



AGENDA
Independent School District No. 77
Mankato, MN 56001

Monday, May 4, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
Intergovernmental Center - Mankato Room

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (5:30 P.M.)
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (5:30 P.M.)
3. MAPS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT (5:35 P.M.)
4. MAPS STAFF SPOTLIGHT (5:45 P.M.)
5. PUBLIC COMMENT (5:55 P.M.)
6. INFORMATION (6:05 P.M.)
 - A. Coordinate Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Report
 - B. Jefferson Elementary School Forest Report
 - C. Language Access Plan Report
 - D. Board Member Workshop/Committee/Student Reports
7. PUBLIC HEARING (6:55 P.M.)
 - A. 2017 Operating Referendum Renewal Plan
8. CONSENT AGENDA (7:05 P.M.)
 - A. Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2026, Regular Meeting
 - B. Personnel

9. BUSINESS (7:10 P.M.)

- A. Acceptance of Gifts and Grants
- B. Second Reading/Approval of School Board Policies
- C. Approval of Jefferson School Forest
- D. Resolution Relating to Renewal of an Expiring Referendum

10. ADJOURNMENT (7:30 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
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Term Ends December 31, 2026

Patrick Baker, Treasurer
Phone: 507-207-4028
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Term Ends December 31, 2026

Erin Roberts, Clerk
Phone: 507-207-4026
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Term Ends December 31, 2028

Elizabeth Hanke
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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



PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

The Mankato Area School Board welcomes public participation through Public Comment. Hearing from citizens is an important aspect of public service, and the School Board appreciates people sharing their views.

It is important to note that School Board meetings are business meetings held in the public. They are not public meetings nor are they a public forum. They are a business meeting of the elected representatives of the school district. The Mankato Area School Board expects that the same etiquette and decorum displayed during the business meeting be present during the Public Comment.

- Public Comment participation is limited to those individuals who wish to speak to an item on the Board agenda.
- The School Board does not comment or ask questions during Public Comment.
- Each speaker is asked to provide his/her name and city for the record.
- Each speaker is allowed three (3) minutes to speak. The Board Chair will alert speakers when their time is up. Failure to stop speaking and blatantly ignore the cue, will result in an individual losing the ability to participate in Public Comment for the next two months.
- When there is a large number of speakers, the Board Chair may modify Public Comment, such as shortening the time allotted for each speaker, adding an overall time limit, or shifting a portion of Public Comment to the end of the meeting.
- Public Comment participants are prohibited from calling out or addressing any individual School Board or school district staff member. If this occurs, Public Comment will be closed and the individual will not be allowed to participate in future Public Comments.
- Crowd noise or any sort of grandstanding during Public Comment, including applause, talking, shouting, or any outbursts will result in the Public Comment being closed.

Citizens wishing to speak are asked to fill out the form online by 3 pm the day of the meeting or complete a Visitor Registration Card (located at the door of the meeting room) and hand it to the Board Chair or Deputy Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.

Visit our Web Site at www.isd77.org

School Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes can be found at:
<https://www.isd77.org/experience/school-board/agendas-and-minutes>



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

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#MAPSready

School Board Regular Meeting

6. A.

Meeting Date: 05/04/2026

Prepared By: Paul Peterson, Superintendent

Item Type:

Subject:

Coordinate Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Report

Background:

Director of Student Support Services Samantha Steinman will present on the Coordinate Early Intervening Services.

Mankato Area Public Schools' involvement with CEIS is based on prior identification of disproportionality in suspension rates. MAPS discipline data shows continued progress in reducing disproportionality.

CEIS supports Student Success Coaches and district-wide efforts focused on positive behavior supports and reducing exclusionary discipline.

Recommended Action:

None

Attachments

Presentation



2025 – 2026

Mankato Area Public Schools CEIS Report

May 4, 2026

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MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MISSION & CORE VALUES

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

- Courage
- Student Centered
- Integrity
- Accountable
- Inclusive Practices



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
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What is Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS)?



CEIS Defined

As defined by Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), ***“Coordinated Early Intervening Services are services provided to students in kindergarten through grade 12 (with a particular emphasis on students in kindergarten through grade three) who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services, but who need additional academic and behavioral supports to succeed in a general education environment.”***

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act identifies the activities that may be included as CEIS:

- ★ Professional development for teachers and other school staff to enable such personnel to deliver scientifically based academic and behavioral interventions, including scientifically based literacy instruction, and, where appropriate, instruction on the use of adaptive and instructional software
- ★ Providing educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports, including scientifically based literacy instruction.

What is Minnesota's threshold for Mandatory CEIS/Year 3 CEIS Status?



Mandatory CEIS

- ★ An LEA will meet the state threshold for significant disproportionality in special education and be required to set aside 15% of its Part B funds under IDEA if the LEA has:
 - A **risk ratio of 3.0** or above i.e., the LEA is three times or more likely to identify, place into restrictive settings, and/or discipline students from a particular racial or ethnic group compared to all the other racial/ethnic groups within the LEA's special education programs.
 - There are close to a hundred categories a school district can be identified for CEIS. Once identified by MDE for three years in a row, school districts are required to set aside **15% of their federal special education funds**.

Mandatory CEIS: Categories in Review

Categories

A. Identification Category of Analysis: Ages 3-22

- o All Disabilities
- o Intellectual Disabilities
- o Specific Learning Disabilities
- o Emotional Behavioral Disorder
- o Speech or Language Impairments
- o Other Health Disabilities
- o Autism Spectrum Disorder

B. Placement Category of Analysis: Ages 6-21

- o Setting 3
- o Setting 4-8 (combined)

C. Discipline Category of Analysis: Ages 6-21

- o Students with up to 10 days of in-school suspensions;
- o Students with more than 10 days of in-school suspensions;
- o Students with up to 10 days of out-of-school suspensions;
- o Students with more than 10 days of out-of-school suspensions; and
- o Total Disciplinary removals.

MAPS CEIS: Identification



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Mandatory CEIS 2024–2025

In April 2025, MAPS received a notice of mandatory CEIS for significant disproportionality between suspensions of black or African American students receiving special education services.

Identification: Black or African American Students with disabilities identified as having Total Disciplinary Removals and is classified as having “Year Three” status.

Data Collected: Suspension reports and letters of identification for suspension disparities:

- Office Referrals
- Suspensions, and
- Students who have been identified through the problem-solving process.

MAPS CEIS: Goals



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CEIS: Goal 2025–2026

- ★ **Goal:** The district will reduce overall suspensions and address identified disproportionality by decreasing the risk ratio for Black and/or African American students receiving special education services from 2.11 to at or below the state threshold (e.g., 1.5–2.0) by the end of the 2025–2026 school year, while maintaining equitable discipline practices for all students.

CEIS Report



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MAPS Report : 2024–2025

- ★ As part of the district's ongoing commitment to equitable practices and compliance with federal and state requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), discipline data for the 2024–2025 school year were reviewed with a focus on students receiving special education services.

Risk Ratios: 2024–2025

Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Out-of-School Suspensions	2.689	2.017	1.741	—	2.977	3.864	4.050
Total Disciplinary Removals	3.713	1.834	1.599	3.048	5.838	4.915	4.455

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Intentional Actions



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Area	Focus	Key Intentional Actions	Impact Goal
1. System Coherence & Consistency	Aligned practices	Standardize definitions, referrals, responses – Align procedures across schools – Clear staff expectations – Consistent decision protocols	Reduce variability across buildings
2. Staff Capacity & Professional Learning	Adult skill building	Ongoing PD (culturally responsive, evidence-based, preventative) – Train Student Success Coaches – Coaching cycles for implementation	Improve staff consistency and effectiveness
3. MTSS / PBIS Systems	Proactive supports	Strengthen MTSS – Implement PBIS with fidelity – Ensure supports are proactive, consistent, accessible – Embed equity practices	Reduce need for exclusionary discipline
4. Data-Driven Decision Making	Use of data	Regular data review cycles – Analyze by school, group, behavior, context – Identify root causes – Target interventions	Focus efforts where disparities exist
5. Equity & Bias Interruption	Decision safeguards	Structured checkpoints – Admin review of referrals – Staff consultation – Monitor high-frequency referrals	Reduce bias in discipline decisions
6. Intervention Fidelity & Accountability	Implementation quality	Reinforce BIPs and interventions – Monitor fidelity – Adjust based on student response	Ensure supports actually work
7. Continuous Improvement & Engagement	Feedback & refinement	Engage families/stakeholders – Gather student voice – Ongoing improvement cycles	Sustain equitable system change
8. Training Student Success Coaches	Implementation support	Coaching and PD leadership – Data facilitation – Support consistent practices	Bridge strategy to practice

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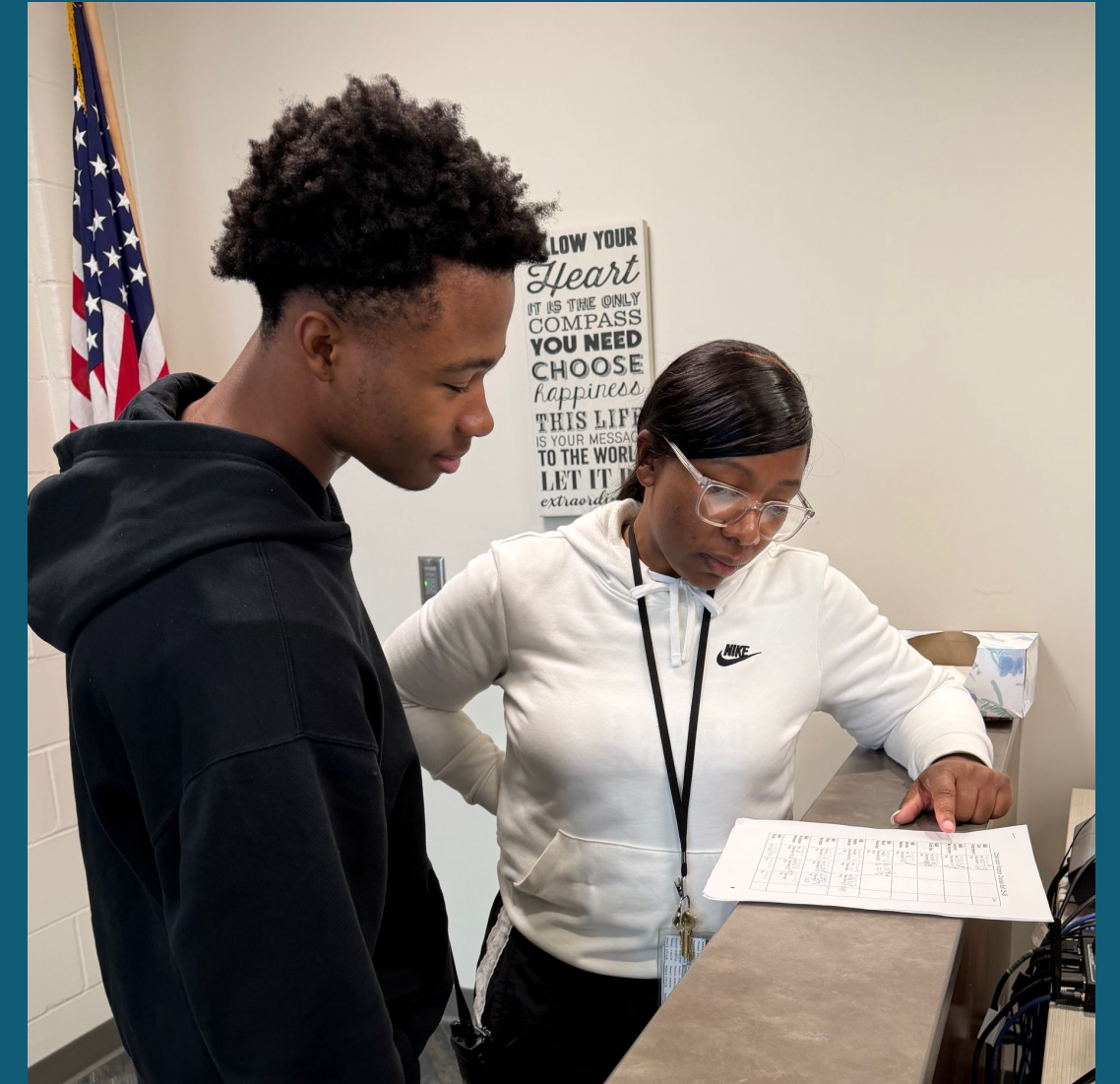
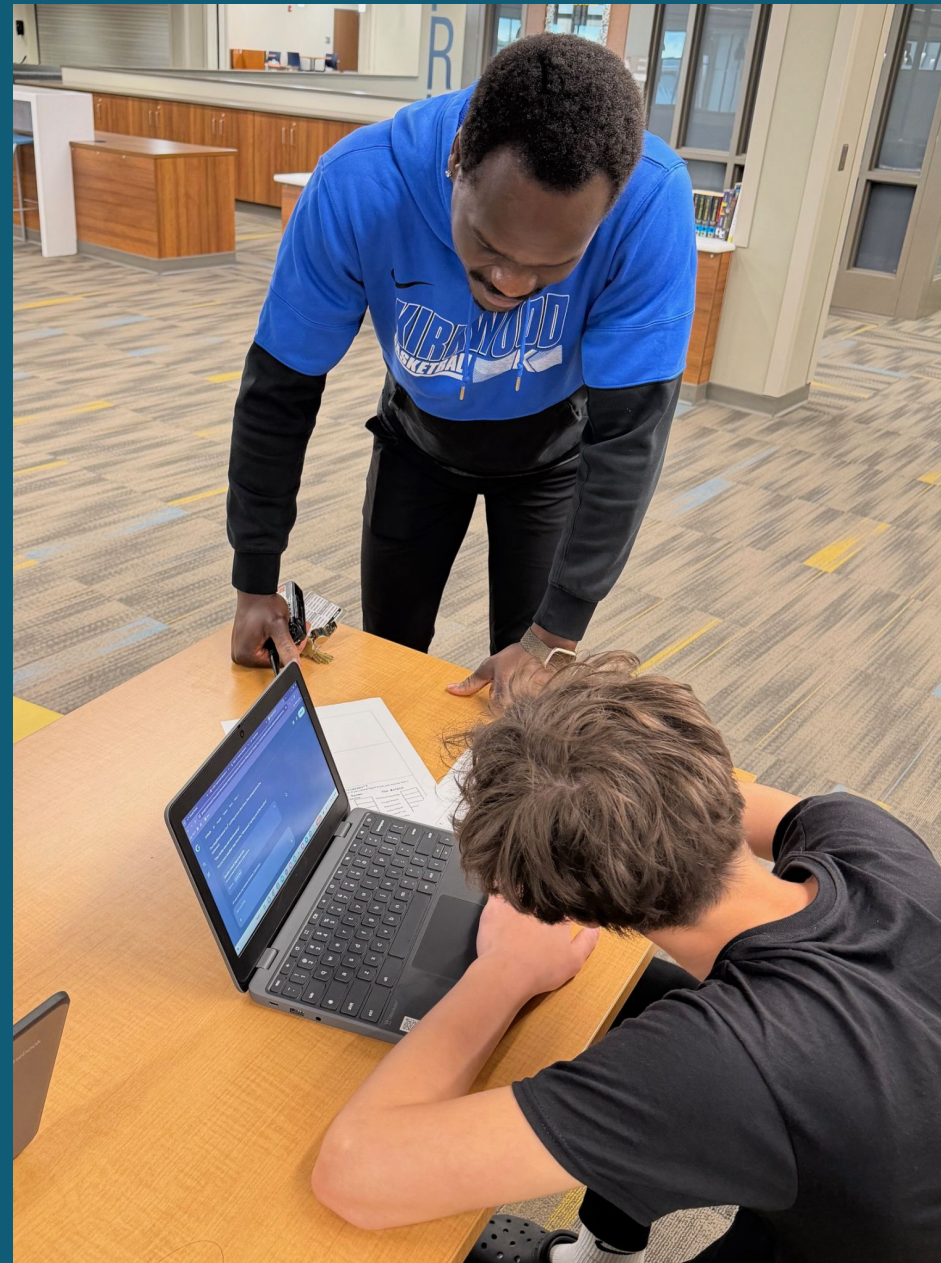
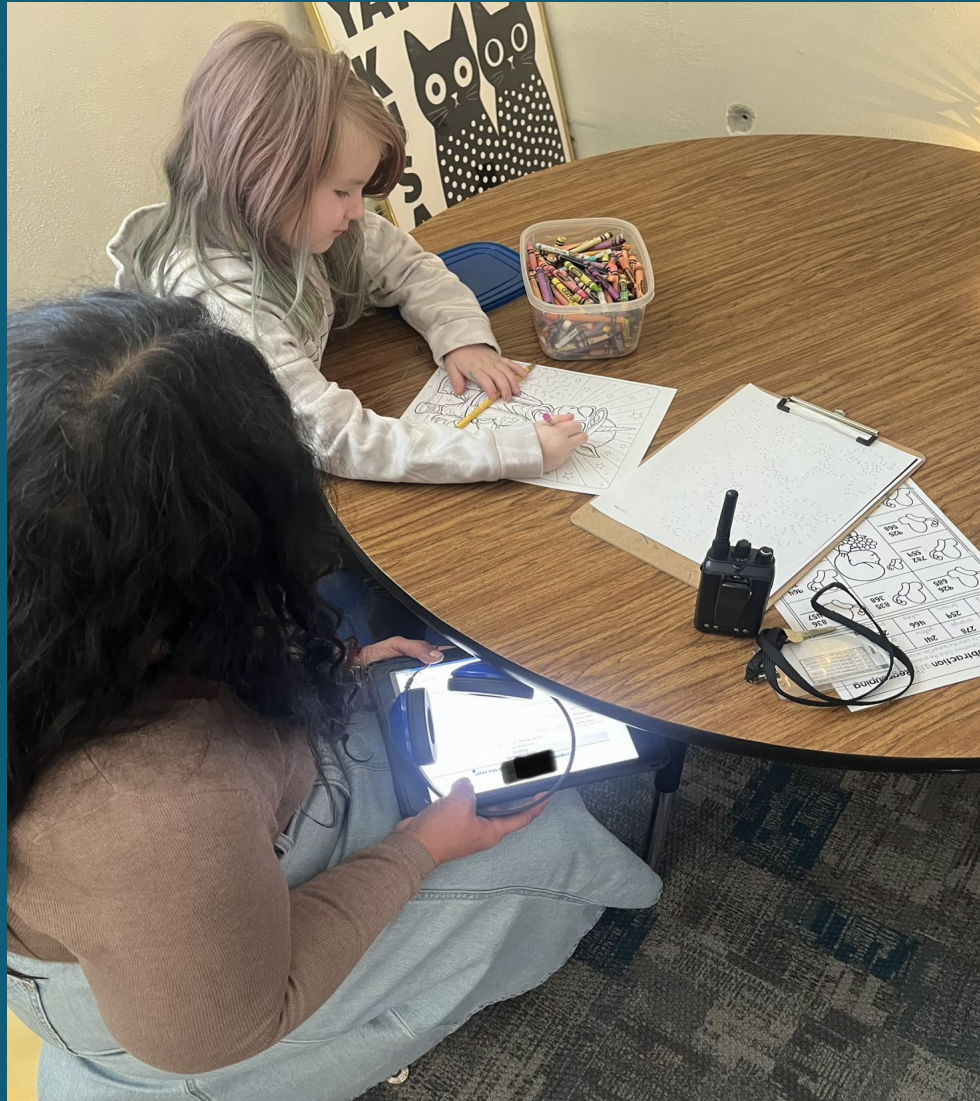


Intentional Actions

Through these coordinated efforts, the district aims to reduce both overall suspension rates and the identified disproportionality, while building a more consistent, proactive, and equitable system of support for all students.



Thank you Student Success Coaches



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2025–2026 Progress



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2025–2026 SY Progress Update



As of April 22nd, 2026, the following notice was received from the Minnesota Department of Education:

“Congratulations, Mankato Area Public Schools did not meet the threshold for significant disproportionality for SFY27.”

As a result, an application to participate as an Exemplar District is currently being completed.



**THANK
YOU!**

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School Board Regular Meeting

6. B.

Meeting Date: 05/04/2026

Prepared By: Paul Peterson, Superintendent

Item Type:

Subject:

Jefferson Elementary School Forest Report

Background:

The MAPS Center for Learning and East High School have official school forests through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Jefferson Elementary School's transition to an outdoor/nature-based school has provided MAPS with an opportunity to expand our school forest program to this site.

Principal Melissa Brueske will present a proposal for a school forest at the Jefferson site.

Recommended Action:

None

Attachments

Presentation

Approval of Resolution Establishing and Maintaining a School Forest

Jefferson Elementary

School Board Presentation

May 4th, 2026

LOGO

Purpose



Approve a resolution to formally establish and maintain a School Forest as an outdoor learning space and thriving natural habitat

What a “School Forest” Is—and Why It Matters

Definition & Purpose

Definition: A School Forest is a designated natural area managed for outdoor learning, habitat stewardship, and environmental education.

Purpose at Jefferson: Maintain and expand a thriving natural habitat that supports our nature-based learning model.

Student Impact



Observation & Inquiry

Builds connection to nature through hands-on inquiry.



Stewardship

Creates meaningful opportunities for responsibility.



Beyond the Classroom

Expands learning in a consistent, nearby setting.



School-wide Value

Shared site for enrichment and collaboration.

Jefferson Map with proposed area



Planning Process and Key Partners

Jefferson students, staff, and constituents have been developing the School Forest concept over the past several months

Partners involved in planning and next steps

Molly Westman & Cory Bienfang

City of Mankato

Laura Duffy

MN DNR School Forest Program

Vanessa Zachman

MN Department of Natural Resources

Melissa Brueske

Principal, Jefferson Elementary

Jesse Pigman

Middle School staff

Operations Teams

District facilities and maintenance staff

Work Already Underway

Collaborative Habitat Improvement

Began through partnership between Jefferson Elementary and Minnesota State University, Mankato students.

Erosion Control & Vegetation Establishment



200

Seedlings Planted

Planted to deter erosion and build hillside vegetation.



Proven Stewardship

This progress demonstrates both commitment and capacity to manage the site responsibly.

Work Already Underway

Ongoing Site Care and Usability

- Jefferson staff and students have removed debris on multiple occasions
- Areas have been kept cleared for continual use as outdoor learning space



Facilities & Maintenance

District staff play a crucial role in upkeep of the utilized land, demonstrating commitment and capacity to manage the site responsibly.



Path to School Forest

Work has focused on identifying steps to establish a School Forest on Jefferson grounds, ensuring long-term care and feasibility.

Next Steps & Benefits of DNR Approval

Immediate Next Step

Complete the application process to register the site as a School Forest

What Approval Unlocks for Jefferson



Resources

Access to DNR materials and educational resources



Expert Support

Direct support from DNR staff and professional networks



Funding

Funding support and reimbursements from the DNR

Network

Connection to a network of DNR-certified School Forests

Next Steps: School Forest Implementation

Resource Utilization at Jefferson



Habitat Enhancement

Planting seedlings, shrubs, and grasses to maintain and improve the local ecosystem.



Outdoor Learning

Creating dedicated outdoor classroom spaces and designated learning zones for students.



Improved Access

Ensuring all students can easily access and utilize the new forest learning areas.

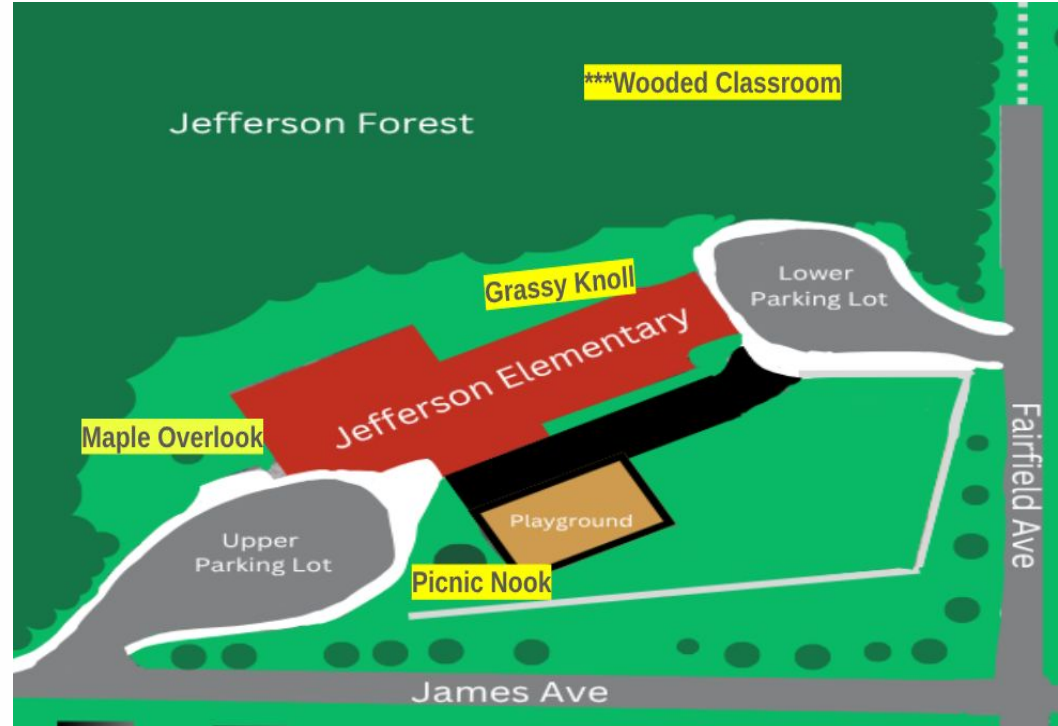
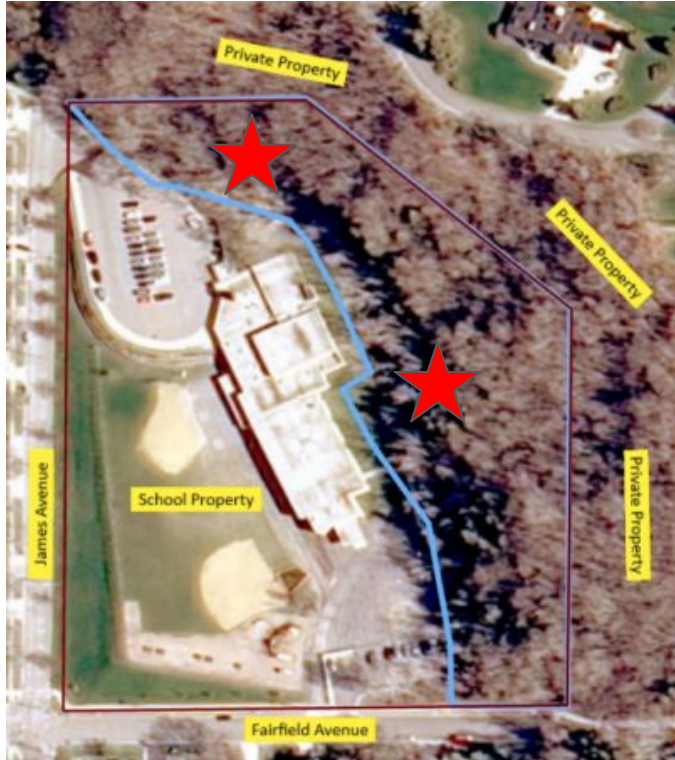
Next Steps: Habitat Enhancement



Next Steps: Habitat Enhancement



Next Steps: Outdoor Learning



Next Steps: Outdoor Learning & Access

Current Entrance:



- Add a natural arch
- Add a sign welcoming visitors to the Jefferson Outdoor Classroom

Vision for Entrance:



Vision for Group Seating Area :



Build a cover for water spout & Steps for access

Vision for Group Seating Area :



Add a retaining wall for erosion on the back of the seating area and trail camera for viewing & Signage



Current Paths:



- Use existing logs for borders
- Use natural wood chips
- Purpose is to keep students on the designated walk spaces

Vision for Paths:



Current Group Seating Area:



- Log seating either single or bench style
- Wood chips to define the space
- Cover water spout (x in the picture)

Vision for Group Seating Area :



Next Steps: Improved Access



Impact for Jefferson

Instructional & Student Experiences



The Living Classroom

A dedicated outdoor space for core lessons and seasonal observation, allowing real-time study of environmental shifts.



Data-Driven Discovery

Integrating trail cameras and tracking tools to teach students wildlife pattern analysis and ecosystem health.



Student-Led Stewardship

Empowering students as active protectors who manage the space, fostering awareness and coexistence.

Proposed Use & Board Action Requested

Board Action Requested



Approve the resolution establishing and maintaining the Jefferson Elementary School Forest.

This authorizes the continuation of the registration process and ongoing site stewardship.

School Board Regular Meeting

6. C.

Meeting Date: 05/04/2026

Prepared By: Travis Olson, Director of Teaching & Learning

Item Type:

Subject:

Language Access Plan Report

Background:

Travis Olson, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Jocie DeSutter, Student Support Coordinator, will present the Language Access Plan Report to the Board.

Recommended Action:

None

Attachments

Language Access Plan Report



2025 – 2026

Language Action Plan Report to School Board

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May 4th, 2025



MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MISSION & CORE VALUES

MISSION

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Every Day.

CORE VALUES

- Courage
- Student Centered
- Integrity
- Accountable
- Inclusive Practices



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
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State & Federal Requirements

Language access is a Federal Right, not a courtesy. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, school districts are legally obligated to provide meaningful access to parents and guardians with limited English proficiency.

In accordance with Minnesota statute 123B.32, section 22

- Language Access plan adopted by school district. Available to the public and included in school's handbooks.
- Trained interpreters, preferred language identification and staff Training
- Review every two years

A collaborative approach

- Instructional Support
- MLL Teachers
- Liaisons
- Principals
- Cabinet
- ABE Parents

Purpose of the Language Access Plan

- Communication with families for students success and building a welcoming school community.
- Communicating meaningfully with all families we serve.
- Intended to mitigate language barriers.
- This plan outlines procedures to ensure equal access to information and participation for parents and guardians with limited English proficiency or disabilities impacting communication.

Components of the plan

- Purpose, Federal and State Mandates
- Language Representations and Celebrating Multilingualism
- Tools and Resources
- Support

Where can the plan be found?

- MAPS Website
- School Handbooks



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School Board Regular Meeting

6. D.

Meeting Date: 05/04/2026

Prepared By: Paul Peterson, Superintendent

Item Type:

Subject:

Board Member Workshop/Committee/Student Reports

Background:

Board members will have an opportunity to provide brief reports on recent workshops they have attended or on committees they are serving on. Student representatives will have an opportunity to provide brief updates on their schools.

Recommended Action:

None

School Board Regular Meeting**7. A.****Meeting Date:** 05/04/2026**Prepared By:** Amanda Heilman, Director of Business Services**Item Type:**

Subject:

2017 Operating Referendum Renewal Plan

Background:

The Board Finance Committee met in early March to discuss long-term budget planning and financial forecasting. As part of that discussion, the committee reviewed the option to renew the District's current levy, which is set to expire on June 30, 2028. Legislative changes enacted during the 2023 session allow school boards to authorize a one-time renewal of an existing levy at the same amount and duration as originally approved, without returning to voters. Information regarding the renewal process was shared with the school board at the April Board meeting. Tonight we will review this information again and provide an opportunity for public comment before asking for the resolution to be voted on in the business portion of the meeting.

Recommended Action:

The Board Chair will open the public hearing for anyone who wishes to speak.

AttachmentsPresentation



2025 – 2026

Referendum Renewal Public Hearing

May 4, 2026

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MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MISSION & CORE VALUES

MISSION

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CORE VALUES

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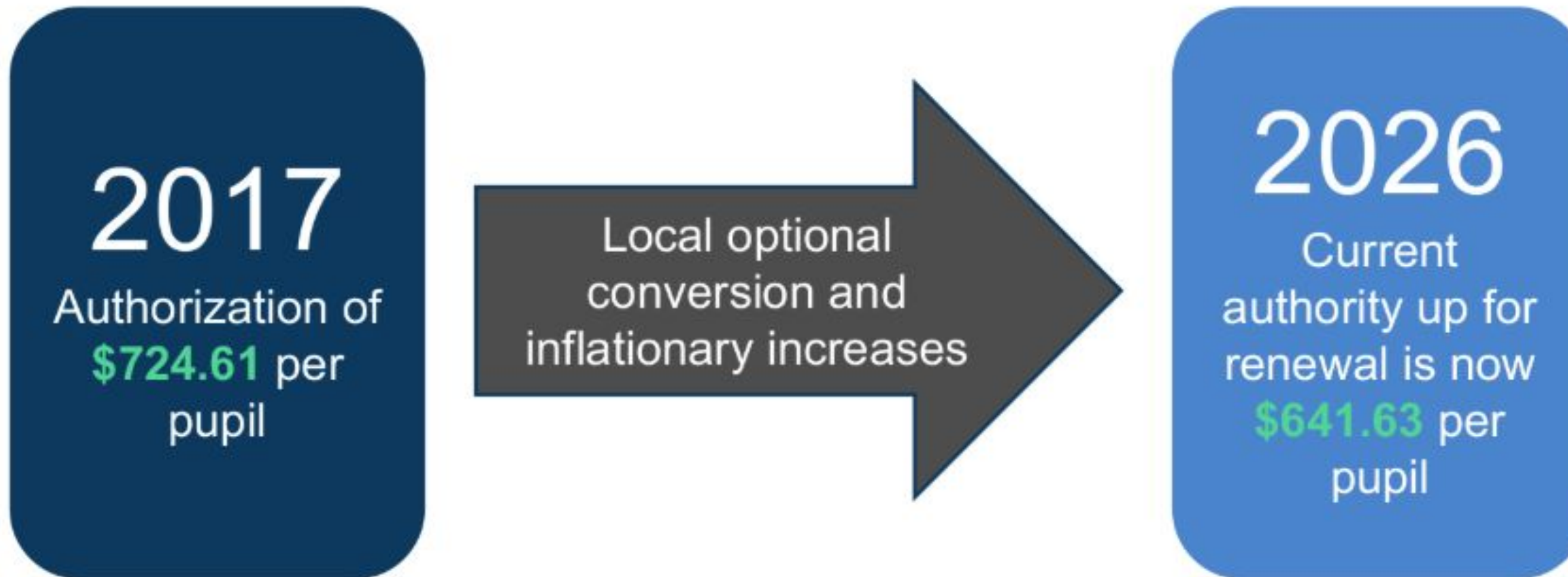
Strategic Directions: Focus of Our Improvement Efforts

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Board Renewal of Referendums

- Legislative change in 2023 allows a school board to renew existing operating referendums
- One time at same length and amount as original request
- Includes inflationary increases if in existing authority
- School Board must allow for public testimony on the proposed renewal prior to taking action

State Law Changes to Operating Referendum



Authority was reduced due to a state law change converting a portion to local optional revenue.

Statewide Operating Referendum

FY 2027

- 329 public school districts
 - 73% with voter approved referendum
 - 27% without voter approved referendum
- State Median Referendum = \$635
- Metro Median Referendum = \$1,893
 - Only 4 districts out of 57 in seven county metro do not have an operating referendum

Board Renewal of Referendums

- **ISD 77 referendum expires after taxes payable in 2027 (FY 2028)**
- **Board can renew referendum anytime between July 1, 2025 and June 15, 2027**
- **New 10 years of renewed referendum begins FY 2029 through FY 2038**

Current Operating Referendum (Pay 2026 / FY 2027)

$$\begin{array}{r} \$641.63 \text{ per Pupil} \\ \times \\ 8,523.20 \text{ Adjusted Pupil Units} \\ = \\ \$5,468,740.82 \end{array}$$

Current Referendum Revenue prior to adjustments for taxes payable in 2026 for Fiscal Year 2027



Public Comments



**THANK
YOU!**

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School Board Regular Meeting

8. A.

Meeting Date: 05/04/2026

Prepared By: Paul Peterson, Superintendent

Item Type:

Subject:

Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2026, Regular Meeting

Background:

See attachment.

Recommended Action:

Recommend approval of the minutes and proceedings as attached.

Attachments

Minutes - April 20, 2026

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

April 20, 2026

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, April 20, in the Minnesota River Room - Intergovernmental Center. Vice Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker, Elizabeth Hanke, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt and Liz Ratcliff. Absent: Erin Roberts and Shannon Sinning.

Mrs. Ratcliff made a motion, and Mr. Kind seconded, approval of the agenda together with a Personnel Addendum. The motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote.

Recognition of Employees - The following employees were recognized and thanked for their years of service with the Mankato Area Public Schools. They will receive their certificate and award at a building event:

25-Year Awards

Katherine Becker - West High School
Curtis Doell - West High School
Clarice Esslinger - Adult Basic Education
Tania Fugazzi - Franklin
Melanie Helling - Intergovernmental Center
Eric Miller - Washington
Kristin Moore - West High School
Jennifer Reed - Bridges
Matthew Ringhofer - Dakota Meadows
Mark Szybnski - East High School
Marla Trio - Eagle Lake
Christopher Wollmuth - West High School

The following employees were recognized for their years of service with the school district and the School Board provided special recognition during the meeting:

30-Year Awards

Tony Broskoff - Central High School
Deborah Kienholz - Eagle Lake
Michelle Makela - Rosa Parks
Staci Murphy - Hoover

35-Year Award

Laurie Hagberg - East/West High Schools
Julie Olsen - Bridges Community School

The consent agenda items outlined below were approved on a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mrs. Ratcliff, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes of the April 6, 2026, regular Board meeting.

Approval of April Bills totaling \$11,038,095.20.

Personnel:

APPOINTMENTS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Zachary Blasing - Student Support Services Supervisor at Futures beginning July 1, 2026. This is a full-time, 12-month, Non-affiliated position with an annual salary of \$102,722. He will be eligible for Category III benefits.

Hanno Botha - Youth Mental Health Navigator with the District beginning July 1, 2026. This is a full-time, 12-month, Non-affiliated position with an annual salary of \$91,052. He will be eligible for Category III benefits.

Tatiana Garcia - Early Learning Engagement & Process Assistant Specialist at MAPS Center for Learning for 7.5 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) with a work year of 177 days beginning April 20, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$23.88 per hour, and will be eligible for Category II benefits. This is in addition to her Interpreter assignment with the District.

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Anna Ammerman - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Science Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 8 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Madilyn Bodle - 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.

Duy Linh Nguyen - Temporary assignment as ABE Teacher with the Adult Basic Education Program at Lincoln Community Center for 2.25 hours per day/3 evenings per week (T-TH) beginning April 1, and ending May 28, 2026. He will be placed at step 1 of the M lane on the ABE Teacher salary schedule. This is in addition to his ABE Teaching Assistant assignment at Lincoln Community Center.

Jordan Petersen - Night School Teacher at Central High School for 2.5 hours per day/2 nights per week (T/TH) beginning April 14, and ending April 21, 2026. He will be compensated according to his placement on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Isabelle Richards - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Special Education Teacher at Hoover Elementary School beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 3 of the B+30 lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Alexis Sorbo - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 5 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Kayla Vitti - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 2 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Dayna Aslesen - Student Success Coach at Bridges Community School for 4.58 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) and 6.67 hours per day/1 day per week (F) beginning April 10, 2026. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Brandon R Lang - ACES Child Care Assistant at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning April 20, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Ellie Thompson - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning April 27, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

The following will be Paraeducators 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 Minnesota School Employees Association salary schedule.

Pierre Ellis

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Nickole Duvernay - Change in assignment from Special Education Paraeducator, classification B22, to Health & Wellness Paraeducator, classification B22.5, at Prairie Winds Middle School beginning April 6, 2026. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Minnesota School Employee Association salary schedule.

Tammy Fienen - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Prairie Winds Middle School from 6.83 hours per day/3 days per week (M/TH/F) and 5.5 hours per day/2 days per week (T/W) to 6.83 hours per day/5 days per week beginning May 4, 2026.

Bryn Hacker - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School from 2.25 hours per day/2 days per week (M/W), 5.5 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH), and 6.5 hours per day/1 day per week (F) to 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning May 4, 2026. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead Substitute and ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute assignments.

Katey Isaacson - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School from 4.25 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) and 6 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) beginning May 4, 2026.

Luke Pollema - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School from 2.25 hours per day/5 days per week to 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning May 5, 2026.

Abigail Teigen - Change in assignment from Special Education Paraeducator, classification B22, at Franklin Elementary School to Health & Wellness Paraeducator, classification B22.5, at SUN beginning March 31, 2026. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Minnesota School Employees Association salary schedule.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Zachary Blasing - Special Education Teacher at Dakota Meadows Middle School, has submitted a request for unpaid leave in order to accept the Student Support Services Supervisor assignment beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

Hanno Botha - Elementary School Counselor at Monroe Elementary School, has submitted a request for unpaid leave in order to accept the Youth Mental Health Navigator assignment beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Sandra Kinsella - Administrative Assistant to the Director of Facilities, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be May 15, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Pamela Becker - ABE Teacher with the Adult Basic Education Program at Lincoln Community Center, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be May 14, 2026. She will continue as an ABE Teacher Substitute.

Linda Bosworth - ABE Teacher with the Adult Basic Education Program at Lincoln Community Central, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be May 14, 2026. She will continue as an ABE Teacher Substitute.

Joshua LaFave - Special Education Teacher at West High School and ESY Teacher, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be July 24, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

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

Madilyn Bodle - Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation in order to accept the teaching assignment. The last day for this assignment will be May 18, 2026.

Bridgette Ketter - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Washington Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be February 3, 2026.

Hannah Meyer - Secretary to the Principal at West High School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 1, 2026.

TERMINATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Madyn Fowler - ACES Child Care Assistant at Washington Elementary School, effective April 6, 2026.

Said Hassan - Evening Custodian at Lincoln Community Center, effective April 6, 2026.

Takreed Saramah - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, effective April 9, 2026.

Personnel – Addendum

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Andrea Melchior - Full-time (1.00 FTE) 2nd Grade Teacher at Jefferson Elementary School beginning August 24, 2026, training August 11, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Caleb Wissmann - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 24, 2026. He will be placed at step 6 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Addisyn Heller - Community Education Site Operations & Safety Associate at Lincoln Community Center for 10-15 hours per week beginning May 1, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$12.00 per hour. This is in addition to her Student Associate Worker assignment at Central High School.

Marina Honnette - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute at Washington Elementary School on an on-call basis beginning May 4, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Noreen Neville - Kitchen Float Cook Helper with the District for 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning August 25, 2026. She will be placed at classification A11, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Madyson Sellner - Health & Wellness Paraeducator INSITE for 6.25 hours per day/5 days per week beginning May 7, 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. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead Substitute assignment.

Alexandria Spencer - Kitchen Float Cook Helper with the District for 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning April 20, 2026. She will be placed at classification A11, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Toni Hames - Continue as part-time (0.50 FTEs) Secondary Mentor Coach (TOSA) and part-time (0.50 FTEs) AVID Teacher at East High School ending June 30, 2028.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Stone Bridges - Increase hourly rate to \$15.75 as ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute beginning May 16, 2026. This is in addition to his Early Learning Classroom Aide assignment at MAPS Center.

Rachel Guentzel - Change in assignment from Paraeducator Substitute to Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Washington Elementary School for 7 hours per day/5 days per week beginning April 20, 2026. She will be placed at classification B22.5, step 2, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Kaitlyn Heller - Increase hourly rate to \$16.50 as ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute beginning May 1, 2026. This is in addition to her Early Learning Classroom Aide assignment at MAPS Center for Learning.

Noura Kurdi - Change in assignment from ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute and ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute to ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute beginning April 1, 2026.

Sophia Matarrese - Change in assignment from ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute and ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute to ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute beginning April 1, 2026.

Julia Roering - Increase hourly rate to \$15.75 as ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute beginning May 1, 2026. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead Substitute assignment.

Madison Rothbauer - Change in assignment from ACES Child Care Assistant to ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute at Kennedy Elementary School on an on-call basis beginning May 1, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$16.00 per hour. This is in addition to her ACES Site Lead Substitute assignment.

Azlee Schaefer - Increase hourly rate to \$17.00 as ACES Student Support Assistant at Franklin Elementary School beginning May 16, 2026. This is in addition to her Building Supervisor assignment with Community Education.

Alexa Wellner - Increase hourly rate to \$15.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant at Kennedy Elementary School beginning May 16, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Kay Dedinsky - Long-term Substitute Teacher at Franklin Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary Schools, has submitted a resignation. The last day for this assignment will be May 1, 2026. She will continue as a Substitute Teacher with the District.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Addison Clarey - ACES Child Care Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 1, 2026.

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

Rahmo Hassan - Student Navigator at East and West High Schools, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be April 16, 2026.

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

Monysona Kem - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be April 13, 2026.

Faith Mosher - Cook Helper at Prairie Winds Middle School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 21, 2026.

Jake Stensvad - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 5, 2026.

Brenna Thomas - ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute and ACES Site Lead at Bridges Community School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be December 25, 2025.

There being no further business to consider, Mrs. Ratcliff moved and Mr. Kind seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was declared adjourned at 6:41 p.m., on a 5-0 voice vote.

Attest: Clerk _____
Chairperson _____

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

April 20, 2026

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, April 20, in the Minnesota River Room - Intergovernmental Center. Vice Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker, Elizabeth Hanke, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt, and Liz Ratcliff. Absent: Erin Roberts and Shannon Sinning.

1. Ratcliff/Kind approval of agenda with personnel addendum. 5-0
2. Recognition of Employees for Years of Service
3. Baker/Ratcliff approval of Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes of the April 6, 2026, regular meeting; Approval of April Bills, Personnel. 5-0
4. Ratcliff/Kind adjournment at 6:41 p.m. 5-0

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.

School Board Regular Meeting

8. B.

Meeting Date: 05/04/2026

Prepared By: John Lustig, Director of Administrative Services

Item Type:

Subject:

Personnel

Background:

APPOINTMENTS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Polly Olthoff - ABE Distance Learning Program Supervisor at Lincoln Community Center beginning July 1, 2026. This is a full-time, 12-month, Non-affiliated, 240-day work year position with an annual salary of \$66,220.80. She will be eligible for Category III benefits.

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Tristin Doster - Full-time (1.00 FTE) 4th Grade Teacher at Eagle Lake Elementary School beginning August 24, 2026, training August 11, 2026. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Benjamin Edwards - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Spanish Teacher at West High School beginning August 24, 2026. He will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Megan Geraets - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Science Teacher at West High School beginning August 24, 2026. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Jessica Harder - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Kindergarten Teacher at Franklin Elementary School beginning August 24, 2026, training August 11, 2026. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Roisin Haslam - Full-time (1.00 FTE) 3rd Grade Teacher at Monroe Elementary School beginning August 24, 2026, training August 11, 2026. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Eric Kehoe - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Science Teacher at West High School beginning August 24, 2026, training July 1, 2026. He will be placed at step 10 of the M+30 lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Liv Musel-Staloch - ABE Teacher with the Adult Basic Education Program for 769 annual hours (0.53 FTE) beginning July 1, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the Bachelor's Lane on the ABE Teacher salary schedule.

Emma Portner - Change in assignment from 5th Grade Teacher to 2nd Grade Teacher at Bridges Community School beginning August 24, 2026, training August 11, 2026.

The following will be teachers in the Camp Ignite Summer 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.

Amy Bailey, Beth Baker, Kristin Baty, Daniel Blaisdell, Daniel Blasl, Amanda Bomstad, Cindy Borth, Gweneth Case, Adam Hanson, Cynthia Hashimoto, Jenna Helget, Sherry Imhoff, Amelia Jirak, Jessica

Kelly, Jennifer Kluntz, Kristin Krusemark, Kayla Lewis, Kristen Lewis, Molly Lout, Michelle Modrow, Katherine Rux, Angela Sawatzky, Megan Schulz, Angela Sheldrup, Alysha Smook, Abby Steffensmeier, Jeremy Steffensmeier, Gina Vanslow, Kyle Vanslow, Parker Winning

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Bree Barden - ACES Child Care Associate at Franklin Elementary School for up to 20 hours per week beginning May 4, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$13.00 per hour.

Everett Ehlers - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute at Washington Elementary School on an on-call basis beginning May 4, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Fatuma Hassen - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning May 4, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Sarah Heuer - Summer School Secretary with Camp Ignite for 5 hours per day/4 days a week (M-TH) beginning July 6 and ending July 30, 2026. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Educational Secretaries Association salary schedule.

Sarah Jordan - Community Education Site Operations & Safety Associate at Lincoln Community Center for 10-15 hours per week beginning May 1, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$12.00 per hour.

Akawye Nyigwo - ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning May 4, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Amanda Robinson - Summer School Secretary with Camp Ignite for 5 hours per day/4 days a week (M-TH) beginning July 6 and ending July 30, 2026. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Educational Secretaries Association salary schedule.

Isabelle Schimmel - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at SUN for 7 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) beginning April 27, 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.

Nora Sidwell - ACES Child Care Associate at Franklin Elementary School for up to 20 hours per week beginning May 5, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$13.00 per hour.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Emma Andries - Change in assignment from ACES Site Lead at Rosa Parks Elementary School to ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis beginning May 1, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$17.00 per hour.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Friday Gora - Special Education Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has requested unpaid leave for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Mary Kate Lewis - ABE Distance Learning Program Supervisor with the Adult Basic Education Program, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be July 3, 2026.

Liv Musel-Staloch - ABE ESL Program Specialist with the Adult Basic Education Program, has submitted a resignation in order to accept the ABE Teaching position. The last day for this assignment will be June 30, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Jordyn Lee - 5th Grade Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The

last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Emily Oberdeck - 5th Grade Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 26, 2026.

Polly Olthoff - ABE Teacher and Adult Basic Education Program Secretary with the Adult Basic Education Program, has submitted a resignation in order to accept the ABE Distance Learning Program Supervisor position. The last day for these assignments will be June 30, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Brooklyn Garvey - ACES Child Care Assistant at Bridges Community School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Ashlyn Guse - ACES Child Care Assistant and ACES Site Lead Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Nashira Johnson Willis - Second Cook at Jefferson Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Cindy Juberian - Second Cook at Roosevelt Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 12, 2026.

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

Dawn Kutil - Secretary to the Principal at Prairie Winds Middle School, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be June 30, 2026.

Kelsey Leonard - Non-Classroom Paraeducator at Washington Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day for this assignment will be May 18, 2026. She will continue as the Media Assistant at Washington Elementary School.

Madison Mattson - Student Success Coach at Bridges Community School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be April 23, 2026.

Piper Sandvik - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be April 27, 2026.

Diana Snow - Non-classroom Paraeducator and Special Education Paraeducator at Bridges Community School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 18, 2026.

Danielle Steckler - Early Learning Classroom Aide and Early Learning Special Education Paraeducator at MAPS Center for Learning, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 1, 2026.

Celeste Thalhammer - ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 5, 2026.

Marion Volk - Evening Custodian at East High School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be April 28, 2026.

Recommended Action:

The Administration recommends the approval of the personnel items.

School Board Regular Meeting

9. A.

Meeting Date: 05/04/2026

Prepared By: Paul Peterson, Superintendent

Item Type:

Subject:

Acceptance of Gifts and Grants

Background:

Melodee & Todd Hoffner donated \$6,000 for Mankato East & West High Schools for Mental Health Programs

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council donated \$3,000 for Dakota Meadows Middle School for Summer Play Production

Recommended Action:

The administration recommends Board acceptance of these generous gifts and grants.

Attachments

Resolution

The following resolution was moved by _____ and seconded by _____.

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:

- Melodee & Todd Hoffner donated \$6,000 for Mankato East & West High Schools for Mental Health Programs
- Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council donated \$3,000 for Dakota Meadows Middle School for Summer Play Production

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye:

Nay:

Absent:

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

By: _____
Chair

By: _____
Clerk

School Board Regular Meeting**9. B.****Meeting Date:** 05/04/2026**Prepared By:** John Lustig, Director of Administrative Services**Item Type:**

Subject:

Second Reading/Approval of School Board Policies

Background:

School Board Policy 305 states that it is the responsibility of the Superintendent to recommend additions or modifications to School Board policies. The School Board reviewed the recommended policy modifications during the April 6, 2026, School Board meeting.

Recommended Action:

The administration recommends approval of the revised policies as presented.

Attachments

List of Policies

Presentation

Policy Review Committee: March 24, 2026
School Board First Reading: April 6, 2026
School Board Second Reading/Approval: May 4, 2026

List of Policies for Board Action

POLICY #	POLICY TITLE	REVIEWED & READY TO GO (X)	WHO/NOTES
<u>422</u>	POLICIES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE	X	REVISION
<u>426</u>	INSURANCE	X	RECOMMEND TO ELIMINATE
<u>438</u>	CONSULTING	X	RECOMMEND TO ELIMINATE
<u>462</u>	EXTENDED LEAVES FOR SCHOOL RELATED TRIPS	X	REVISION
<u>535</u>	COMMENCEMENT	X	REVISION
<u>606</u>	TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS	X	REVISION
<u>610</u>	FIELD TRIPS	X	REVISION
<u>630</u>	RECONSIDERATION OF TEXTBOOKS OR OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS	X	RECOMMEND TO MOVE INTO POLICY 606
<u>719</u>	PAYROLL PERIODS	X	RECOMMEND TO ELIMINATE



2025 – 2026

Second Reading of Policies

May 4, 2026

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



Policy 422

Policies Incorporated by Reference

Clarifies that certain policies within Chapter 500 (Students) are also applicable to employees and, to avoid unnecessary duplication, incorporates those policies by reference.

Revisions align with MSBA model policy to ensure appropriate cross-application without requiring duplicate policies under Chapter 400 (Employees/Personnel)



Policy 426

Insurance

Recommendation is to eliminate the policy.

Provisions for insurance are either required by state or federal law, or are addressed through collective bargaining agreements.



Policy 438

Consulting

Recommendation is to eliminate the policy.

Policy language required District approval for an employee to serve as a consultant to another organization, and required the use of personal leave, vacation, or unpaid leave during such time.



Policy 462

Extended Leaves for School Related Trips



Revision clarifies that the limitation of one teacher per building does not apply to teachers who are assigned to or responsible for the field trip.

Policy 535

Commencement

Revisions add criteria and procedures for recognizing deceased students during commencement ceremonies.



Policy 630

Reconsideration of Textbooks or Other Instructional Materials



Recommend to eliminate this policy and move the language into Policy 606.

Policy 606

Textbooks and Instructional Materials

**Revisions align policy with
MSBA Model policy –**

**Criteria for selection of
textbooks and materials**

**Reconsideration of textbooks
and materials (moved from
Policy 630)**



Policy 610

Field Trips

Revisions add clarifying guidance about employees who may be operating a vehicle in connection with a field trip:

- Valid License**
- Insurance requirements**
- Personal vehicle only in situations of emergency or unforeseen circumstances requiring immediate transportation**



Policy 719

Payroll Periods

Recommendation is to eliminate the policy.

Payroll periods are defined in collective bargaining agreements and do not require a separate board policy.





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School Board Regular Meeting

9. C.

Meeting Date: 05/04/2026

Prepared By: Paul Peterson, Superintendent

Item Type:

Subject:

Approval of Jefferson School Forest

Background:

Jefferson Principal Melissa Brueske presented information on establishing a school forest at the Jefferson site.

Recommended Action:

The administration recommends Board resolution of approval of the Jefferson School Forest.

School Board Regular Meeting**9. D.****Meeting Date:** 05/04/2026**Prepared By:** Amanda Heilman, Director of Business Services**Item Type:**

Subject:

Resolution Relating to Renewal of an Expiring Referendum

Background:

The Board Finance Committee met in early March to review long-term budget planning and financial forecasting for the District. As part of this discussion, the committee considered the renewal of the District's existing operating referendum, which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2028.

Legislative changes enacted during the 2023 session authorize school boards to approve a one-time renewal of an existing referendum at the same amount and term as originally approved, without submitting the question to voters. An overview of this renewal option and the associated process was presented to the School Board at the April Board meeting.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the District has provided an opportunity for public comment and is now seeking Board approval to renew the existing operating referendum.

Recommended Action:

The administration recommends Board approval of the renewal of the expiring referendum.

AttachmentsResolution

RESOLUTION RELATING TO
RENEWAL OF AN EXPIRING REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 126C.17, Subd. 9b, allows the School Board to renew an expiring referendum.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 126C.17, Subd. 9b, sets forth the following requirements to renew an expiring referendum:

- 1) The per pupil amount of the referendum is the same as the amount expiring, or for an expiring referendum that was adjusted annually by the rate of inflation, the same as the per-pupil amount of the expiring referendum, adjusted annually for inflation in the same manner as if the expiring referendum had continued;
- 2) the term of the renewed referendum is no longer than the initial term approved by the voters;
- 3) the school board has held a meeting and allowed public testimony on the proposed renewal; and
- 4) the expiring referendum has not been previously renewed under Minnesota Statutes 126C17, Subd. 9b.

WHEREAS, the expiring referendum is within the last two fiscal years of the term of the referendum.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 77 Mankato Area Public Schools, State of Minnesota, as follows:

The Board hereby determines and declares that it is necessary and expedient for the school district to extend and renew the general education revenue provided by an expiring referendum passed by the voters of the school district on November 7, 2017. The proposed new authorization is the same amount as the expiring authorization and will be applicable for a term of 10 years beginning with taxes payable in 2028.

The clerk is authorized to send this adopted resolution, no later than September 1 of the calendar year in which this resolution was adopted, to the commissioner of the education and to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part.

This resolution becomes effective 60 days after adoption.

School Board Member _____ moved for the resolution adoption and the motion was duly seconded by School Board Member _____.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) SS
COUNTY OF _____)

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Independent School District No. 77 (Mankato Area Public Schools), Minnesota, hereby certify that the attached and foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of the minutes of a meeting of the school board of said school district duly called and held on the date therein indicated, so far as such minutes relate to the calling of a special election of said school district, and that the resolution included therein is a full, true and correct copy of the original thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND officially as such clerk this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Clerk