

School Board Meeting Minutes
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #912
MILACA, MINNESOTA 56353
Monday, August 18, 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, August 18, 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, Caity Eggen, Sara Larsen, Nathan Neuhart, Aimee Struffert. The Superintendent, David Wedin, was also present.

Changes to Agenda:

VII. PRINCIPALS/DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS REPORTS

E. Business Manager Report - Report - to follow - *struck*

VIII. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

B. Approval of Bills - Checks and Wires - *struck*

D. Personnel Items

New Positions / Change in Assignment / Replacement:

13. Hire Jodi Gatewood, High School Assistant Principal (replacing Jamie Carpenter), 1.0 FTE, \$101,489.88, effective August 18, 2025 - *addition*

Resignations / Retirements / Seasonal Layoff / Termination:

9. Accept the resignation of Tonya Swanson, Paraprofessional, effective August 13, 2025- *addition*

IX. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Approval of Treasurers Report - *struck*

J. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Independent School District #912 and the Milaca Education Association Regarding Long Term Substitutes, effective August 18, 2025 - June 30, 2026 - *addition*

X. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

D. School Board at Open House - *addition*

E. School Board Resignation Plan - *addition*

F. First National Bank of Milaca - Wolves' Branch - *addition*

Motion by N. Neuhart, second by C. Eggen, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 6:0.

Public Forum

No one spoke at Public Forum.

Committee Reports

A. *Committee of the Whole (8/4) - A. Struffert*

1. *Learning Update*
2. *Employee Handbook*
3. *School Resource Officer*
4. *Pearl Crisis - Safe Dates update*
5. *2024-2025 Operational Plan Evaluation*
6. *2025-2026 Operational Plan Review*
7. *Other*

Presentations

Mr. Sumner, Facilities Manager, and Superintendent Wedin gave an informal update on the Main Gym.

Principals/Directors/Coordinators Report

High School Principal: updates were given on staffing for the 2025-2026 school year with the Agriculture Teacher position filled by Ms. Brooke Converse, the School Counselor position filled by Ms. Amanda Otto-Kamps, the Physical Education and Health position filled by Mr. Peter Schommer, the English position filled by Ms. Julia Danielson, Special Education positions filled by Ms. Stephanie Bekius and Ms. Andrea Cuellar, the Interventionist position filled by Ms. Angela Helle, the ALC Lead Teacher position filled by Ms. Samantha Stuckey, the Social Studies position filled by Ms. Nicole Magestad, the High School Class II Clerical position filled by Ms. Olivia Oferosky, and the High School Assistant Principal position filled by Ms. Jodi Gatewood; the draft of the High School Handbook was discussed and upcoming events, plans, and training were highlighted.

Elementary Principal: an update was given on staffing for the 2025-2026 school year with a Physical Education position filled by Ms. Ashley Pool, an Art position filled by Ms. Rita Ganley, a Speech Language Pathology position filled by Ms. Renee (Lejonvarn) Nash, a Social Worker position filled by Ms. Brittany Bemboom, an Interventionist position filled by Ms. Roberta Kightlinger, and Paraprofessional positions filled by Mr. Arturo Martinez, Ms. Emily Wills, Ms. Chassidi Thomsen, and Ms. Chloe Aleshire; updates were also given on READ Act Training, Kinder Camp with a thank you to all who participated, and the upcoming Open House.

Activities Director/Dean of Students: gave updates on the beginning of fall season were given including Cross Country, Football, Swimming, and Volleyball; updates were also given on new ticket purchasing options for the upcoming school year; participation numbers were reviewed.

Community Education Director/Facilities Manager: an update was given for Community Education on final registration numbers for summer programs. A facility update was given on summer projects including concrete work, lighting upgrades, fencing replacement, network closet changes, pool filter installation, cafeteria floor replacement, and main gym updates.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by C. Eggen, second by S. Larsen, to approve the consent agenda:

- Approval of the minutes from the July 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- Approval of transfers from PMA/MN Trust to First National Bank: \$800,000.00 on July 9, 2025, \$400,000.00 on July 14, 2025, and \$600,000.00 on July 25, 2025
- Hire Ella Duevel, Food Server/Dishwasher (replacing Leann Pischke), 28.75 hours per week, \$16.89 per hour, effective August 25, 2025
- Hire BryAnna Thomasferry, Dive Coach (restructured Junior High), \$2,557.50, effective August 11, 2025
- Hire Andrew Tomlinson, Technology Support Specialist (replacing Noelle Robertson), 40 hours per week, \$20.25 per hour, effective August 7, 2025
- Hire Jacenta Pearson, Speech Language Pathologist, BA, Step 10, 1.0 FTE, \$57,312.00, effective August 25, 2025
- Hire Shannon Lepper, Elementary Teacher Mentor, \$3,600.45, effective August 19, 2025
- Hire Andrea Cuellar, High School Special Education Teacher (replacing Marianne Hasselberg), MA+20, Step 14, 1.0 FTE, \$87,180.00, effective August 19, 2025
- Accept the revision to the hire of Ellianna Schendel, Summer Preschool Classroom Assistant, from up to 33.75 total hours to up to 36 total hours, \$12.00 per hour, effective July 22, 2025 - August 7, 2025
- Hire Brittney Sundberg, Junior High Cross Country Coach (replacing John Hodson), \$2,731.30, effective August 11, 2025
- Hire Joe Wenner, Assistant Swim Coach (replacing Joe Wildman), \$5,760.72, effective August 11, 2025
- Accept change in assignment with Jen Burroughs, from Co-Head Swim Coach to Head Swim Coach, \$7,920.99, effective July 25, 2025
- Hire/accept notice of assignment with Amelia Opager, American Indian Liaison, 15 hours per week up to 728 hours per year, \$26.00 per hour, effective August 25, 2025
- Hire/accept notice of assignment with Lila Swanson, ECFE Sibling Care Aide (replacing Julie Knowles), 14 hours per week, \$12.00 per hour, effective August 25, 2025
- Hire Jodi Gatewood, High School Assistant Principal (replacing Jamie Carpenter), 1.0 FTE, \$101,489.88, effective August 18, 2025
- Accept the revision to the resignation of Marianne Hasselberg, ALC/Special Education Teacher, from effective July 16, 2025 to effective July 14, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Wendy Hakes-Anderson, Head Girls Track Coach, effective July 30, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Alesha Olson, Paraprofessional, effective July 30, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Laura Barnes, Paraprofessional, effective August 15, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Laura Barnes, Kids Town Aide, effective August 15, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Jamie Carpenter, High School Assistant Principal, effective July 28, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Jacenta Pearson, SLP-A, effective August 11, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Samantha Lange, School Board Member, effective August 8, 2025
- Accept the resignation of Tonya Swanson, Paraprofessional, effective August 13, 2025
- Approval of Letter of Assignment with Andrew Tomlinson, Technology Support Specialist, effective August 7, 2025 - June 30, 2027

- Scheduled Review of Policies
 - Policy 410 - Family and Medical Leave Policy
 - Policy 415 - Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults
 - Policy 506 - Student Discipline
 - Policy 514 - Bullying Prohibition Policy
 - Policy 522 - Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process
 - Policy 524 - Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy
 - Policy 616 - School District System Accountability
- First Reading and Approval of Policies with minor technical or legislative changes
 - Policy 413 - Harassment and Violence
 - Policy 414 - Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse
 - Policy 806 - Crisis Management Policy
- First Reading of Policies with substantive changes
 - Policy 425 - Staff Development and Mentoring
 - Policy 512 - School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities
 - Policy 604 - Instructional Curriculum
 - Policy 708 - Transportation of Nonpublic School Students
- Approval of the Renewal of the School Nutrition Programs Joint Agreement with Rum River Special Education Cooperative
- Approval of the Renewal of the Joint Agreement with Community Christian School for Catering Services

Motion carried, 6:0.

Items on Which Board Discussion and Action is Requested

Motion by J. Day, second by N. Neuhart, to approve the Revised Gate/Activity Pass Fees for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried 6:0.

Motion by J. Corrow, second by S. Larsen, to approve the Adult Meal Price/Student Additional Lunch Price Fees for the 2025-2026 School Year. Motion carried 6:0.

Motion by N. Neuhart, second by J. Day, to approve the escalator bid with Kemps, Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried 6:0.

Motion by J. Corrow, second by C. Eggen, to approve the Elementary Handbook. Motion carried 6:0.

Motion by S. Larsen, second by N. Neuhart, to approve the High School Handbook. Motion carried 6:0.

Motion by C. Eggen, second by N. Neuhart, to approve the Staff Handbook as amended without policy summaries. Motion carried 6:0.

Motion by N. Neuhart, second by J. Day, to approve the 2025-2026 Milaca Public Schools Operational Plan. Motion carried 6:0.

Motion by C. Eggen, second by J. Corrow, to approve the 2025-2026 membership with MREA (Minnesota Rural Education Association). Motion carried 6:0.

Motion by S. Larsen, second by C. Eggen, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Independent School District #912 and the Milaca Education Association regarding long term substitutes, effective August 18, 2025 - June 30, 2026, with the amendment that if not approved by Milaca Education Association by September 14, 2025 it will be nullified. Motion carried 6:0.

Superintendent Items

Superintendent Wedin gave an update on upcoming back to school events beginning in August including the start of the fall activities season, new teacher and staff workshop, back to school workshop, Open House, and the first day of school. The progress of summer projects was discussed including the main gym project, fencing, lighting, concrete, cafeteria floor, pool filters, server relocation, office rearrangement, and wire removal. Some "paw"sitives from the school and community were also shared.

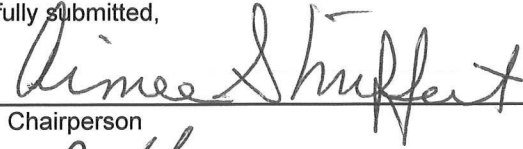
The letter of resignation of Board member, Samantha Lange, was read and the school board resignation plan was discussed. Resignation within 90 days of election day will be filled by appointment until the 2026 General Election. A thank you was given to Samantha Lange for her time serving on the school board.

Board Member Items

No board member items were brought forward for discussion.

Motion by J. Corrow, second by S. Larsen, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried 6:0.

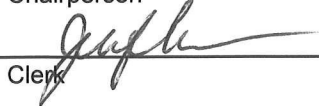
Respectfully submitted,



Chairperson

September 15, 2025

Date



Clerk

September 15, 2025

Date