

School Board Meeting Minutes
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #912
MILACA, MINNESOTA 56353
Monday, March 17, 2025 6:00 pm
ALC

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 912, Milaca, Minnesota was held in the ALC on Monday, March 17, 2025, for the purpose of discussing board business.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Aimee Struffert.

Upon roll call the following members were present: Jennifer Corrow, Jere Day, Samantha Lange, Sara Larsen, Nathan Neuhart, Aimee Struffert. The following members were absent: Caity Eggen. The Superintendent David Wedin was also present.

Changes to Agenda:

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

C. Policy Committee Meeting - *deletion*

VI. PRESENTATIONS

State Funding/Finance Video presented by Superintendent Wedin - *addition*

X. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Enrollment

Enrollment numbers for ALC and 7-12 Online - *addition*

Motion by S. Larsen, second by S. Lange, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 6:0.

Public Forum

- Keith Anderson - spoke about the Girls Wrestling Program and gave a thank you
- Josh Hurt - spoke about staff and student concerns

Committee Reports

1. *Committee of the Whole (3/3) - A. Struffert*

- a. *Student Representatives*
- b. *School Calendar*
- c. *Transportation*
- d. *Kindergarten Registration*
- e. *MN State Survey*
- f. *Learning Update*
- g. *Other*

2. *Building and Grounds Committee (3/17) - S. Larsen*

- a. *Summer Building Projects*
- b. *Main Gym Project Update*
- c. *Other*

Presentations

Presentation of a State Funding/Finance Video was given by Superintendent Wedin.

Principals/Directors/Coordinators Report

High School Principal: updates were given on staffing for the 2025-2026 school year with positions open for an Agriculture Teacher, School Counselor, Special Education Teacher, and an interventionist; and on the 4th Annual Job Fair scheduled for March 26, 2025.

Elementary Principal: updates were given on the upcoming staff workshop day; Spring parent-teacher conferences scheduled for March 13, 17, 18, and 20, 2025; the Milaca Area Pantry donation of \$3,300.00 raised during "I Love to Read" Month; and the MCA Testing beginning the second week of April.

Activities Director/Dean of Students: gave updates on the conclusion of the winter sports season including Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Boys Wrestling, and Girls Wrestling; the start of the spring sports season with Softball and

Track beginning March 10, 2025, Baseball and Golf beginning March 17, 2025, and Junior High sports beginning March 25, 2025; updates were also given on participation numbers.

Community Education Director/Facilities Manager: updates were given for Community Education on finalizing Summer programming and hiring summer staff. A facility update was given on recent and upcoming work on the pool and on summer projects for 2025.

Business Manager Report: gave an update on the financial picture of the district.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by N. Neuhart, second by J. Day, to approve the consent agenda:

- Approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- Approval of checks and wires
- Approval of transfers from PMA/MN Trust to First National Bank: \$600,000.00 on February 6, 2025, \$800,000.00 on February 19, 2025, and \$600,000.00 on February 28, 2025
- Hire Michelle Bengson, Finance Support Specialist (replacing Jordan Obermiller), 40 hours per week, \$24.00 per hour, effective March 12, 2025
- Hire Corey Greninger, 0.50 Boys Track Assistant Coach (replacing Rachel Arens), \$2,520.32, effective March 10, 2025
- Hire Nick Hoffman, JV Baseball Coach (replacing Alex Foss), \$4,310.60, effective March 17, 2025
- Hire James Taylor, 9th Grade Girls Basketball Coach (replacing Debra Rowland), \$4,680.59, effective November 11, 2024
- Hire Christa Duevel, First Cook (replacing Conni Freudenberger), 37.50 hours per week, \$21.82 per hour, effective March 25, 2025
- Minimum wage increase for Lincoln Burroughs, Lifeguard, from \$10.85 per hour to \$11.13 per hour, effective February 21, 2025
- Accept staff leave requests:
 - Michael Johnson, Title 1 Teacher, February 28, 2025 - May 28, 2025
 - Caprice Larson, School Counselor, intermittent beginning January 29, 2025
 - Jeffery Raczka, Custodian Class 1, February 19, 2025 - March 7, 2025
 - Ellie Schindeldecker, Junior High Girls Golf Coach, beginning March 1, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Conni Freudenberger, First Cook, effective March 25, 2025
- Accept the retirement of Steve Bistrup, Technology Coordinator, effective June 30, 2025. Thank you, Steve, for 27 years of service to Milaca Public Schools!
- Accept the resignation of Makayla Balder, Speech Therapist, effective May 28, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Cherramae Erickson, Paraprofessional, effective March 28, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Madison Whiting, Paraprofessional, effective April 4, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Alison Herr, C Squad Softball Coach, effective March 11, 2025
- Accept the retirement of Connie Belanger, Paraprofessional, effective May 27, 2025. Thank you, Connie, for 25 years of service to Milaca Public Schools!
- Approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar
- Approve the Letter of Assignment with Michelle Bengson, Finance Support Specialist, effective March 12, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Motion carried, 6:0.

Items on Which Board Discussion and Action is Requested

Motion by J. Day, second by N. Neuhart, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried, 6:0.

Motion by J. Corrow to approve the following resolution:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS/DONATIONS

WHEREAS, School Board Policy #706 establishes guidelines for the acceptance of gifts/donations to the District; and WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 465.03 states the School Board may accept a gift, grant or devise of real or personal property only by the adoption of a resolution approved by two-thirds of its members; and BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 912 accept with appreciation the following gifts/donations and permit their use as designated by the donor(s).

Date	From	Site	Item/Nature of Donation/Gift	Value/Amount
Feb - 2025	Initiative Foundation - Alternative Sources of Energy Scholarship	Milaca High School - Science Department	2024-2025 Energy Grant	\$1,400.00
Feb - 2025	MSHSL Foundation	Milaca High School - Paul Arens	2024-2025 Minnesota State High School League Grant	\$1,543.00

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by S. Lange and upon vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof: J. Corrow, J. Day, S. Lange, S. Larsen, N. Neuhart, A. Struffert, the following were absent: C. Eggen, and the following voted against the same: none, whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Superintendent Items

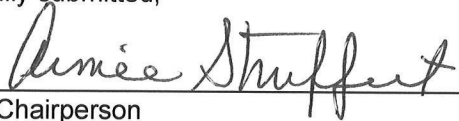
Superintendent Wedin gave an update on the 2025-2026 calendar development, sharing results from the calendar survey sent out in February 2025 which showed only six out of the 328 respondents as being dissatisfied with the current calendar. A reminder was given to celebrate the positives as we approach the beginning of the fourth quarter looking back on the many challenges that have been overcome in the last five years since the day students were sent home due to the pandemic on March 16, 2020. Highlights were given from the Music in Our School Concert held on March 3, 2025, and the Pre-School and Kindergarten Registration Night held on March 4, 2025.

Board Member Items

Board Chairperson, Aimee Struffert, read a statement in response to individuals who shared concerns during public forum at the regular school board meeting on February 19, 2025. The response stated that since that time board members have had a chance to meet with district administration, gather additional information, and gain a deeper understanding of these issues. The board appreciates the engagement from the community and remains committed to thoughtful discussion and decision making that best serves the students, staff, and families of the district. While the board may not have immediate answers, they take all feedback seriously and support the administrative process in addressing these matters.

Motion by J. Corrow, second by S. Lange, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:37 p.m. Motion carried 6:0.

Respectfully submitted,


Chairperson

April 21, 2025
Date


Clerk

April 21, 2025
Date