

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 77
Mankato, Minnesota

September 15, 2025

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, September 15, in the Mankato Room at the Intergovernmental Center. Chair Sinning called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker, Elizabeth Hanke, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt, Liz Ratcliff, and Shannon Sinning. Absent: Erin Roberts.

Mrs. Ratcliff made a motion, and Mr. Kind seconded, approval of the agenda together with a Personnel Addendum. The motion carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

The consent agenda items outlined below were approved on a motion by Mrs. Ratcliff, seconded by Mrs. Pratt, and carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes of the September 2, 2025, regular meeting.

Approval of September Bills totaling \$10,413,044.87.

Personnel:

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Lee Ann Johnson - Adjust start date to September 9, 2025, as Long-term Substitute Teacher for Megan Schulz at Hoover Elementary School.

Danielle Kastrenschmidt - Part-time MAPS Preschool Teacher at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 422 annual hours (0.29 FTEs) beginning September 16, 2025. Training date September 8, 2025. She will be placed at step 4 of the Masters Lane on the ECCE Teachers Association salary schedule.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Natalie Anderson - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning for 3 hours per day/3 days per week (T-TH) beginning September 8, 2025. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Lydia Banse - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning for 2.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 8, 2025. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Martin Cano Rincon - 8-hour, 12-month, Evening Custodian at Prairie Winds Middle School beginning September 4, 2025. He will be placed at classification A13, step 2, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Lillian Carlson - Special Education Paraeducator at Monroe Elementary School for 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 8, 2025. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Owen Finch - Special Education Paraeducator at Monroe Elementary School for 3 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 8, 2025. He will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association. This is in addition to his Non-classroom Paraeducator assignment at Bridges Community School.

Michele Hedinger - Non-classroom Paraeducator at Roosevelt Elementary School for 1.66 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 8, 2025. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Nashira Johnson Willis - Second Cook at Jefferson Elementary School for 6 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 8, 2025. She will be placed at classification A13, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Kennedy Macke - Special Education Paraeducator at East High School for 6.83 hours per day/1 day per week (M), 2 hours per day/2 days per week (T/W) and 2.75 hours per day/1 day per week (TH) beginning September 8, 2025.

Abigail Theissen - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning for 6 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 8, 2025. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Adam Arnst - Correction - Increase in assignment as Physical Education Teacher at East High School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.167 for the 2025-26 school year.

Alexandra Christian - Increase in assignment as Social Studies Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.083 FTEs for the 1st & 3rd quarter of the 2025-26 school year.

Cindy Gawrych - Correction - Increase in assignment as Science Teacher at East High School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.167 FTEs for the 2025-26 school year.

Michell Gonzalez Vargas -Correction - Increase in assignment as Spanish Teacher at Prairie Winds Middle School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.083 FTEs for the 2nd semester of the 2025-26 school year.

Nathan Hawker - Increase in assignment as Social Studies Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.167 FTEs for the 2025-26 school year.

Nathan Hebeisen - Increase in assignment as Mathematics Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.167 FTEs for the 2025-26 school year.

Curtis Smith - Increase in assignments as Health/Physical Education Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School from 1.00 FTEs 1.083 FTEs for the 2nd & 4th quarters of the 2025-26 school year.

Andrew Viker - Increase in assignment as Science Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.083 FTEs for the 1st semester of the 2025-26 school year.

David Wilfahrt - Correction - Increase in assignment as Mathematics Teacher at East High School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.083 FTEs for the 1st semester of the 2025-26 school year.

REQUESTS FOR SALARY LANE ADVANCEMENT (INSTRUCTIONAL)

In accordance with the terms of the agreement between the Mankato Teachers Association and the District, teachers have submitted their requests for salary lane advancement. Each of these requests has been reviewed and a list of those qualifying for salary lane advancement for September of the 2025-26 school year is shown below. The salary lane advancement will be retroactive to the beginning of the 2025-26 school year. The Administration recommends that the Board approve the salary lane advancements.

Name	From	To
Michaela Alexander	B+15	B+30
Jennifer Anderson	M	M+45
Kristen Arnold	M+45	SPEC
Margo Becker	M	M+45
Monica Bjornstad	B	B+15
Amber Blasl	B	B+15
Heather Brand	M	M+45
Elizabeth Carr	M+30	M+45
Claire Christianson	B	B+15
Jessica Davich	B	B+15
Mignon Disney	M+30	M+45
Danielle Edstrom	B	B+15
Katie Eichhorst	M	M+45
Brianne Eldred	B+15	M
Jodi Evers	M	M+45
Megan L Fitzloff	M	M+30
Maggie Fredrickson	B	B+15
Kellie French	M	M+30
Tania Fugazzi	M	M+45

Kristin Gleason	B	B+15
Tiffany Hagen	M+30	M+45
Cynthia Hashimoto	M+30	M+45
LaRen Holtman	B	B+15
Lea Hortua	M	M+30
Kelsey Johnson	M+30	M+45
Jessica Kingston	B	B+30
Stacy Kubesh	M	M+45
Joshua LaFave	B	B+30
Kari Larson-Hicks	B	B+15
Amy Luethmers	B	B+15
Michelle Marco	M	M+45
Meredith Mayra	M	M+45
Emily Oberdeck	B	B+15
Diane Peters	B	B+15
Danielle Peterson	B+30	M
Scott Pick	M	M+45
Rachael Sather	M+30	M+45
Tristan Schissler	B+15	M
Emily Slattery	M	M+45
Amanda Stenzel	M+30	M+45
Lisa Stenzel	B	B+15
Maria Stock	B	B+15
Cynthia Stone	M	M+30
Samuel Udermann	B	B+15
Kristin Van Otterloo	M	M+30
Kyle Vanselow	M	M+30
Kimberly Veroeven	M	M+30
Abby Visker	B	B+15
Tonya Wannarka	M+30	M+45
Danielle Yungerberg	M	M+45

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Lori Dunford - Increase in assignment as Second Cook at MAPS Center for Learning from 7 hours per day/5 days per week to 8 hours per day/5 days per week beginning August 25, 2025.

Eleanor Gregoire - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute beginning August 1, 2025.

Monysona Kem - Change in assignment from ACES Early Learning Aide at MAPS Center for Learning to ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning August 18, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Mylee Nuehring - Change in assignment from ACES Child Care Assistant to ACES Site Lead at Franklin Elementary School beginning August 18, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$18.75 per hour.

Reese Siedow - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute beginning September 16, 2025.

Brooklynn Wilson - Increase hourly rate to \$15.50 as ACES Child Care Assistant at Roosevelt Elementary School beginning August 27, 2025.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (INSTRUCTIONAL)

David Ruiz - Spanish Teacher at West High School, has requested Board-approved leave beginning September 8, 2025, and continuing through the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Megan Schulz - Adjust start date to September 9, 2025, for Board-approved leave.

Daniel Tinaglia - 5th Grade Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has requested Board-approved leave beginning October 14 and returning on November 24, 2025.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

William Nason - Special Education Paraeducator at West High School, has requested Board-approved leave beginning August 25 and returning on October 1, 2025.

Lorraine O'Brien - Second Cook at Monroe Elementary School, has requested Board-approved leave beginning August 27 and returning on September 24, 2025.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Kimberly Banks - Student Success Specialist at Futures, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be June 5, 2025.

Alexander Liebl - Communications and Customer Experience Assistant Specialist with Community Education, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 19, 2025.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Carmen Eaton - Special Education Teacher at Futures, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 5, 2025.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Hawa Abdillahi - Non-classroom Paraeducator at Roosevelt Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day for this assignment will be August 26, 2025. She will continue as ABE Teaching Assistant with the Adult Education Program.

Callista Kelley - HR Generalist for the District, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 5, 2025.

Hannah Prellwitz - Rescind acceptance as Special Education Paraeducator at Hoover Elementary School.

Mathea Ray - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 10, 2025.

Lindsey Rockvam - Adjust end date to October 3, 2025, as Health & Wellness Paraeducator at SUN.

Jamie Sorensen - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Dakota Meadows Middle School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 4, 2025.

Mikayla Sullivan - ACES Child Care Assistant at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be July 3, 2025.

Personnel – Addendum

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Joni Biebighauser - Full-time (1.00 FTEs) Special Education Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School beginning September 12, 2025, for the 2025-26 school year. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Jennifer Sundermeyer - Long-term Substitute Teacher for Kayla Lewis at Roosevelt Elementary School beginning November 11, 2025, and ending February 27, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Eliana Anastasia - ACES Child Care Assistant at Hoover Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning September 12, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Raven Bush - American Indian Program Assistant for the District for up to 20 hours per week beginning September 22, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$19.00 per hour.

Brooklyn Gossen - ACES Site Lead at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 4-5 hours per day/1 day per week beginning August 25, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$18.75 per hour. This is in addition to her ACES Student Support Assistant assignment.

Danika Hanson - ACES Student Support Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning September 12, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$16.00 per hour.

Tianna Meadows - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning for 6.5 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) and 1.5 hours per day/1 day per week (TH) beginning August 27, 2025. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Josie Robertson - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning for 2 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) and 3 hours per day/1 day per week (F) beginning September 18, 2025. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Ava Schowalter - ACES Child Care Assistant at Bridges Community School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning September 22, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Tahura Tari - ACES Child Care Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning September 16, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Abigail Thole - Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 6.75 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) and 4.5 hours per day/1 day per week (F) beginning September 15, 2025. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Brenna Thomas - ACES Student Support Assistant at Bridges Community School beginning September 1, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$16.00 per hour. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead Substitute assignment.

Gaudence Uwamahoro - Special Education Paraeducator at Franklin Elementary School for 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 15, 2025. She will be placed at classification B22, step 2, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Austin Warwick - 8-hour, 12-month, Floating Evening Custodian with the District beginning September 15, 2025. He will be placed at classification A13, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Audrey Wertish - ACES Site Lead Substitute on an on-call basis beginning August 18, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$18.75 per hour. This is in addition to her ACES Child Care Assistant assignment at Monroe Elementary School.

Delaney Willcock - ACES Site Lead at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 4-5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 11, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$18.75 per hour.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Theresa Calsbeek - Increase in assignment as Title I Intervention Teacher at Jefferson Elementary School from 0.65 FTEs to 0.70 FTEs beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Adam Doll - Correction - Increase in assignment as Social Studies Teacher at East High School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.083 FTEs for the 2nd semester of the 2025-26 school year.

Chantell Drummer - Change in assignment as Early Childhood Teacher at MAPS Center for Learning from 1007 annual hours (0.69 FTEs) to 997 annual hours (0.69 FTEs) starting August 26, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Deanna Hofmeister - Voluntary decrease in assignment as ECCE Teacher at MAPS Center for Learning from 211 annual hours (0.147 FTEs) to 135 annual hours (0.094 FTEs) starting August 27, 2025 for the 2025-2026.

Mary McCuskey Simpson - Increase in assignment as Parent Educator at MAPS Center for Learning from 343.5 annual hours (FTE 0.239) to 749.5 annual hours (FTE 0.520) beginning August 27, 2025, for the 25-26 school year.

Megan Van Beek - Increase in assignment as ECCE Teacher at MAPS Center for Learning from 180.5 annual hours (FTEs 0.125) to 500 annual hours (FTEs 0.347) starting August 27, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Alexander Welter - Increase in assignment as Title I Intervention Teacher at Central High School from 0.67 FTEs to 1.00 FTEs beginning August 18, 2025.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Pamela Allen - Change in assignment from ACES Student Support Assistant at Rosa Parks Elementary School to ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning August 18, 2025. This is in addition to her Infant Care Provider with the TAPP Daycare assignment at Central High School.

Brooklyn Gossen - Change in assignment from ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute at Rosa Parks Elementary School to ACES Student Support Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/4 days per week beginning August 18, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$17.00 per hour. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead assignment.

Ella Haggerty - Change in assignment from ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute to ACES Child Care Assistant at Roosevelt Elementary School for 1.5 hours per day/2 days per week beginning August 18, 2025.

Madison Hansen - Change in assignment from ACES Site Lead at Eagle Lake Elementary School to ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning August 18, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$16.50 per hour.

Madeline Kempenich - Change in assignment from ACES Child Care Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary School to ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning August 18, 2025.

Lisa Knoll - Change in assignment from Special Education Paraeducator, classification B22, to Health & Wellness Paraeducator, classification B22.5, at Prairie Winds Middle School beginning August 27,

2025. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Minnesota School Employee Association salary schedule.

Raymond Michels - Change in assignment from Special Education Paraeducator, classification B22, at West High School to Health & Wellness Paraeducator, classification B22.5, at Dakota Meadows Middle School beginning August 26, 2025. He will be compensated according to his placement on the Minnesota School Employee Association salary schedule.

Jennifer Schmitt - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Kennedy Elementary School from 6.25 hours per day/5 days per week to 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 8, 2025.

Sadie Senich - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School from 6.25 hours per day/5 days per week to 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning August 27, 2025.

Sarah Sullivan - Decrease in assignment as Cook Helper from 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week at East High School to 6 hours per day/5 days per week at Dakota Meadows Middle School beginning August 26, 2025.

Brenna Thomas - Increase hourly rate to \$18.75 as ACES Site Lead beginning July 1, 2025. This is in addition to her ACES Student Support Assistant assignment.

Brenna Thomas - Change in assignment from ACES Site Lead at Bridges Community School to ACES Site Lead Substitute beginning September 1, 2025. This is in addition to her ACES Student Support Assistant assignment.

Brea Tonsager - Change in assignment from ACES Site Lead Substitute to ACES Site Lead at Franklin Elementary School for 4-5 hours per day/2 days per week beginning August 18, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$18.75 per hour, This is in addition to her ACES Child Care Assistant assignment.

Brea Tonsager - Change in assignment from ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute to ACES Child Care Assistant at Franklin Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/1 day per week beginning August 18, 2025. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead assignment.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Joni Biebighauser - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Dakota Meadows Middle School, has submitted a resignation in order to accept the teaching position. The last day for this assignment will be September 11, 2025.

Evelyn O'Brien - ACES Child Care Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be August 15, 2025.

Anna Warner - Special Education Paraeducator at Kennedy Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 11, 2025.

Amanda Heilman presented and reviewed the background information for certifying the 2026-2027 school year preliminary property tax levy. Mrs. Pratt made a motion to certify the maximum levy for taxes payable in 2026 to accommodate any adjustments that might occur before the final preliminary levy is submitted to the County Auditor by September 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baker, and carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

There being no further business to consider, Mr. Kind moved and Mrs. Ratcliff seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:42 p.m., on a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk _____

Attest:

Chairperson _____

SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 77
Mankato, Minnesota

September 15, 2025

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, September 15, in the Mankato Room at the Intergovernmental Center. Chair Sinning called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker, Elizabeth Hanke, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt, Liz Ratcliff, and Shannon Sinning. Absent: Erin Roberts.

1. Ratcliff/Kind approval of agenda with personnel addendum. 6-0
2. Ratcliff/Pratt approval of Consent agenda Items: approval of Minutes of September 2, 2025, regular meeting; Approval of September Bills; Personnel. 6-0
3. Pratt/Baker certify maximum levy for taxes payable in 2026. 6-0
4. Kind/Ratcliff adjournment at 5:42 p.m. 6-0

Independent School District No. 77
Mankato, Minnesota
By: Erin Roberts

The complete minutes and all documents relating to this meeting are on file and available for review in the Superintendent's Office, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2 and on-line at www.isd77.org.