

AGENDA
Independent School District No. 77
Mankato, MN 56001

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
East High School - Room 104

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (5:30 P.M.)
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (5:30 P.M.)
3. CONSENT AGENDA (5:35 P.M.)
 - A. Approval of Minutes of January 5, 2026, Regular Meeting
 - B. Approval of January Bills
 - C. Personnel
4. ADJOURNMENT (5:40 P.M.)



School Board Members for 2026

Shannon Sinning, Chair
Phone: 507-207-4023
E-Mail: ssinni1@isd77.org
Term Ends December 31, 2026

Kari Pratt, Vice Chair
Phone: 507-207-4025
E-Mail: kpratt1@isd77.org
Term Ends December 31, 2026

Patrick Baker, Treasurer
Phone: 507-207-4028
E-Mail: pbaker1@isd77.org
Term Ends December 31, 2026

Erin Roberts, Clerk
Phone: 507-207-4026
E-Mail: erober1@isd77.org
Term Ends December 31, 2028

Elizabeth Hanke
Phone: 507-207-4030
E-Mail: ehanke1@isd77.org
Term Ends December 31, 2028

Christopher Kind
Phone: 507-207-4027
E-Mail: ckind1@isd77.org
Term Ends December 31, 2028

Liz Ratcliff
Phone: 507-207-4029
E-Mail: eratcl1@isd77.org
Term Ends December 31, 2028

Paul Peterson, Superintendent
10 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 387-1868
E-Mail: ppeter1@isd77.org



MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

Mission Statement

our core purpose

Excellence, Equity, Empowerment. Every Student, Every Day.

Core Values



drivers of our words and actions

- **Courage:** We do and say what is needed to develop strength, resilience and character.
- **Student Centered:** Student success drives our decisions and actions, and we strive to provide each learner with what they need, when they need it.
- **Integrity:** We are honest, authentic and respectful in every interaction.
- **Accountable:** We know our desired outcomes, understand our individual responsibility for them, and collectively take accountability for results and continuous improvement.
- **Inclusive Practices:** We ensure ALL learners are welcomed and valued, have a sense of belonging and see themselves in their learning.

Vision



what we intend to create

MAPS inspires students to thrive through future focused learning experiences by:

- Pursuing their individual pathway
- Ensuring safe and secure schools
- Fostering inclusivity by understanding and appreciating diversity
- Engaging with families and caregivers
- Partnering with and contributing to our community

with high quality, dedicated and exceptionally trained staff.

Strategic Directions



focus of our improvement efforts

- A. Improving our professional practices so that each learner achieves at high levels in an inclusive educational model that is relevant and flexible
- B. Enhancing our student support structures to meet academic, social, behavioral, and mental health needs
- C. Recruiting, developing, and retaining staff to ensure positive learning experiences for students
- D. Strengthening our parent/caregiver partnerships and connections
- E. Ensuring safe, efficient and effective operations

Excellence, Equity, Empowerment. Every Student, Every Day.

#MAPSready

School Board Regular Meeting

3. A.

Meeting Date: 01/20/2026

Prepared By: Paul Peterson, Superintendent

Subject:

Approval of Minutes of January 5, 2026, Regular Meeting

Background:

See attachment.

Recommended Action:

Recommend approval of the minutes and proceedings as attached.

Attachments

Minutes - January 5, 2026

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

January 5, 2026

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, January 5, in the Minnesota Valley Room in the Intergovernmental Center to organize for 2026.

Chair Sinning called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt, Liz Ratcliff, Erin Roberts, and Shannon Sinning. Members absent: Elizabeth Hanke.

Mrs. Pratt moved, and Mrs. Ratcliff seconded, approval of the agenda together with a personnel addendum. The motion carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

MAPS Student Spotlight: Yasmin Ahmed - Kennedy Elementary School

MAPS Staff Spotlight: Kris Toner - Development Adapted Physical Education (DAPE)

Public Comment: No one wished to speak.

Nominations were opened for the position of Chairperson. Mrs. Pratt nominated Shannon Sinning. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Sinning closed nominations and an unanimous ballot for Mr. Sinning was casted with the following result: Mr. Sinning - 6 votes. Mr. Sinning was declared Chairperson.

Nominations were opened for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Mrs. Ratcliff nominated Kari Pratt. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Sinning closed nominations and an unanimous ballot for Mrs. Pratt was casted with the following result: Mrs. Pratt- 6 votes. Mrs. Pratt was declared Vice-Chairperson.

Nominations for the position of Clerk were declared open. Mr. Baker nominated Erin Roberts. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Sinning closed nominations and an unanimous ballot for Ms. Roberts was casted with the following result: Ms. Roberts - 6 votes. Ms. Roberts was declared Clerk.

Nominations for the position of Treasurer were opened. Ms. Roberts nominated Patrick Baker. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Sinning closed nominations and an unanimous ballot for Mr. Baker was casted with the following result: Mr. Baker - 6 votes. Mr. Baker was declared Treasurer.

Mrs. Pratt made a motion to appoint Becky Bailey as Deputy Clerk. Ms. Roberts seconded the motion and it carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

Mr. Kind made a motion to approve the following resolution designating official depositories for the School District. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ratcliff and carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

BE IT RESOLVED, US Bank Mankato, Old National Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., ProGrowth Bank, 1st National Bank, Frandsen Bank, MinnStar Bank, CCF Bank, Bank of Utah, MN Trust, Pioneer Bank and the Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund Plus, and are hereby designated as depositories of this School District with authority to accept or receive, at any time, deposits for the credit of this School District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That checks, drafts, or other orders for payment with the depositories must be signed, actually or by use of a facsimile signature, by all three of the following officers of Independent School District No. 77:

_____, Clerk
_____, Chairperson
_____, Treasurer

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Paul Peterson or Amanda Heilman is authorized to transfer between depository accounts School District funds as they determine necessary in the normal operation of the School District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Paul Peterson or Amanda Heilman is authorized to purchase Certificates of Deposit and Commercial Paper in name of Independent School District No. 77, Mankato, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Paul Peterson or Amanda Heilman is authorized to wire transfer funds to pay principal and interest payments due on school building bonds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall continue in force until express written notice of its rescision or modification has been furnished to and received by the depositories.

School Board Policy 216 provides for the appointment of legal counsel for the School District. Mrs. Ratcliff made a motion to name the following firms as legal counsel for 2026 to be paid on an hourly basis for services rendered:

Blethen Berens Law Firm
Knutson, Flynn and Deans, P.A.
Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A.
Kennedy and Graven Chartered
Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Ms. Roberts seconded the motion and it carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ratcliff, seconded by Mrs. Pratt, to name the Mankato *Free Press* as the School District's official newspaper for 2026. The motion carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

A motion to approve the following resolution relating to expenses for School Board meetings was made by Mrs. Ratcliff and seconded by Mr. Kind. The motion carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 77 that:

1. *WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the School District to occasionally invite members of the public, members of other public boards and bodies, and members of the school staff to School Board meetings, and*
2. *WHEREAS, at many School Board meetings, good public relations make it advisable to provide coffee and meals on special occasions as determined by the School Board, to persons attending such meetings in the interest of the District,*
3. *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District pay the cost of meals when occasionally furnished to members of the School Board and others who attend meetings held in the interest of the School District and that the School District do likewise provide, at the expense of the District, coffee for all persons attending said meetings in the interest of good public relations for the benefit of the School District and the students served thereby.*

Compensation for Mankato Area Public Schools board members in 2026 is recommended as follows:

- Director \$5,000
- Clerk \$5,400
- Treasurer \$5,400
- Vice-Chair \$5,600
- Chair \$6,200

Board members receive a \$400 stipend/year for serving on a negotiations team. If more than eight (8) negotiation sessions are needed, board members receive \$50 for each additional meeting. Ms. Roberts made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Ratcliff to approve the school board compensation for 2026 as presented. The motion carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires that school districts annually designate an Identified Official with Authority to comply with the MNIT Enterprise Identity and Access Management Standard which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually. The Identified Official with Authority will assign job duties and authorize external user's access to MDE secure systems for their local education agency LEA. Mrs. Ratcliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Pratt, to designate Paul Peterson, Superintendent, and Becky Bailey, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/School Board Deputy Clerk to the role of Identified Official with Authority. The motion carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

Most state- and federally-funded programs require that the School Board, in official session, authorize an agent to execute and file funding applications for the School District and act as its official representatives in those state- and federally-funded programs. Mrs. Pratt made a motion to designate Superintendent Paul Peterson or his designee as the School District's agent for filing the applications and representing the District. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roberts and carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

Mrs. Ratcliff made a motion to affirm the meeting schedule for 2026 as shown below. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roberts and carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

All meetings are held at 10 Civic Center Plaza - see rooms below.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Monday, January 5, 2026 Regular Meeting	Minnesota Valley Room	5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting & Work Session	Minnesota River Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, February 2, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 Regular Meeting & Work Session	Minnesota River Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, March 2, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, March 16, 2026 Regular Meeting & Work Session	Minnesota River Room	5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 6, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, April 20, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	6:30 p.m.
Monday, May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, May 18, 2026 Regular Meeting & Work Session	Minnesota River Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, June 15, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:00 p.m.
Monday, July 20, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:00 p.m.
Monday, August 17, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, September 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting - Work Session	Mankato Room Minnesota River Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, October 5, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, October 19, 2026	Minnesota River Room	5:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting & Work Session		
Monday, November 2, 2026 (Comprehensive Achievement & Civic Readiness Mtg at 5 pm) Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, November 16, 2026 Regular Meeting & Work Session	Minnesota River Room	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 8, 2026 Regular Meeting	Mankato Room	5:30 p.m.
Monday, December 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting - Work Session	Mankato Room Minnesota River Room	5:30 p.m.

Ms. Roberts made a motion to approve the following School Board Member Committee Assignments and School Assignments:

Patrick Baker

- Bond Oversight Committee
- Communication Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Finance Committee
- Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) Advisory Committee
- Principal Negotiations

Elizabeth Hanke

- Community Education Advisory Council
- Legislative Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Wellness Committee
- Food Service Negotiations

Christopher Kind

- Bond Oversight Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) Advisory Committee
- Meet and Confer Committee
- Sick Leave Bank
- Transportation Committee
- Custodian Negotiations

Kari Pratt

- Executive Committee
- Policy Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Student - Community Safety Advisory Council
- Teacher Negotiations

Liz Ratcliff

- Communication Committee
- Legislative Committee

- Meet and Confer Committee
- Student Advisory Council Facilitator
- Sustainability Committee
- Secretaries Negotiations

Erin Roberts

- DEI Committee
- Policy Committee
- Special Education Parent Advisory Council
- Student Advisory Council Facilitator
- Student-Community Safety Advisory Council
- Para Negotiations

Shannon Sinning

- DEI Committee
- Energy Committee
- Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Minnesota State High School League Representative

The motion was seconded by Mr. Kind and carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

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

Approval of Minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular Board meeting.

Personnel:

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Jacob Dolter - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Contract Substitute Teacher at Prairie Winds Middle School beginning January 15 and ending May 22, 2026. He will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Mitchel Pomije - Adjust salary placement from B to B+30 as Contract Substitute Teacher at East High School beginning January 20, 2026.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Bryn Hacker - ACES Site Lead Substitute on an on-call basis beginning December 15, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$18.75 per hour. This is in addition to her ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute and Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School assignments.

Hailey Hoppe - Teacher in Residence at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 7.33 hours per day/5 days per week beginning January 12 and ending April 29, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$23.00 per hour.

Addison Houn - ACES Child Care Assistant at Kennedy Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/3 days per week beginning January 5, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Kayla Hunter - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Prairie Winds Middle School for 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning December 22, 2025. She will be placed at classification B22.5, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Andrew Luepke - Special Education Paraeducator at Roosevelt Elementary School for 1 hour per day/5 days per week beginning January 21, and ending May 21, 2026. 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 ACES Site Lead Substitute and ACES Child Care Assistant assignments at Rosa Parks Elementary School.

Maryam Mahamud - ABE Teaching Assistant with the Adult Basic Education Program at Lincoln Community Center for 1.75 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) beginning September 2, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$17.35 per hour. This is in addition to her Home School Liaison assignment with the Adult Basic Education Program and Paraeducator Substitute assignment at MAPS Center for Learning.

Kendal Rekow - ACES Child Care Assistant at Kennedy Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/4 days per week beginning January 5, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

MD Abdur Razzak Sarker - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning for 3.5 hours per day/2 days per week (M/TH) and 4 hours per day/1 day per week (T) beginning January 12, 2026. He will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Lacey Schreurs - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Futures for 7 hours per day/5 days per week beginning December 19, 2025. She will be placed at classification B22.5, step 4, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Tiana Wilkinson - Special Education Paraeducator at Hoover Elementary School for 6 hours per day/5 days per week beginning December 18, 2025. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Siham Abdulla Ali - Increase in assignment as ABE Teaching Assistant with the Adult Basic Education Program from 4.75 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/TH) and 7 hours per day/1 day per week (T) to 4.75 hours per day/2 days per week (W/TH), 7 hours per day/1 days per week (T) and 7.5 hours per day/1 day per week (M) beginning January 12, 2026.

Owen Finch - Temporary increase in assignment as a Special Education Paraeducator at Monroe Elementary School from 3 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) and 4.75 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) to 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning December 15, 2025, and ending January 9, 2026.

Carley Fischer - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary beginning January 16, 2026. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead Substitute assignment.

Adella Maisuk - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Monroe Elementary School from 6.75 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) and 2.5 hours per day/2 days per week (M/F) to 6.75 hours per day/3 days per week (T-TH) beginning December 15, 2025.

Lindsey Rockvam - Increase in assignment as Health & Wellness Paraeducator at SUN from 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week to 7 hours per day/5 days per week beginning December 17, 2025.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Hailey Hoppe - Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has requested unpaid leave in order to accept the Teacher in Residence assignment beginning January 12, and returning on April 30, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Chastity Cheeseman - Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be December 23, 2025.

Aubrey Dye - Cook Helper at East High School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be December 19, 2025.

Addendum

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Ashlee Conley - Full-time (1.00 FTE) School Social Worker at Franklin Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary Schools beginning January 5, 2026. She will be placed at step 8 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Duoth Liem - Interpreter for the District on an on-call basis beginning January 5, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$25.00 per hour.

Jace Liebl - Student Success Coach at West High School for 4.25 hours per day/2 days per week (M/W) and 6.75 hours per day/3 days per week (T/TH/F) beginning January 6, 2026. He will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Madelyn Monette - Early Learning Classroom Aide for 3 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) and 1.5 hours per day/1 day per week (TH) beginning January 12, 2026. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association. This is in addition to her ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute assignment.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Danielle Fisher - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Futures from 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week to 6 hours per day/3 days per week (M/T/TH) and 6.75 hours per day/2 days per week (W/F) beginning September 26, 2025.

Jonathan Morrow - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Eagle Lake Elementary School from 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week to 6.5 hours per day/3 days per week (M/T/TH) and 4.5 hours per day/2 days per week (W/F) beginning January 5, 2026.

Danica Schmidt - Change in assignment from Second Cook at East High School to Kitchen Float Cook Helper at West High School for 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning January 2, 2026. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Minnesota School Employees Association salary schedule.

Lauren Swanson - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at East High School from 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week to 6.75 hours per day/3 days per week (W-F) and 5.75 hours per day/2 days per week (M/T) beginning January 5, 2026.

Sabrina Van Denburgh - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at West High School from 5.25 hours per day/3 days per week (M/T/TH) and 6.75 hours per day/1 day per week (W) to 6.75 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) beginning January 12, 2026.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Celena Brandel - Special Education Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School, has requested unpaid leave beginning January 5, 2026, and returning to work on February 9, 2026.

Kristina Kullman - Extend Board-approved leave, returning to work on March 30, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Michelle Makela - STEM Teacher at Eagle Lake Elementary and Rosa Parks Elementary Schools, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be May 27, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Lillian Bengston - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at SUN, has submitted a resignation. The last day for this assignment will be December 23, 2025. She will continue as a Substitute Paraeducator.

Jariel Conde Morales - ABE Teaching Assistant with the Adult Basic Education Program, has submitted a resignation. The last day for this assignment will be December 23, 2025. He will continue as an ABE Teaching Assistant Substitute.

Gertie Peterson - ACES Site Lead Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be December 22, 2025.

Md Abdur Razzak Sarker - Rescind acceptance as Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning.

Dylan Thomas - ACES Child Care Assistant at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment for this assignment will be January 9, 2026. He will continue as an Enrichment Instructor with Community Education.

Approval of Extended Trip - West Baseball

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Kind and seconded by Mrs. Ratcliff and carried on a 6-0 roll call vote:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education."; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full."; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Mankato Area Public Schools, ISD77, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

- Optimists of MN Valley donated \$500 for East High DECA Program
- Mary Ann Christensen donated \$119,036.65 for MAPS FFA Program, Career Pathways Program & Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Education
- Lake Washington Improvement Association donated \$3,000 for West High Girls Hockey Program
- Scheels donated \$100 for West High Girls Swim & Dive Program
- Dennis K & Vivian D Siemer Foundation Inc donated \$14,000 for East & West High Schools Government Trip
- Matthew E Wolff donated \$2,500 for Wolff Family Jumpstart Scholarship Program
- Jeanne Ternes donated \$50 for Eagle Lake Elementary School
- Eagle Lake American Legion Post 617 donated \$300 for Eagle Lake Elementary School
- Crust & Crumb Cottage donated Sourdough Loaves (\$1,053 value) for Community Education ABE/ESL/GED Programs
- Mankato West High Orchestras Program received the following donations:

- \$100 from Skogen Mechanical, LLC
- \$250 from Midwest Fitness Centers - Fit for 10
- \$500 from River Valley Sprinklers, LLC
- \$500 from Minnesota Home Tours LLC

The Mankato Area Public Schools and our current bus operators have come to a mutual agreement for transportation services for the 2025-26 & 2026-27 school years. Mrs. Ratcliff made a motion to approve the two-year extension 2025-2026 & 2026-27 with the monthly rates on page _____. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pratt and carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

The state law requires school districts to enter contracts with all individuals or companies who transport students. There are a number of individuals with whom we must reach an agreement with each fall. There are various situations in the school district for which a special arrangement for transportation has been made with either the parent or a private contractor for example: There are situations where the bus is unable to travel on a road because of location and condition. The bus routes are too long for some students that have very special needs or are medically fragile. Some are just not able to make arrangements suitable for the child's specific needs and therefore enter into a contract with the parent or guardian. The district has a number of students that participate in a work program and are being transported to and from their work experience sites on a daily basis. Following questions, Ms. Roberts made a motion to approve the contracts and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Ratcliff. The motion carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

On December 17th, forty-eight (48) bids were received for the Mankato Area Public Schools Eagle Lake Day Care and IAQ Project (see pages _____). The administrative team and Kraus Anderson, our Construction Manager, recommend that the bids as submitted by multiple contractors in the amount of \$4,095,070.00 be accepted by the School Board. IAQ LTFM and Bond revenue will be used to fund this project, and this project will be part of the FY26/FY27 budget. Mrs. Pratt made a motion to accept the bid as recommended and Ms. Roberts seconded the motion. The motion carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

A calendar committee made up of teachers and administrators developed draft calendars based on state statute, employee contracts and past input from students, staff and families. These drafts were shared with the MAPS community for input which was collected via an online survey. The committee considered this feedback in developing the calendars submitted for your consideration. Ms. Roberts made a motion to approve the calendar for 2026-27 & 2027-28 school years (see pages _____). Mr. Kind seconded the motion and carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

There being no further business to consider, Ms. Roberts moved and Mrs. Pratt seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:59 p.m., on a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk _____

Attest:

Chairperson _____

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

January 6, 2025

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, January 5, in the Minnesota Valley Room in the Intergovernmental Center to organize for 2026. Chair Sinning called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt, Liz Ratcliff, Erin Roberts, and Shannon Sinning. Members absent: Elizabeth Hanke.

1. Pratt/Ratcliff approval of agenda with personnel addendum. 6-0
2. MAPS Student Spotlight: Yasmin Ahmed
3. MAPS Staff Spotlight: Kris Toner
4. Public Comment – No one wished to speak.
5. Shannon Sinning elected as Chairperson.
6. Kari Pratt elected as Vice-Chairperson.
7. Erin Roberts elected as Clerk.
8. Patrick Baker elected as Treasurer.
9. Pratt/Roberts appoint Becky Bailey as Deputy Clerk. 6-0
10. Kind/Ratcliff approval of resolution designating official depositories for 2026. 6-0
11. Ratcliff/Roberts approval of legal counsel for 2026. 6-0
12. Ratcliff/Pratt named Mankato *Free Press* as official newspaper. 6-0
13. Ratcliff/Kind approval of expenses for Board meetings. 6-0
14. Roberts/Ratcliff approved School Board Compensation for 2026. 6-0
15. Ratcliff/Pratt designate Supt. Peterson and Deputy Clerk Becky Bailey as Identified Official with Authority for MDE Secure Website Access. 6-0
16. Pratt/Roberts designate Superintendent Peterson or his designee as the official agent for filing and executing funding applications for state- and federally-funded programs. 6-0
17. Ratcliff/Roberts confirm meeting schedule for 2026. 6-0
18. Roberts/Kind approval of school board committees for 2026. 6-0
19. Pratt/Ratcliff approval of Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting; Approval of Personnel Items; Approval of Extended Trip - West Baseball. 6-0
20. Kind/Ratcliff acceptance of gifts and grants. 6-0
21. Ratcliff/Pratt approval of 2025-2027 Transportation Contracts Extensions. 6-0
22. Roberts/Ratcliff approval of individual transportation contracts. 6-0
23. Pratt/Roberts approval of construction bids for Eagle Lake Daycare & IAQ project. 6-0
24. Roberts/Kind approval of 2026-27 & 2027-28 school year calendars. 6-0
25. Roberts/Pratt adjournment at 5:59 p.m. 6-0.

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

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.

RATES PER STUDENT PER MONTH

YEAR	OPERATOR	CITY	RURAL	SP.ED.	TAPP – AREA 5
2025-2026	Palmer	\$63.60	\$102.31	\$459.58	\$459.58
2025-2026	Yaeger	\$63.60	\$102.31		
2026-2027	Palmer	\$65.51	\$105.38	\$473.36	\$473.36
2026-2027	Yaeger	\$65.51	\$105.38		



December 29, 2025

Mr. Scott Kaminski
Mankato Area Public Schools
10 Civic Center Plaza
Mankato, MN 56002

RE: **MAPS Eagle Lake Elementary
Contract Award Letter**

Dear Mr. Kaminski:

This letter is concerning the contract awards for the above referenced project that was bid on December 17, 2025.

Kraus-Anderson has verified bidders and we submit the following lowest responsible bidders and their total bid amount:

<i>Work Scope</i>	<i>Contractor, City, State</i>	<i>Bid Amount</i>
WS 01-J	Final Cleaning Everest Cleaning Systems LLC Saint Paul, MN	Base Bid: \$31,134.00 Total Contract: \$31,134.00
WS 03-A	Concrete Robert W. Carlstrom Co., Inc. Mankato, MN	Base Bid: \$43,046.00 Total Contract: \$43,046.00
WS 07-H	Roofing Kato Roofing, Inc. Mankato, MN	Base Bid: \$107,905.00 Total Contract: \$107,905.00
WS 08-F	Exterior Glass & Glazing United Glass, Inc. Brooklyn Park, MN	Base Bid: \$10,950.00 Total Contract: \$10,950.00
WS 09-A	Drywall Pietsch Construction Inc. Madelia, MN	Base Bid: \$159,000.00 Total Contract: \$159,000.00
WS 09-B	Tile Commercial Flooring Services, LLC Eagan, MN	Base Bid: \$15,224.00 Total Contract: \$15,224.00
WS 09-C	Ceiling & Acoustical Treatment Palmer-Soderberg, Inc. Rochester, MN	Base Bid: \$182,400.00 Total Contract: \$182,400.00
WS 09-D	Flooring – Resilient & Carpet Rickway Carpet North Mankato, MN	Base Bid: \$25,000.00 Total Contract: \$25,000.00

Work Scope	Contractor, City, State	Bid Amount
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WS 09-K	Painting	Mulcahy Nickolaus LLC Oakdale, MN	Base Bid: Total Contract:	\$46,875.00 \$46,875.00
WS 21-A	Fire Suppression	J.F. Ahern Co. Menomonie, WI	Base Bid: Total Contract:	\$67,069.00 \$67,069.00
WS 23-B	Combined Mechanical	Malterer Mechanical, Inc. Mankato, MN	Base Bid: Total Contract:	\$2,618,760.00 \$2,618,760.00
WS 26-A	Electrical	Wolf River Electric Isanti, MN	Base Bid: Total Contract:	\$733,707.00 \$733,707.00
WS 31-A	Site Clearing & Earthwork	Steve James Excavating, Inc. Owatonna, MN	Base Bid: Total Contract:	\$54,000.00 \$54,000.00

Total Base Bid: \$ 4,095,070.00
Contract Total: \$ 4,095,070.00

Work scope not included: 06A Carpentry & Demolition
Approximate amount: \$287,000.00

We have enclosed the Bid Tabulation sheets that reflect the bids received.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 507.649.7491.

Very truly yours,

KRAUS-ANDERSON® CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Mike Hayes

Mike Hayes
Assistant Project Manager



Mankato Area Public Schools - Independent School District #77

2026-2027 Student Calendar - Draft

July

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January

- 1 No School K-12 New Year's Day
- 13 2hr Early Out
- 18 No School K-12 MLK Jr. Day
- 28 End of Quarter 2
- 29 No School K-12

August

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

February

- 10 2hr Early Out

September

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March

- 9 No School K-5
- 10 No School K-12 Eid
- 11 No School K-12
- 12 No School K-12
- 17 2hr Early Out
- 26 No School K-12 Good Friday

October

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

April

- 8 No School K-8
- 8 End of Quarter 3
- 9 No School K-12
- 14 Early Out

November

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May

- 12 2hr Early Out
- 31 No School K-12 Memorial Day

December

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

June

- 9 Central Graduation 5pm at Lincoln Community Center
- 10 End of Quarter 4
- 10 Classes End Grades K-12
- 10 East/West HS Graduation
- Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center
- East HS - 5:30PM
- West HS - 8PM

- 8 Classes Begin 9th Grade
- 8 No School K-8 (Conf)
- 9 Classes Begin 6th, 10-12
- 9 No School K-5, 7 & 8 (Conf)
- 10 Classes Begin K-5, 7 & 8
- 16 2hr Early Out

- 7 2hr Early Out
- 12 No School K-12 Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 15 No School K-12- MEA Break
- 16 No School K-12- MEA Break

- 11 2hr Early Out
- 12 End of Quarter 1
- 13 No School K-12
- 24 No School K-5
- 25 No School K-12
- 26 No School K-12
- Thanksgiving Day
- 27 No School K-12

- 9 2hr Early Out
- 23 No School K-12
- 24 No School K-12
- 25 No School K-12 Christmas Day
- 28 No School K-12
- 29 No School K-12
- 30 No School K-12
- 31 No School K-12



Mankato Area Public Schools - Independent School District #77

2027-2028 Student Calendar - Draft

July

July 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January

- 12 2hr Early Out
- 17 No School K-12 MLK Jr. Day
- 21 End of Quarter 2
- 24 No School K-12

August

August 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

February

- 9 2hr Early Out
- 28 No School K-12 Eid

September

September 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

March 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March

- 3 No School K-5
- 8 2hr Early Out
- 27 End of Quarter 3
- 27 No School K-8
- 29 No School K-12
- 29 No School K-12
- 30 No School K-12
- 31 No School K-12

October

October 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

April

- 12 2hr Early Out
- 14 No School K-12 Good Friday

November

November 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May

- 10 2hr Early Out
- 29 No School K-12 Memorial Day
- 31 Central Graduation 5pm at Lincoln Community Center

December

December 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June

- 1 End of Quarter 4
- 1 Classes End Grades K-12
- 1 East/West HS Graduation
- Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center
- East HS - 5:30PM
- West HS - 8PM

- 8 2hr Early Out
- 23 No School K-12
- 24 No School K-12 Christmas Day (Observed on)
- 27 No School K-12
- 28 No School K-12
- 29 No School K-12
- 30 No School K-12
- 31 No School K-12 New Year's Day (Observed on)

School Board Regular Meeting

3. B.

Meeting Date: 01/20/2026

Prepared By: Amanda Heilman, Director of Business Services

Subject:

Approval of January Bills

Background:

At our meeting on Tuesday evening, the administrative team will be prepared to answer any questions you might have regarding the report on claims and accounts for January. The total of the bills for January of 2026 is \$11,597,124.51.

Recommended Action:

The claims are recommended for payment as presented.

School Board Regular Meeting

3. C.

Meeting Date: 01/20/2026

Prepared By: John Lustig, Director of Administrative Services

Subject:

Personnel

Background:

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Kasey Hassig - Teacher in the Elementary Excel After School Program for up to 2.25 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) beginning December 16, 2025, and ending April 7, 2026. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Ter Biel - Interpreter for the District on an on-call basis beginning January 5, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$25.00 per hour.

Graham Christianson - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Futures for 4.5 hours per week/3 days per week (M/W/F) and 4.75 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) beginning January 21, 2026. He will be placed at classification B22.5, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Skylar Frolke - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at SUN for 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning January 12, 2026. She will be placed at classification B22.5, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Ella Haggerty - Early Learning Special Education Paraeducator at MAPS Center for Learning for 3 hours per day/5 days per week beginning January 26 and ending May 18, 2026. She 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 her ACES Child Care Assistant assignment at Roosevelt Elementary School.

Madison Huper - ACES Child Care Assistant at Roosevelt Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning January 16, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Jean Bosco Ntirenganya - MLL Paraeducator at East High School for 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning January 21, and ending May 20, 2026. He will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Danielle Steckler - Early Learning Special Education Paraeducator at MAPS Center for Learning for 3 hours per day/1 day per week (F) beginning January 16, 2026. She 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 her Early Learning Classroom Aide assignment.

Marlee Whittlef - Early Learning Special Education Paraeducator at MAPS Center for Learning for 5.25 hours per day/1 day per week (M) and 6.5 hours per day/3 days per week (W-F) beginning January 12, 2026. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Mitchel Pomije - Increase in assignment as Contract Substitute Teacher at East High School from 0.50 FTEs to 1.00 FTEs beginning January 20, 2026.

Sarah Thursby - Increase in assignment as English Language Arts at East High School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.083 FTEs for the 2nd semester of the 2025-26 school year.

Amber Waibel - Increase in assignment as English Language Arts at East High School from 1.00 FTEs to 1.083 FTEs for the 2nd semester of the 2025-26 school year.

Jennifer Wade - Change in assignment from Long-term Substitute Teacher to Contract Substitute Teacher at Monroe Elementary School beginning August 27, 2025, and ending May 26, 2026.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Joselyn Ellis - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Prairie Winds Middle School from 6.67 hours per day/5 days per week to 6.67 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) and 3.42 hours per day/1 day per week (TH) beginning January 13, 2026.

Danielle Fisher - Correction - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Futures from 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week to 6.5 hours per day/3 days per week (M/T/TH) beginning September 26, 2025.

Jace Liebl - Adjust start date to January 7, 2026, as Student Success Coach at West High School.

Jace Liebl - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Student Success Coach at West High School from 4.25 hours per day/2 days per week (M/W) and 6.75 hours per day/3 days per week (T/TH/F) to 6 hours per day/3 days per week (T/TH/F) and 3.75 hours per day/2 days per week (M/W) beginning January 12, 2026.

Elizabeth Miedtke - Increase in assignment as Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Prairie Winds Middle School from 7 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) and 4.75 hours per day/1 day per week (TH) to 7 hours per day/5 days per week beginning January 12, 2026.

Amalia Sanchez - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning from 6.5 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) and 6 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) to 3 hours per day/4 days per week (M/T/TH/F) and 5 hours per day/1 day per week (W) beginning January 12, 2026.

Piper Sandvik - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning from 6.25 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) and 3 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) to 6.5 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) beginning January 12, 2026.

Lisa Smith - Increase in assignment as Early Learning Special Education Paraeducator from 6.5 hours per day/3 days per week (T-TH) at MAPS Center for Learning to 7.25 hours per day/3 days per week (T-TH) at MAPS Center for Learning and Eagle Lake Elementary School beginning January 13, 2026.

Danielle Steckler - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning from 6 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) to 3 hours per day/2 days per week beginning January 12, 2026. This is in addition to her Early Learning Special Education Paraeducator assignment.

Abigail Thole - Increase in assignment as 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) to 6.75 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) beginning January 12, 2026.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Hannah Meyer - Extend Board-approved leave, returning to work March 5, 2026.

Margarita Santillan - Cook Helper at Monroe Elementary School, has requested unpaid leave beginning January 15 and returning to work on January 28, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Denise Geistfeld - ADSIS Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be May 27, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Tatiana Garcia - Rescind acceptance as Early Learning Classroom Aide. She will continue as Interpreter for the District.

Sharon Soliz-Arndt - Student Success Coach at Rosa Parks, District Interpreter, and Youth Sports Coach, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be January 16, 2026.

Recommended Action:

The Administration recommends the approval of the personnel items.
