

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

April 6, 2026

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, April 6, in the Minnesota Valley Room - Intergovernmental Center. Chair Sinning called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker (left 8:09-8:10 pm), Elizabeth Hanke, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt, Liz Ratcliff, Erin Roberts and Shannon Sinning. Members absent: None.

Mrs. Pratt made a motion, and Mrs. Ratcliff seconded, approval of the agenda together with a Personnel Addendum. The motion carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

MAPS Student Spotlight: Kathryn Huisken - East High School

MAPS Staff Spotlight: Mary Kate Lewis Piroso - Adult Basic Education

Public Comment: Six people wished to speak.

Information Reports: Reading/Literacy Curriculum Study presented by Director of Teaching and Learning Travis Olson, Roosevelt Principal Michelle Kruize, Washington Principal Ann Haggerty, 2017 Operating Referendum Renewal Process presented by Director of Business Services Amanda Heilman, and First Reading of Revised Policies presented by Director of Administrative Services John Lustig, Board Member Workshop/Committee/Student Reports.

Winter Student/Staff Recognition presented by Activities Directors Eric Dahlman and Todd Waterbury:

The following East High students are recognized for their accomplishments during the Winter season:

Girls Hockey

- Section 2AAA Champions and State Participants
- Big 9 Conference Champions
- Silver Team Academic Award (3.73)
 - Merit Grundei
 - Reagan Steindl
 - Ella Quist
 - Keegan Beckendorf
 - Laina Peterson – MSHSCA All-State Selection
 - Hattie Dahms
 - Lexi Erickson
 - Brielle Newton – MSHSCA Academic All-State
 - Maddie Scheel
 - Kira Prange
 - Ava Tibodeau

- Ella Fugazzi
- Jenna Borgmeier
- Jillian Borgmeier
- Emerson Asher
- Grace Campbell
- Ella Hudspeth - MSHSCA Academic All-State
- August Beltz
- Makenzie Juliar
- Ilamay Draheim
- Student Managers – Avery Hoffman and Taylor Schilling

Boys Basketball

- Section 2AAA Champions
- State Tournament Class AAA Consolation Champion
 - Caden Jacobs
 - Amari Nobles
 - Blake Kamphoff
 - Lucas Gustafson – MSHSCA All-Star Game Selection
 - Abdullahi Mohamed
 - Mason Diede
 - Blake Grovom
 - Gavin Hering
 - Austin Beaty
 - Colton McCormick
 - Owen Dahl
 - Jack Hinrichs
 - Remaech Gillo
 - Griffin Schott
 - Briggs Meyer – MSHSL All-Tournament Team Selection
 - Eli Edberg
 - Braden Petzel
 - Student Managers – Liliana Steinbach, Tessa Hermel and Carson Daggett

Adapted Floor Hockey

- Section Champions and State Runner-Up
 - Kellen Britz
 - Oliver Dowd
 - Silas Visker
 - Jak Okumo
 - Jack O'Hara
 - Travis Peterson
 - Marcus Sierra

Wrestling

- MSHSCA Gold Team Academic Award Winner (3.82 GPA)
 - Max Morgan – 189lb State Qualifier (Runner-Up)
 - MSHSCA All-State Selection
 - Jackson Stensrud – 127lb State Qualifier

- Bennett Blom – 172lb State Qualifier
- Tyler Thilges – 215lb State Qualifier

Gymnastics

- Section 2A Champions
- MSHSCA Gold Team Academic Award
 - Aubrey Britz
 - Individual State Participant – Vault (19th Place), Balance Beam (28th Place) & Floor (12th Place)
 - All-State – Floor and Beam
 - All-State Honorable Mention - Vault, Bars and All Around
 - Kaitlyn Rigdon
 - Individual State Participant – Vault (14th Place), Bars (6th Place), Beam (11th Place), Floor (8th Place) and All-Around (5th Place)
 - All-State Elite Recipient
 - All-State – Bars, Beam, Floor and All Around
 - All-State Honorable Mention - Vault
 - Nora Javens
 - Individual State Participant – Balance Beam (21st Place)
 - All-State Honorable Mention – Vault and Bars
 - Teegan Mullikin
 - Individual State Participant – Vault (17th Place)
 - All-State – Vault
 - All-State Honorable Mention – Balance Beam and Floor
 - Molly Rorvig
 - All-State Honorable Mention – Bars, Balance Beam and Floor
 - Alayna Mickelson
 - All-State Honorable Mention – Bars
 - Cece Elvebak
 - All-State Honorable Mention – Floor
 - Kailynn Thul
 - All-State Honorable Mention – Bars

Boys Swim & Dive

- 19th Place at State Meet
- MSHSCA Gold Team Academic Award
 - 200 Medley Relay: Elam Asker, Seth Pollema, Elliot Bartell & Nolan Bleck (17th Place)
 - 100 Butterfly: Elliot Bartell (State Champion) All-State
 - 500 Freestyle: Elam Asker (10th Place)
 - 200 Freestyle Relay: Elam Asker, Seth Pollema, Elliot Bartell & Nolan Bleck (21st Place)
 - 100 Backstroke: Elliot Bartell (State Runner-up) All State

VEX Robotics

- **Sky High (Team 9457S)** - State Qualifiers
 - ParticiKamren Hines, Olive Purrier, Drew Purrier, Sara Reza, Samuel Matson
- **Wolfram (Team 9457W)** - State Qualifier

- Dalton Anderson, Khya Culbertson, Parker Hermel, Alaina Kittleson, Cadyn Thul, Maya Wood
- **Spongebot Spareparts (Team 9457Z)** - State Qualifiers
 - Garrett Chatleain, Isaac Megard, Noah Altomari, Preston Thomas, Peyton Frauendienst
- **Why? (Team 9457Y)** - State Qualifiers
 - Cashel Thill, Nicholas Willaert, Blake Thielsen, Jonah Krenz, Joshua Larsen, Taylor Reuter, Evan Verly
- **Middle School – Rubber Ducky Warriors (Team 10001C)** - State & World Qualifiers
 - Jeremy Larsen, Lukas Budge, Evan Escorza, Noah Gale, Micah Netterlund, Nolan Kent
- **Middle School – Enter Dragon (Team 10001M)** - State & World Qualifiers
 - Jackson Johnson, Keegan Burger, Jayden Berdahl, Owen Wacker, Aaron Skarhus, Chase Conroy

DECA

- State Participants
 - Aidan Burns
 - Eli Edberg
 - Norah Finch
 - Blake Kamphoff
 - Abdullah Khan
 - Ryan Kim
 - Logan Kleist
 - Boston Meyer
 - Dawson Miller
 - Jada Sivertsen
 - Liam Slotemaker
 - Hayden Tischler
 - Maya Wood

The following West High students are recognized for their accomplishments during the Winter season:

Adapted Floor Hockey

- Section Champions and state participant
- 2nd Place at State
- State Meet Qualifiers: Nicholas Hernandez, Semaji Scurlock, Damaria Pickett, Taylor Tokheim, Alex Daberkow

Girls Basketball

- MSHSCA Team Academic Gold Award
- Academic All-State - Maven Coey, Zoe Williams, Livi Downs
- All State Honorable Mention- Livi Downs

Gymnastics

- Academic Gold Team Award- Team GPA 3.9
- Section 2A Runner Up

- State participants:
 - Maria Hagen
 - All Around- 2nd place
 - Vault- 2nd place
 - Uneven Bars- 2nd place
 - Balance Beam- 3rd place
 - Floor Exercise- 1st place State Champion
 - Aoife Rooney
 - Balance Beam- 14th place
 - Stevi Enter
 - Floor Exercise- 21st place
- All State/All State Honorable Mention
- Maria Hagen- All State: Vault, Bars, Beam, Floor, and All Around
- Aoife Rooney- All State Honorable Mention: Vault and Beam
- Ava Olson- All State Honorable Mention: Floor Exercise and Bar
- Maddison Hoechst - All State Honorable Mention: Floor Exercise
- Stevi Enter - All State : Floor Exercise
 - All State Honorable Mention: Beam, Vault

Boys Hockey

- Section 3A Academic Champions (Team GPA 3.65)
- Section 3A Champions and 6th place at State
 - Mason Schreiber
 - Carson Brelje
 - Blake Rewitzer
 - Rickey Enter
 - Keaton Dorzek
 - Brooks Baukol
 - Jaxson Zimmerman
 - Jackson Starke
 - Weston Grassmann
 - Grady Schmidt
 - Brayden Keech
 - Kipton Keech
 - Cambell Barrett
 - Brodie Cox
 - Dane Hatlestad
 - Jaden Reddy
 - Joey Matson
 - Isaac Ulman
 - Jakobe Tosch
 - Blake Brekee
 - Team Managers: Ethan Naylor, Jacob Kane, Hudson Clarksean
- Head Coach: Nate Olsen: Class A Coach of the Year

Alpine Ski

- State Participants
 - Garrett Pooley- 10th place

- Abby Hagen- 59th place

Boys Swim and Dive

- 24th as a team at state meet
- State Participants: Isaac Sanderson, Corbin Diechman, Sam Simmons, Trey Sabatka, Kaid Maxwell, Wyatt Bartell, Ian Ray, Wyatt Bartell, Sam Kunkel
- State Meet
 - 1 Meter Diving: Corbin Deichman 12th
 - 100 Yard Butterfly: Wyatt Bartell 16th
 - 100 Yard Backstroke: Sam Kunkel 14th
 - 100 Yard Breaststroke: Sam Simmons 12th
 - 400 Yard Freestyle Relay: Isaac Sanderson, Trey Sabatka, Corbin Deichman, Ian Ray 13th

Wrestling

- Team Academic All-State Silver Award (Team GPA 3.4)

DECA

- State Participants
 - Alex Barten
 - Harper Simonson
 - Jaden Huynh
 - Annie Essay
 - Blake Brekke
 - Emmitt Rentas
 - Harrison Velasquez
 - Kipton Keech
 - Marina Honnette
 - Noah Wersal
 - Violet Bhardwaj
 - Aiden Lawton
 - Aunika Barten
 - Brodie Cox
 - Brynley Bellig
 - Courtney O'Connor
 - Jakobe Tosch
 - Keaton Dorzek
 - Maleah Giesen
 - Osborne Lorenz
 - Penny Gorman
 - Taylor Fitzloff
 - Taytum Fromm
 - Corbin Deichman
 - Gus Schweim
 - Issac Ulman
 - Luci Velasquez
 - Mason Schreiber
 - Olivia Downs

- Ryan Hendrickson
- Vanessa Rodewald
- Salma Muse
- Amina Nior
- State Finalists - Courtney O'Connor, Luci Velasques, Meleah Giesen, Penny Gorman, Amina Nor
- Advancing to ICDC: Amina Nor 3rd place Start Up Business Plan
- 2026-2027 State Officer for MN DECA: VP of Digital Engagement - Courtney O'Connor

Math League

- State Tournament
 - Joselyn Andersen, Ella Haggerty, Zichun Lin, Ansh Mohapatra, Celia Pratt Leila Pratt, and Prith Ray, Adrian Smith, Nathan Veen-Morel

Vex Robotics

- State Tournament Qualifying Teams
 - **8110A ReStart** - Ethan Mann, Dylan Jacoby, Eli Luiken
 - **8110C Alpacas** - Matthew Goblirsch, Adrian Smith
 - **8110R Geared Up** - Tobin Gangi, Charlie Vonbank, Fletcher Myer, Caleb Miller
 - **8110S Subzero** - Max Spriggs, Colten Lindsey, Prith Ray, Zichun Lin, Jack Morgan
 - **8110T Cappytech** - Walter Gaalswyk, Nathan Veen-Morel, Joselynn Andersen,
 - **8110W Whisper** - Logan Peters, Jaxson Parker,
 - **8110Z R.I.P. Tide** - Hudson Long, Mason Martirock, Dylan Tholen
- 10 Straight State Championship
- State Champions: 8110S Subzero & 8110W Whisper
- State Semifinalists: 8110A ReStart, 8110C Alpacas, 8110T Cappytech
- 2nd Place Robot Skills (52nd in the World): 8110W Whisper
- Amaze Award: 8110S Subzero
- Build Award: 8110W Whisper
- Judges Award: 8110C Alpacas
- World's Tournament Qualifying Teams
 - ReStart
 - Alpacas
 - Subzero
 - Cappytech
 - Whisper

Triple A Award

- Damian Dieken
- Lydia Banse

Excel Award

- Brodie Cox
- Claire Roering

The consent agenda items outlined below were approved on a motion by Mrs. Ratcliff, seconded by Ms. Roberts, and carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes of the March 16, 2026, regular Board meeting.

Personnel:

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Andie Albers - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Mymique Baxter - Part-time (0.50 FTE) Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Interventionist at Dakota Meadows Middle School beginning March 11 and ending May 26, 2026. She will be placed at step 7 of the PhD lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule. This is in addition to her PEEK Teacher assignment at Dakota Meadows Middle School.

Cadence Flolo - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Mya Harrington - Long-term Substitute Teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School beginning April 7, and ending May 4, 2026. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Emily Price - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Speech Language Pathologist, site to be determined, beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 2 of the M+45 lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Clare Sallstrom - Part-time (0.80 FTE) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Jennifer Tourville - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Occupational Therapist with the District beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the M+45 lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Amber Volkman - Temporary assignment as part-time Title I Reading Interventions Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 3.25 hours per day/5 days per week beginning March 23, and ending May 8, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule. This is in addition to her Substitute Teacher assignment.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Mataya Bolander - ACES Child Care Assistant at Bridges Community School for 3-4 hours per day/1 day per week beginning April 1, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.25 per hour.

Beverly Engelby - Early Learning Special Education Paraeducator at MAPS Center for Learning for 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning March 26, 2026. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Easton Farley - ACES Child Care Assistant at Jefferson Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning March 19, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$15.25 per hour for this assignment. This is in addition to his Food Service Substitute assignment.

Sarah Jordan - Student Associate Worker at Central High School on an as needed basis beginning September 8 and ending November 17, 2025. She will be compensated at the rate of \$11.41 per hour.

Alethea Juliar - 8-hour, 12-month Evening Custodian at Hoover Elementary School beginning April 20, 2026. She will be placed at classification A13, step 2, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Aabry Kennedy Casanova - Correction - Community Education Site Operations and Safety Associate at Lincoln Community Center and MAPS Center for Learning for up to 20 hours per week beginning March 4, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour. This is in addition to her ABE Student Worker assignment at Lincoln Community Center.

Courtney Kovacs - ACES Child Care Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning March 31, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Noura Kurdi - ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning April 1, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$17.50 per hour for this assignment. This is in addition to her Special Education Paraeducator at Kennedy Elementary School and ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute assignments.

Dinh-Bao Lam - ABE Teaching Assistant at Lincoln Community Center for 2.25 hours per day/2 days per week (T/W) beginning June 9 and ending July 29, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$17.00 per hour. This is in addition to his ABE Teaching Assistant Substitute assignment.

Jose Martinez - 8-hour, 12-month Evening Floating Custodian with the District beginning March 31, 2026. He will be placed at classification A13, step 2, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Sophia Matarrese - ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning April 1, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of 16.00 per hour. This is in addition to her ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute assignment.

Delaney Murphy - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning for 5 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) beginning March 19, 2026. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Garmunee Phillips - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning March 23, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$16.25 per hour.

Emmalie Shaffer - ACES Child Care Assistant at Franklin Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/3 days per week beginning March 23, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.25 per hour.

Kelsey Surret - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning for 4 hours per day/3 days per week (T-TH) beginning March 31, 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 assignment at Rosa Parks Elementary School.

Abigail Thole - ACES Site Lead Substitute on an on-call basis beginning March 16, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$18.75 per hour. This is in addition to her Special Education Paraeducator and ACES Child Care Assistant assignments at Rosa Parks Elementary School.

Benjamin Winans - Special Education Paraeducator at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 3 hours per day/5 days per week beginning March 30, 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 Non-classroom Paraeducator and Student Success Coach assignments at Eagle Lake Elementary School.

Margaret Wood - Building Supervisor at MAPS Center for Learning on an as-needed basis beginning March 18, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$19.00 per hour. This is in addition to her Early Learning Classroom Aide assignment at MAPS Center for Learning.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Ann Arndt - Change in classification as HR Generalist from B22 on the Educational Secretaries Association to Non-affiliated with an annual salary of \$54,000 (prorated to \$13,448.27 for 65 days for 2025-26) beginning April 1, 2026. She will be eligible for Category II benefits.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Theresa Calsbeek - Temporary increase in assignment as Title I Intervention Teacher at Jefferson Elementary School from 0.70 FTE to 0.90 FTE beginning March 24, and ending May 26, 2026.

Carrie Nolan - Adjust salary step placement as Special Education Teacher at Prairie Winds Middle School from B step 1 to B step 3 beginning January 29, 2026.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Chandler Hassing - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant beginning March 2, 2026.

Maryam Mohamud - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Kennedy Elementary School from 6.25 hours per day/4 days per week (M/W/TH/F) to 6.25 hours per day/3 days per week (M/TH/F) and 5.25 hours per day/1 day per week (T) beginning March 25, 2026.

Ronnez Morris - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute beginning April 1, 2026.

Jane Phares - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute beginning April 1, 2026.

Madeline Saye - Increase hourly rate to \$16.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant at Kennedy Elementary School beginning April 1, 2026. This is in addition to her Student Success Coach assignment at Kennedy Elementary School.

Vivien Schmoll - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant at Monroe Elementary School beginning April 1, 2026.

Brandon Soderquist - Change in assignment from 5-hour, 12-month, Night Custodian at East High School to 8-hour, 12-month Evening Custodial at Dakota Meadows Middle School beginning March 23, 2026. He will be compensated according to his placement on the Minnesota School Employees Association salary schedule.

Claire Westendorf - Change in assignment From ACES Student Support Assistant at Rosa Parks Elementary School to ACES Student Support Substitute on an on-call basis beginning March 16, 2026. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead Substitute assignment at Rosa Parks Elementary School.

McKenzie Wilkins - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute beginning April 1, 2026.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Brittany Boyum - Teacher currently on Board-approved leave has requested unpaid leave for the 2026-27 school year.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Scott Hogen - Facilities Bond Project Manager with the District, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be June 30, 2026.

Abigail Lang - Operations & Program Support Assistant Specialist with Community Education, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be April 3, 2026.

Logan Schlader - Building Technology Assistant at Prairie Winds Middle School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 21, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Emily Dauk - Mathematics Teacher at East High School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Jessica Dowd - Teacher currently on leave, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Kim Hermer - Work-Based Learning Teacher at East High School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Karen Mehlhaff - 5th Grade Teacher at Monroe Elementary School, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be May 27, 2026.

Sarah Myer - Art Teacher at Futures and Prairie Winds Middle School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Katherine Rieck - Kindergarten Teacher at Franklin Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

David Ruiz - Teacher currently on leave, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Emily Seppmann - Special Education Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Alexia Thomas - Special Education Teacher at Kennedy Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Katelyn Wilson - Teacher currently on leave, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Elsie Bennett - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Mallory Bruhn - ACES Child Care Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Ryan Eichhorst - ACES Child Care Assistant at Kennedy Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Jadelyn Jackson - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Mercy Nyamari - ACES Child Care Assistant at Franklin Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 18, 2026.

Jill Petersen - Healthcare Paraeducator (RN) at MAPS Center for Learning, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026. She will continue as a Healthcare Substitute.

Max Phares - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Julie Schwamberger - Second Cook at Eagle Lake Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day for this assignment will be March 27, 2026. She will continue as a Food Service Substitute.

Kiera Swenson - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day for this assignment will be March 22, 2026. She will continue as English Language Arts Teacher at East High School.

NON-RENEWAL (INSTRUCTIONAL)

The Board is asked to formalize the non-renewal of employment for educators currently holding Tier 1 licenses and those serving in Contract Substitute positions. Under the terms of their employment, shall be non-renewed at the close of the 2025-26 school year effective May 26, 2026.

Joni Biebighauser, Jazanne Brass, Nicholas Campbell, Jacob Dolter, Allyson Gotz, Charles Johnston, Maria Paulsen, Mithchel Pomije, Charles Reilly, Ruth Stark, Maria Stock, Jennifer Wade, Amanda Wolff, Brittany Wundermachen

Personnel – Addendum

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Zachary Benzkofer - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 24, 2026. He will be placed at step 4 of the B+15 lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Kay Dedinsky - Long-term Substitute Teacher at Franklin Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary Schools beginning April 6, and ending May 18, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the B+30 lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Emma McLees - Full-time (1.00 FTE) 5th Grade Teacher at Hoover Elementary School beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 3 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Emma Portner - Full-time (1.00 FTE) 5th Grade Teacher at Bridges Community School beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Jennifer Sundermeyer - Long-term Substitute Teacher at Monroe Elementary School beginning April 15, and ending May 18, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

The following will be teachers in the Central High Summer School Program for 3.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning June 1 and ending July 2, 2026. They will be compensated according to their placement on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Frederick Berg, Zachary Blasing, Jeremy Burger, David Burgess, Heather Fitzsimmons, Heather Gilman, Russell Groebner, Jeffery Helget, Laura Januschka, Crystal Kay, Amanda Kline, Amanda Knode Abel, Jessica Larsen, TerRon Lee, Aaron Miller, Sherry Miller, Jordan Petersen, Jesse Pigman, Rebecca Sellers, Michael Sipe, Daniel Toegel, Kristin Van Otterloo, Amber Waibel, Matthew Weichert, Anna Wirth, Christopher Wollmuth

The following will be teachers with the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program for 4.5 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) beginning July 6 and ending July 30, 2026. They will be compensated according to their placement on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Brianne Eldred, Kellie French, Emily Hudspith, Amanda Kline, Jesse Pigman, Jacob Rux

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Sheena Blodgett - 5-hour, 12-month, Night Custodian at East High School beginning April 6, 2026. She will be placed at classification A13, step 2, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Alex Nelson - Special Education Paraeducator at Roosevelt Elementary School for 6.25 hours per day/4 days per week (M/T/TH/F) beginning April 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.

Iveth Quiroz Rios - Temporary Summer Assignment as ABE Teaching Assistant for 2.25 hours per day/2 evenings per week (T/W) beginning July 9 and ending July 29, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$17.00 per hour for this assignment. This is in addition to her Childcare Assistant Teacher assignment at Lincoln Logs Learning Center.

Iveth Quiroz Rios - Temporary Summer Assignment as ABE Teaching Assistant for 3.25 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) beginning July 6 and ending July 30, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$17.00 per hour for this assignment. This is in addition to her Childcare Assistant Teacher assignment at Lincoln Logs Learning Center.

The following will be Paraeducators with the Central High School Summer School Program for 3 hours per day/5 days per week beginning June 1 and ending July 2, 2026. They will be compensated according to their placement on the Minnesota School Employees Association salary schedule.

Rebecca Lee

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Abbie Perry - Increase in assignment as Student Success Coach at Kennedy Elementary School from 6.25 hours per day/3 days per week (M/TH/F) to 6.25 hours per day/5 days per week beginning April 6, 2026.

Abigail Teigen - Temporary change in assignment from Health & Wellness Paraeducator, classification B22.5, at Futures to Special Education Paraeducator, classification B22, at Franklin Elementary School beginning March 17, and ending March 30, 2026. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Minnesota School Employees Association salary schedule.

Hiroko Wollam - Temporary increase in assignment as ABE Teaching Assistant with Adult Basic Education at Lincoln Community Center from 1423 annual hours to 1445 annual hours beginning April 1, and ending May 20, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Megan Fitzloff - Elementary Art Teacher at Bridges Community School and Roosevelt Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Jennifer Malwitz - Special Education Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be July 24, 2026.

Madalyn Olmanson - 1st Grade Teacher at Kennedy Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Olivia Weisbecker - English Language Arts Teacher at West High School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Amya Baasch - ACES Child Care Assistant at Kennedy Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 18, 2026.

Shay Barden - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 26, 2026.

Kennedy Boerboom - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 18, 2026.

Emily Carrera - Kitchen Float Cook Helper at Prairie Winds Middle School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 31, 2026.

Carson Daggett - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 18, 2026.

Ameina Haines - American Indian Community Liaison and Program Specialist with the District, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 29, 2026.

Colby Hartig - ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Saarah Hassan - ACES Student Support Assistant at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 18, 2026.

Kaylee Hed - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 25, 2026.

Addison Houn - ACES Child Care Assistant at Kennedy Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be April 30, 2026.

Lola Jones - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 18, 2026.

Corissa Kerger - ACES Child Care Assistant at Washington Elementary School and Middle School After School Leader at Dakota Meadows Middle School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Layaunna Martinez-Sawatsky - ACES Child Care Assistant at Roosevelt Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 18, 2026.

Hayden Tischler - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 31, 2026.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Ratcliff and seconded by Mr. Kind 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:

- Tokyo Sushi & Hibachi donated \$1,000 for Bridges Community School
- Post Consumer Brands, LLC donated \$10,000 for Washington Elementary School
- Amy Netterlund donated \$2,000 for Prairie Winds VEX Robotics Program
- Mankato Ballet Company donated \$920 for Districtwide 2nd Grade Field Trip to the Ballet for Transportation
- Todd & Amy Loosbrock donated \$1,500 for Bennett Loosbrock Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Kyle Baynes donated \$16,182.28 for Jefferson Elementary Wolf Ridge Field Trip

On March 24th at 2:00pm, two (2) bids were received for the Mankato Area Public Schools 2026 Site Hard Surface Improvements Projects (see page _____). The low bidder is W.W. Blacktopping, Inc., from Mankato, Minnesota. The low bid is approximately 5% below the Engineers Estimate. Based on past performance on similar projects in previous years, it is our opinion that W.W. Blacktopping, Inc., is qualified to perform the work required under this

contract. We hereby recommend that W.W. Blacktopping, Inc. be awarded the project for a contract amount of \$326,905.65. This will be funded through '27 LTFM Funds. Mrs. Pratt made a motion to accept the bid as recommended and Ms. Roberts seconded the motion. The motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

During the informational portion of tonight's meeting, the details of the selection process were presented supporting the approval request. The administration recommends the approval of the purchase of Arts and Letters as the Reading/Literacy Curriculum. Mrs. Pratt made a motion to approve the purchase of Arts and Letters as the Reading/Literacy Curriculum as recommended and Mrs. Ratcliff seconded the motion. The motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

Part of the normal staffing process is the adoption of a resolution relating to the termination/non-renewal of the teaching contract of probationary teachers. A motion was made by Ms. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Kind to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, are probationary teachers in Independent School District No. 77, Tier 2, Tier 3 & Tier 4 Miranda Ankrum, Corinne Ave' Lallemand, Mymique Baxter, Amanda Brown, Taylor Campbell, Brittany Cline, Angela Enderle, Cindy Gawrych, Alexander Gilbertson, Lejla Hashmi, Christine Karst, Danielle Kastenschmidt, Chris Nguyen, Carrie Nolan, Brandon Pashina, Lindsey Pratt, Robert Ross, Kristine Schimek, Joezet Shirley Schrag, Alyssa Surret, Megan Van Beek, Hannah Van Otterloo, Katherine Wangenstein, Christopher Willette

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 77 that pursuant to Minnesota Statute 122A.40 Sub. division 5, and Minnesota Statute 122A.44 Subdivision 2 that the teaching contracts of Tier 2, Tier 3 & Tier 4 Miranda Ankrum, Corinne Ave' Lallemand, Mymique Baxter, Amanda Brown, Taylor Campbell, Brittany Cline, Angela Enderle, Cindy Gawrych, Alexander Gilbertson, Lejla Hashmi, Christine Karst, Danielle Kastenschmidt, Chris Nguyen, Carrie Nolan, Brandon Pashina, Lindsey Pratt, Robert Ross, Kristine Schimek, Joezet Shirley Schrag, Alyssa Surret, Megan Van Beek, Hannah Van Otterloo, Katherine Wangenstein, Christopher Willette are hereby terminated and shall be non-renewed at the close of the 2025-26 school year effective May 26, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that written notice be sent to said teachers regarding termination and non-renewal of their contracts and assignments as provided by law.

The motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

On March 24th at 2:00pm, five (5) General Contractor bids were received for the Mankato Area Public Schools 2026 Health Clinic Space Renovations (see page _____). The administrative team and ISG recommends that the bids as submitted on the attachment in a total amount of \$275,00.00 be accepted by the School Board. Mrs. Pratt made a motion to accept the bid as recommended and Ms. Roberts seconded the motion. The motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Kind made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Roberts approval of the 9% increase in health insurance premiums, carve out of the pharmacy benefit plan to Crumdale and Express

Scripts, and the adjustment of the CDHP 3300 deductible to \$3,400 for self-only and family coverage per federal regulations. The motion was carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

The monthly rates will be as follows:

PLAN	SINGLE	FAMILY
Basic +	\$1,759.00	\$4,738.00
\$750 CMM	\$1,414.00	\$3,731.00
\$3400 CDHP	\$1,196.00	\$3,161.00
\$6350 CDHP	\$ 952.00	\$2,515.00

Below are the recommended monthly renewal rates as determined by Delta Dental and the District's Employee Insurance Committee. This represents no changes for the 2026-27 year.

Single \$41.71

Family \$103.38

A voluntary dental program has been implemented to provide optional dental insurance benefits for employee groups that previously did not have access to group dental insurance plans. There is no employer contribution to the plan. The Voluntary Plan is a fully insured plan. This represents a 9.83% increase with rates guaranteed through 6/30/28.

Single	\$38.64
Single + 1	\$79.30
Family	\$127.46

The 2026-2027 Dental Program rates shown above were approved on a motion by Mrs. Ratcliff and seconded by Ms. Roberts. The motion carried on a 7-0 voice vote.

Amanda Heilman reviewed the recommended revised 2025-2026 budget for Mankato Area Public Schools programs. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the revised budgets as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pratt and carried on a 7-0 roll call vote. Approval of the revised 2025-2026 budgets will change the individual fund totals as follows, as compared to the FY 26 Preliminary Budget which was board approved in June 2025:

1. General Fund Revenues from \$127,316,503 to \$129,999,663.
2. General Fund Expenditures from \$128,358,681 to \$130,505,097.
3. Food Service Revenues from \$6,718,310 to \$6,131,500.
4. Food Service Expenditures from \$7,372,755 to \$7,171,591.
5. Community Service Fund Revenues from \$7,849,816 to \$7,834,104.
6. Community Service Fund Expenditures from \$7,460,948 to \$8,265,412.
7. Construction Fund Revenues from \$1,200,000 to \$2,015,000.
8. Construction Fund Expenditures from \$29,199,101 to \$29,199,720.
9. Debt Service Revenue from \$16,559,992 to \$16,463,792.

There being no further business to consider, Ms. Roberts moved and Mr. Baker seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 p.m., on a 7-0 voice vote.

Clerk _____

Attest:

Chairperson _____

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

April 6, 2026

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, April 6, in the Minnesota Valley Room - Intergovernmental Center. Chair Sinning called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker (left 8:09-8:10 pm), Elizabeth Hanke, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt, Liz Ratcliff, Erin Roberts and Shannon Sinning. Members absent: None.

1. Pratt/Ratcliff approval of agenda with personnel addendum. 7-0
2. MAPS Student Spotlight - Kathryn Huisken
3. MAPS Staff Spotlight - Mary Kate Lewis Piroso
4. Public Comment – Six people wished to speak.
5. Information: Winter Student/Staff Recognition, Reading/Literacy Curriculum Study Presentation, 2017 Operating Referendum Renewal Process, First Reading of Revised Policies, Board Member/Student Reports.
6. Ratcliff/Roberts approval of Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes of the March 16, 2026, regular meeting; Personnel. 7-0
7. Ratcliff/Kind acceptance of gifts. 6-0
8. Pratt/Roberts approval of 2026 hard surface improvements - Dakota Meadows, Jefferson, East, Roosevelt. 7-0
9. Pratt/Ratcliff approval of purchase of Arts & Letters as Reading/Literacy Curriculum. 7-0
10. Roberts/Kind approval of resolution relating to termination/non-renewal of teaching contracts of probationary, tier 1, tier 2 and/or contract substitute teachers. 7-0
11. Pratt/Roberts approval of 2026 Health Clinic Space Renovations. 7-0
12. Kind/Roberts approval of 2026-27 employee health insurance plan & renewal rates. 7-0
13. Ratcliff/Roberts approval of 2026-27 dental program rates. 7-0
14. Baker/Pratt approval of 2025-26 revised budget. 7-0
15. Roberts/Baker adjournment at 8:25 p.m. 7-0

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.



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March 25, 2026

Mr. Scott Kaminski
Facilities Operations Manager
Independent School District No. 77
10 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1, P.O. Box 8741
Mankato, MN 56002-8741

RE: 2026 Site (Hard Surface) Improvements
Independent School District No. 77
Mankato and North Mankato, Minnesota
BMI Project No. 25X.141766

Dear Mr. Kaminski,

Bids were received and opened on Tuesday, March 24 at 11:00 am for the 2026 Site (Hard Surface) Improvement project.

The project includes the following improvements:

- Bidding Section A: Dakota Meadows Parking Lot Mill & Overlay
- Bidding Section B: Jefferson Elementary Reclaim and Reconstruct (North Parking Lot)
- Bidding Section C: Mankato East High School Seal Coating & Crack Filling
- Bidding Section D: Roosevelt Elementary Seal Coat & Fog Seal

Two (2) bids were received, and the results of the bids are tabulated below:

Bidder	Amount Bid
W.W. Blacktopping, Inc.	\$326,905.65
Nielsen Blacktopping, Inc.	\$342,811.00
Engineer's Estimate	\$343,596.50

The low bidder is W.W. Blacktopping, Inc., from Mankato, Minnesota. The low bid is approximately 5% below the Engineers Estimate. Based on past performance on similar projects in previous years, it is our opinion that W.W. Blacktopping, Inc., is qualified to perform the work required under this contract. We hereby recommend that W.W. Blacktopping, Inc. be awarded the project for a contract amount of \$326,905.65.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Daniel R. Sarff, P.E.
Project Engineer

MARCH 27, 2026
Scott Kaminski
Director of Facilities and Safety
Mankato Area Public Schools
10 E hickory St
Mankato, MN 56001
SKamin1@isd77.org



RE: MAPS C4L & LCC RENOVATION

Scott,

This letter is in reference to the Center for Learning & Lincoln Community Center Projects and the bidding process. Plans were issued for bid on February 9, 2026, with a pre-bid meeting on both sites on March 11, 2026.

On Tuesday, March 24th, at 2:00PM we opened bids and publicly read them aloud at the ISG Mankato office. We received five prime bids in all, see attached bid tabulation sheet for reference. Of the two bids received, Knutson Construction proposed the lowest base bid of \$275,000.

ISG completed a bid verification process with Mr. Collin Bennett on March 24th. Based on that verification process, we believe Knutson Construction fully understands the project scope and schedule as provided in the bid plans and specifications and that their bid is a responsible bid.

Therefore, we recommend that the district award the Contract to Knutson Construction for the base bid amount.

Sincerely,

Kalob Hays,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Hays", is positioned below the typed name.

Kalob Hays
Project Manager

Kalob.hays@isginc.com