, **Staff Lane Changes:** Mervale (Chip) Wolverton BA+10 to BA+20, Molly Vinkemeier MA to MA+20, Megan Koepp MA +10 to MA+40, Nicole Tyhurst BA to BA+10, Paul Pichelmann BA+10 to BA+30, James Callahan MA+30 to MA+40, Stephanie Schultz MA to MA+10, Sheila Knacke MA+20 to MA+30, **Fundraiser Requests:** Girls Tennis Team, Unhinged Pizza Tip Night for overnight trip, Girls Tennis Team, Gertens Plants, Perennials, and Flower Cards Sale for overnight trip, Chad Bachman Heggie's Pizza Sales for NYC/DC student trip, **Policies for Review and Revision-1st Reading:** Policy 205-Open Meetings and Closed Meetings, Policy 206-Public Participation in School Board Meetings, Complaints about Person at School Board Meetings, and Data Privacy Considerations, Policy 207-Public Hearings, Policy 208-Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies, Policy 209- Code of Ethics, Policy 210- Conflict of Interest-School Board Members, Policy 211-Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee, or Student, Policy 212-School Board Member Development, Policy 213 - School Board Committees, Policy 214-Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members, **Policies for Deletion - 1st Reading:** Policy 225-School Board Membership, Policy 225.1-Vacancy, Policy 225.2-Quorum, Policy 225.3-Student Representative, Policy 226-Elections, Policy 227-Citizens Advisory Committee, Policy 228-Printed Materials at Open Meetings, **Job Descriptions-1st Reading:** Superintendent Job Description, Maintenance/Custodian Job Description. Member Hazelwood moved, second by Member Lueth to approve the consent agenda. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0

**Board Reports:** Finance Committee: Member Homme provided an update on the following items discussed by the committee: Building Bond Resale, Operating Levy Referendum, 24-25 Budget Updates, and 25-26 Budget Planning.

**Informational Items: Operating Levy Referendum:** Superintendent Seifert provided information related to guidelines and timelines related to a potential operating levy referendum. The presentation also included information comparing Sibley East resident school property tax amounts compared to other local school districts

and the fact that Sibley East is one of only 28% of the school districts in the state that doesn't have a current operating levy in place.

**Livestream/Broadcasting of School Board Meetings:** There was information shared with the board regarding the cost of equipment needed to livestream/broadcast the board meetings through a YouTube Channel. Some board members expressed concerns with putting a recording of the meetings on the district website.

**Old/Unfinished Business:** Pool Litigation and Closing. An update was provided on the litigation related to the decision to close the pool and the status of the infill plan submitted to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries. Member Latzke moved, second by Member Reid to proceed with the process of closing the pool as the board approved in July. Roll Call Vote: Homme - No, Lueth - No, Ziegler - Yes, Latzke - Yes, Reid-Yes, Hazelwood - Yes. Motion was approved. Vote: 4-2.

**New Business:** Member Reid moved, second by Member Homme to approve the February, 2025 bills and payments in the amount of \$3,413,390.71. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.

Member Lueth moved, second by Member Homme to approve the 2025-2026 part-time superintendent agreement with Lonnie Seifert as presented. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.

Member Reid moved, second by Member Hazelwood to pursue livestream of board meetings by approaching the Cable Commission to support purchase of equipment. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.

Member Homme moved, second by Member Latzke to approve the 2025 Junior Wolverines Summer Care Parent Handbook as presented. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.

Member Latzke moved, second by Member Lueth to approve the 2025-2026 Sibley East Cub Care Parent Handbook as presented. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.

Member Hazelwood moved, second by Member Reid to approve the 2025-2026 Sibley East Preschool Parent Handbook as presented. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.

Member Latzke moved, second by Member Hazelwood to approve the 2025-2026 Junior Wolverine Care Parent Handbook as presented. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.


Member Homme moved, second by Member Hazelwood to approve the 5th grade overnight trip to Eagle Bluff in Lanesboro on October 22-24, 2025. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.

**Donations:** Member Reid moved, second by Member Latzke to accept the following donations with gratitude: \$100.00, Arlington Lions Club, FACS, \$250.00, Green Isle Lions Club, FACS, \$5,000.00, Gaylord Fire Department/Fire Fighters, Trap Team, \$1,000.00, This Old House "Garden and Gifts", FFA, \$100.00, Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce, FFA-Animal Meet and Greet, \$100.00, Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce, FFA-Mini Spruce Station. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0.

**Administrative Reports:** The monthly reports from the elementary principal, secondary principal, and superintendent were shared in hard copy form and electronically as part of the agenda.

**Other Information:** The regular March School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Arlington Campus in the Media Center.

**Adjournment:** Member Reid moved, second by Member Lueth to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved. Vote: 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

  
Sarah Ziegler - Board Chairperson  
Jon Hazelwood - Board Clerk

A full copy of the minutes can be obtained at the Sibley East Public Schools Business Office located at:  
202 3rd Ave. NW  
Arlington, MN 55307