



Board Minutes
Tuesday, January 27th, 202

Members present: Ashley Latzke, Ken Briese, Ryan Lais, Rich Spitzner, & Shannon Sykes
Members absent: Darla Remus, Melissa Sunderman
Others present: Doug Hazen, Bradley Carlton, Stephanie Ross, Katie Wheelock, Joe Ness, and Paula Williamson

Acting Chairperson Shannon Sykes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Rich Spitzner, second by Ken Briese to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ryan Lais, second by Ashley Latzke to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ashley Latzke, second by Ryan Lais to elect Darla Remus as Chair of the River Bend Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ken Briese, second by Ashley Latzke to elect Shannon Sykes as Vice-Chair of the River Bend Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ryan Lais, second by Ken Briese to elect Melissa Sunderman as Clerk of the River Bend Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ryan Lais, second by Ken Briese to elect Melissa Sunderman as Treasurer of the River Bend Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ashley Latzke, second by Ryan Lais, to approve all 2026 regular board meetings be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the River Bend conference room. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ryan Lais, second by Ken Briese, to designate The Journal of New Ulm as the official newspaper for the 2026 calendar year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ashley Latzke, second by Rich Spitzner, to designate the United Prairie Bank as the official depository for checking for the 2026 calendar year. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Rich Spitzner, second by Ryan Lais, to set the salary for the Chairperson at \$400.00 with \$60.00 per meeting for all members with an additional \$100.00 beyond the length of four hours, and mileage at the IRS allowed rate of .725 per mile for the 2026 calendar year. Motion carried 5-0.

Acting Chairperson Shannon Sykes appointed Ryan Lais to serve on the Technology Committee, Ashley Latzke and Shannon Sykes to serve on the Negotiations Committee, Ryan Lais, Rich Spitzner, and Ken Briese to serve on the Policy Committee.

Motion by Ken Briese, second by Ashley Latzke to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Director Doug Hazen, Program updated the Board on General Information and Stephanie Ross and Katie Wheelock updated the Board on programs and services.

Consent Agenda - Personnel
New Hires
Kaitlyn Johnsen, Paraprofessional, Step 1, 100 days
Tera Nemitz, Paraprofessional, Step 1, 66 days
Notice: Due to employee shortage, River Bend Education has entered into an employment agreement with Precision Human Resources Solutions for temporary paraprofessionals and teachers
Resignations
Amy Massey – SpEd Secretary effective January 19, 2026
Overload request -
Kylie Kieper and Ashley Fischer, \$125.00 a day for 1 day a week for the rest of the school year.
Approval of New Job Descriptions – MA Billing Specialist/MARSS Coordinator, Accountant, and Human Resources & Payroll, all 260-day contracts.
MN Paid Leave – Crissi Mangen, and Sarah Ramsley, intermittent leave and Megan Steffl, from January 1 To end of March 2026
Tuition Reimbursement – for Jessica Kuehn and Jennifer Issac for fall courses
Lane Change for Jennifer Isaac from MA Step 13 to MA+15 effective January 1, 2026
Notice of Immediate Discharge – Abbigail Helget and McKenzie Dyre

Motion by Ashley Latzke, second by Ryan Lais to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Rich Spitzner, second by Ashley Latzke to approve Board Policy 902 Use of School District Parking Lot by Non-Profit Groups. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ashley Latzke, second by Ken Briese to approve agreement for River Bend Education District. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Ryan Lais, second by Ashley Latzke to approve the River Bend Education District Emergency Guide. Motion carried 5-0.

Member Shannon Sykes introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT
OF THE EMPLOYEE IDENTIFIED IN THE ATTACHMENT HERETO (HEREINAFTER
REFERRED TO AS THE “EMPLOYEE”)**

WHEREAS, the Employee is an employee of the River Bend Education District; and

WHEREAS, the Employee is not known to be a veteran within the provisions of the Veterans Preference Act; and

WHEREAS, the Employee is subject to terms and conditions of employment as set forth in an applicable collective bargaining agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Administration of the Education District recommended certain action with respect to the Employee on the grounds set forth in "Exhibit A."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the School Board of the River Bend Education District as follows:

That action be taken with respect to the employment of the Employee, effective immediately, in the manner and on the grounds set out in Exhibit A attached hereto.

That the Executive Director is directed to send written notice to the Employee regarding of the School Board's action and said notice shall be in substantially the form as provided in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Board

Member Ryan Lais and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Ryan Lais, Ken Briese, Shannon Sykes, Rich Spitzner, Ashley Latzke

and the following voted against the same:

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Member Shannon Sykes introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO STAFF REDUCTIONS

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFORE

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district dictates that the School Board must reduce expenditures, and, WHEREAS, this reduction in expenditures must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and, WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contract must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of River Bend Education District No. 6049, as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Director of River Bend Education District to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures

and because of a reduction in enrollment, make recommendations to the School Board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions, or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Board Member Ken Briese and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Ryan Lais, Ken Briese, Shannon Sykes, Rich Spitzner, Ashley Latzke

and the following voted against:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 24th. 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Paula Williamson
Accountant