

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

October 5, 2026

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

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

Swearing in Student Representatives

MAPS Student Spotlight: Eissa Kafina - Roosevelt Elementary School

MAPS Staff Spotlight: Rachel Gore - Rosa Parks Elementary School

Staff Recognition: Ariana Bealy - Hoover and Roosevelt Elementary Schools

Public Comment: Julie Strusz and Sadredin Moosavi wished to speak.

Information Reports: Grow Your Own Report by John Lustig, Samantha Steinman, and Teri Preisler; First Reading of Policies by John Lustig; Board Member Workshop/Committee Reports.

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

Approval of Minutes of the September 21, 2026, regular Board meeting.

Personnel:

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Laura Dauffenbach - Adjust end date to November 2, 2026 as Long-term Substitute DAPE Teacher with the District.

Sandra Hatlestad - Long-term Substitute Teacher at Bridges Community School beginning August 31, and ending October 2, 2026. She will be placed at step 10 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Travis Thill - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Special Education Teacher at Futures beginning September 24, 2026, and ending June 11, 2027. He will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Jennifer Wade - Full-time (1.00 FTE) Contract Substitute Teacher at Bridges Community School beginning October 19, 2026, and ending March 5, 2027. She will be placed at step 4 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Kendrah Brandt - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Futures for 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 30, 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.

Hannah Cherney - Special Education Paraeducator at Franklin Elementary School for 2.75 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) and 6.25 hours per day/1 day per week (F) beginning September 24, 2026. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Britta Elliott - ACES Child Care Assistant at Jefferson Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning September 28, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Samuel Lefstad - ACES Child Care Assistant at Jefferson Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning September 28, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$15.75 per hour.

Cole O'Hearn - Special Education Paraeducator at MAPS Center for Learning for 6.5 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) beginning September 21, 2026. He will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Anisah Omar - Special Education Paraeducator at Dakota Meadows Middle School for 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 23, 2026. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Lahna Smith - ACES Child Care Assistant at Washington Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning September 28, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Nathan Fuller - Overload assignment as Social Studies Teacher at East High School beginning September 23, 2026, and ending January 29, 2027.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Ayan Duale - Adjust start date to September 28, 2026 as Health & Wellness Paraeducator at SUN.

Jane Flintrop - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Student Success Coach at Prairie Winds Middle School from 6 hours per day/2 days per week (M/T) and 7 hours per day/2 days per week (TH/F) to 6.5 hours per day/3 days per week (T/TH/F) and 4.5 hours per day/1 day per week (W) beginning September 21, 2026.

Karla Gray - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School from 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week to 6.5 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) and 4.25 hours per day/1 day per week (F) beginning September 25, 2026.

Michele Hedinger - Increase in assignment as Non-classroom Paraeducator at Roosevelt Elementary School from 1.66 hours per day/5 days per week to 2 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 10, 2026.

Meghan Pape - Voluntary decrease in assignment as POS Operator at Roosevelt Elementary School from 2 hours per day/5 days per week to 1.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 10, 2026.

Luke Pollema - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School from 2.5 hours per day/1 day per week (M) and 3.5 hours per day/3 days per week (T/W/F) to 4.75 hours per day/2 days per week (M/F), 2.5 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) and 4.5 hours per day/1 day per week (W) beginning September 21, 2026.

Christopher Stich - Increase in assignment as Special Education Paraeducator at Hoover Elementary School from 5 hours per day/1 day per week (T) and 6.25 hours per day/2 days per week (TH/F) to 6.25 hours per day/3 days per week (T/TH/F) beginning September 22, 2026.

Benjamin Winans - Change in assignment from Non-classroom Paraeducator, Special Education Paraeducator and Student Success Coach to Student Success Coach at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning September 8, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Kristin Aarsvold - Special Education Paraeducator at West High School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 22, 2026.

Ella Bartels - ACES Student Support Assistant at Franklin Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be October 2, 2026.

Izaak Kehler - Early Learning Classroom Aide at MAPS Center for Learning, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 23, 2026.

Hannah Pelzel - Special Education Paraeducator at East High School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be October 1, 2026.

Michael Sathoff - ACES Student Support Assistant and ACES Site Lead Substitute, has submitted a resignation. The last day for these assignments will be October 1, 2026. He will continue as ABE Teacher with the Adult Basic Education Program at Lincoln Community School.

Travis Thill - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Futures, has submitted a resignation in order to accept the teaching assignment. The last day for this assignment will be September 23, 2026.

Athea Witt - Rescind acceptance as ACES Child Care Assistant at Rosa Parks Elementary School.

Addendum

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Wrinkler Adjei - Special Education Paraeducator at East High School for 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning October 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.

Yasmin Ahmed - Non-classroom Paraeducator at Franklin Elementary School for 2.25 hours per day/4 days per week (M-TH) beginning October 5, 2026. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Blake Aller - Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 4 hours per day/3 days per week (M/W/F) and 1.75 hours per day/2 days per week (T/TH) beginning October 5, 2026. He will be placed at classification B22, step 3, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Jessica Badon - Special Education Paraeducator at Bridges Community School for 2.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning October 5, 2026. She will be placed at classification B22, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association. This is in addition to her POS Operator assignment at Bridges Community School.

Laina Dorry - ACES Child Care Assistant at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning October 5, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Kathleen Duenes - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at West High School for 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week beginning October 6, 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.

Charlie Peterson - Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 6.25 hours per day/5 days per week beginning October 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.

Tallie Prekker - Non-classroom Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School for 2.167 hours per day/2 days per week (M/F) beginning October 2, 2026. She will be placed at classification B21, step 1, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Sheena Probach - ACES Student Support Assistant at Hoover Elementary School for up to 2 hours per day/5 days per week beginning October 5, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$16.00 per hour for this assignment. This is in addition to her Special Education and Non-classroom Paraeducator assignments at Hoover Elementary School.

Laney Stace - ACES Child Care Assistant at Hoover Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/4 days per week beginning October 7, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.75 per hour.

Meeah Underbakke - ACES Child Care Assistant at Jefferson Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning October 1, 2026. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.75 per hour.

Yakobo Xiong - ACES Child Care Assistant at Franklin Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning October 5, 2026. He will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Pamela Bartels - Overload assignment as Assessment Specialist with the District beginning September 8 and ending September 29, 2026.

Anastasia Carter - Decrease in assignment as ECFE Parent Educator at MAPS Center for Learning from 274 annual hours (0.19 FTE) to 246 annual hours (0.17 FTE) beginning October 1, 2026. This is in addition to her Early Learning Social Worker and Exit Interviewer assignments.

Chelsey Sandt - Overload assignment as DAPE Teacher with the District beginning November 3, 2026, and ending June 11, 2027.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Cade Williamson - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at Futures, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be September 22, 2026.

TERMINATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Alicia Olsen - Rescind appointment as Part-time Teacher at West High School. The last day for this assignment will be October 2, 2026.

Approval of Extended Trip - East Baseball

Approval of Extended Trip - East Softball

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:

- The Oleander Saloon donated Backpacks and supplies (\$300 value) for Franklin Elementary School
- Olivia O'hara-Hulett donated Backpacks and supplies (\$300 value) for Center for Learning
- Happy Chef donated 4 full trays of egg bake for teachers (\$300 value) for Monroe Elementary School
- Messiah Lutheran Church donated Mobile dividers for Art Program (\$200 value) for Monroe Elementary School
- Pure Country Weavers donated 50 Blankets (\$3,000 value) for Central High School
- Lloyd Lumber donated \$100 for Mankato West Hall of Fame
- Kia of Mankato donated Books (\$473 value) for Roosevelt Elementary School First Graders
- Gretchen Rehm Agency donated \$500 for Central High School

Eagle Lake Fire Department donated \$800 for Eagle Lake Elementary School

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

The following policies were presented for second reading and approval:

- 208 - Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies
- 402 - Disability Nondiscrimination Policy
- 411 - Employee-Student Relationships
- 507.5 - School Resource Officers
- 509 - Enrollment of Nonresident Students
- 521 - Student Disability Nondiscrimination

The revised policies were approved on a motion by Mrs. Ratcliff, second by Mrs. Pratt, and carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

Each year, school districts in Minnesota must submit an Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal laws prohibiting discrimination to the Department of Education. Mrs. Pratt made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to submit the report electronically on behalf of the District. Mrs. Ratcliff seconded the motion and it carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

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 7:01 p.m., on a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk _____

Attest:

Chairperson _____

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

October 5, 2026

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1. Pratt/Kind approval of agenda with personnel addendum. 6-0
2. Swearing in School Board Student Representatives
3. Student Spotlight - Eissa Kafina
4. Staff Spotlight - Rachel Gore
5. Staff Recognition - Ariana Bealy
6. Public Comment - Julie Strusz and Sadredin Moosavi wished to speak.
7. Information: Grow Your Own Report; First Reading of Policies; Board Member Reports.
8. Pratt/Ratcliff approval of Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes of the September 21, 2026, regular meeting; Personnel; Approval of Extended Trips - East Baseball & Softball. 6-0
9. Ratcliff/Kind acceptance of gifts and grants. 6-0
10. Ratcliff/Pratt approval of revised policies. 6-0
11. Pratt/Ratcliff approval of Assurance of Compliance report. 6-0
12. Ratcliff/Kind adjournment at 7:01 p.m. 6-0

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

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