

School Board Meeting Minutes
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #912
MILACA, MINNESOTA 56353
Monday, March 16, 2026 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 16, 2026, for the purpose of discussing board business.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairperson Aimee Struffert.

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

Changes to Agenda:

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A presentation regarding the 2026-2027 Calendar by Superintendent Wedin. - *addition*

VIII. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

D. Personnel Items

New Positions/Change in Assignment/Replacement

11. (replacing Jocelyn Berg) - *addition*

12. Hire Peter Schommer, Assistant Baseball Coach (replacing Nick Hoffman), \$3,687.95, effective March 9, 2026 - *addition*

Staff Leave Requests

4. Rebecca Ellefson, Cook, tentative February 27, 2026-March 13, 2026 - *addition*

IX. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION IS REQUESTED

C. Approval of the 2025-2027 Community Education Director/Facilities Manager Contract - *addition*

D. Approval of the 2025-2027 Food Service Director Contract - *addition*

Motion by N. Neuhart, second by J. Day, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 6:0.

Public Forum

No one spoke at Public Forum.

Committee Reports

A. Committee of the Whole Meeting (3/2) - A. Struffert

1. Strategic Plan
2. Land Lease
3. Land Sale
4. Summer Meals
5. Summer Programs
6. Summer Projects
7. Learning Update
8. Other

B. Administration/District Office/LOA Negotiations Committee Meeting (3/10) - A. Struffert

1. Administration Negotiations
2. District Office Negotiations
3. Letter of Assignment Negotiations
4. Other

Presentations

- A presentation from the school district's American Indian Parent Advisory Committee was given by Amy Opager, American Indian Liaison
- A presentation regarding the 2026-2027 Calendar was given by Superintendent Wedin.

Principals/Directors/Coordinators Report

High School Principal: Milaca High School recently administered the NAEP Test (March 3) and the ACT Test (March 10). The Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Concert Choir achieved Superior Ratings, with the Symphonic Band earning three perfect scores at the Large Group Contest on March 4. Staff also participated in professional development, including secondary math standards implementation training on March 20 and a Secondary Literacy Series. Looking ahead, the school is preparing for Prom on April 18, 2026.

Elementary Principal: Participation in PreK and Kindergarten registration was high, projecting 88 students in the upcoming Kindergarten class and a historically large 3-Year-Old Screening group. Registration history was detailed in a table. The

Language Arts Team at Milaca Elementary School recommends adopting the Wonders Language Arts Curriculum after research and quotes have been received.

Activities Director/Dean of Students: The Winter Sports season saw major success for Girls Basketball, finishing first in the conference and reaching the section finals for the second straight year, with Madison and Annabelle Gothman earning all-conference and all-section honors. Wrestling also had a strong showing at the State tournament, with Sawyer Schendel (Boys) finishing 4th, and Payton Helmin (Girls) taking 2nd and Ellie Schendel (Girls) finishing 5th. Ticket sales are moving toward cashless options with strong adoption of online and credit card payments, while efforts continue to increase overall student participation in activities.

Community Education Director/Facilities Manager: Community Education is progressing with the Arux software transition, aiming for all summer registrations to utilize the new system, while simultaneously finalizing summer programming and Kids Town plans. Facility Management is addressing a shortage of one full-time night custodian by considering part-time applicants for optimized building coverage, and the grounds department has begun summer planning, including scheduling field time for two summer baseball leagues and one softball league, with excitement for the new field prep machine.

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

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by N. Neuhart, second by S. Grieser, to approve the consent agenda:

- Approval of the minutes from the February 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- Approval of February checks and wires
- Approval of transfer from PMA/MN Trust to First National Bank: \$600,000.00 on February 3, 2026, \$500,000.00 on February 12, 2026, \$600,000.00 on February 19, 2026, and \$400,000.00 on February 26, 2026.
- Hire Blaze Kooiman-Nelson, Student Cleaner, 15 hours per week, \$16.43 per hour, effective March 2, 2026
- Hire Eric Novak, Custodian Class II (replacing Hunter Glanz), 40 hours per week, \$16.68 per hour, effective March 2, 2026
- Hire Cara Colpitts, Food Server/Dishwasher (replacing Leah Chalberg), 25 hours per week, \$16.89 per hour, effective March 9, 2026
- Accept change in assignment with Aaron Evenson, from Interim JV Softball Coach to JV Softball Coach (replacing Ellen Greener), \$3,687.95, effective March 6, 2026
- Accept change in assignment with David Wenner, from Head Baseball Coach to Co-Head Baseball Coach, \$3,176.46, effective March 2, 2026
- Hire Nick Hoffman, Co-Head Baseball Coach, \$2,934.81, effective March 2, 2026
- Hire Nicole Hoffman, Head Girls Track Coach (replacing Wendy Hakes-Anderson), \$5,869.62, effective March 2, 2026
- Hire Jocelyn Berg, Head Boys Track Coach (replacing Kyle Shepard), \$5,981.94, effective March 2, 2026
- Hire Austin Yates, Custodian Class I (replacing Matthew Gonzalez), 40 hours per week, \$16.43 per hour, effective March 16, 2026
- Hire Ronald Struffert, Part Time Custodian Class 1, 10 hours per week, \$16.43 per hour, effective March 16, 2026
- Hire Ella Duevel, Assistant Girls Track Coach (replacing Jocelyn Berg), \$3,687.95, effective March 9, 2026
- Hire Peter Schommer, Assistant Baseball Coach (replacing Nick Hoffman), \$3,687.95, effective March 9, 2026
- Accept staff leave requests:
 - Kelly Neubarth, Paraprofessional, February 12, 2026 - June 1, 2026
 - Maria Schmidt, Paraprofessional, tentative March 18, 2026 - April 29, 2026
 - Sue Haapala, Paraprofessional, tentative February 23, 2026 - March 31, 2026
 - Rebecca Ellefson, Cook, tentative February 27, 2026 - March 13, 2026
- Accept the resignation of Leann Pietrzak, Agriculture Teacher, effective May 27, 2026.
- Accept the resignation of Ellen Greener, Assistant/JV Softball Coach, effective February 26, 2026
- Accept the resignation of Nick Hoffman, JV Baseball Coach, effective March 3, 2026
- Accept the resignation of Beth Sumner, 7th Grade Softball Coach, effective January 20, 2026
- Accept the resignation of Nicole Hoffman, Jr. High Girls Track Coach, effective March 2, 2026
- Accept the resignation of Jocelyn Berg, Assistant Girls Track Coach, effective March 2, 2026
- Accept the resignation of Stephanie Riely, Custodian Class 1, effective March 3, 2026
- Accept the resignation of Alex Peterson, Assistant Baseball Coach, effective March 10, 2026
- First Reading of New Policies:
 - Policy 507.5 - School Resource Officers
- Approval of Letter of Assignment with Teresa Burns, Health Office Licensed Practical Nurse, effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027
- Approval of Letter of Assignment with Brooke Byker, Health Office Licensed Practical Nurse, effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027
- Approve the Overnight Trip Request for FFA to Minnesota State FFA Convention in St. Paul, MN, April 19-20, 2026
- Approve the Land Lease Agreement with Brad Bekius, June 1, 2026 - May 31, 2027

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
February 2026	MSHSL Foundation	Milaca High School - Paul Arens	2025-2026 Minnesota State High School League Grant	\$1,750.00

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by J. Day and upon vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof: J. Corrow, J. Day, S. Grieser, 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.

Motion by N. Neuhart, second by S. Grieser, to approve the 2025-2027 Community Education Director/Facilities Manager Contract. Motion carried, 6:0.

Motion by N. Neuhart, second by J. Day, to approve the 2025-2027 Food Service Director Contract. Motion carried, 6:0.

Superintendent Items

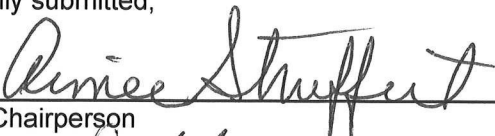
Superintendent Wedin covered several key updates, including the proposed 2026-2027 calendar, which received high satisfaction in a recent survey, and the successful completion of the third quarter. Also highlighted were some recent community-attended events, specifically the "Music In Our Schools" performance and the Pre-School and Kindergarten Registration night, which aids in planning for the upcoming school year. Some positive reflections were given in conclusion on winter activities, the start of spring activities, and specific recognition of "Milaca Space Marines Day" and the "Alpha Pack Meeting with the School Board".

Board Member Items

The Board members extended their condolences to the families of Ron Rinkel, former Board member, and Connie Lund, former school nurse, who recently passed away, as well as to the Hensley family on the passing of their daughter.

Motion by J. Corrow, second by S. Larsen, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried 6:0.

Respectfully submitted,


Chairperson

April 20, 2026

Date


Clerk

April 20, 2026

Date