

**IND. SCHOOL DISTRICT #36
KELLIHER PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2025**

The School Board of ISD #36, Kelliher, MN met December 15, 2025 in the School Media Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Thayer at 6:00 p.m. Members present: Mary Thayer, Rachel Jorgensen, Kevin Waldo, Tessa Koisti, Dawn Jensen and Jeff Nelson, Superintendent, Ex-Officio. Members absent: Jake Neft.

Visitors: Miriam Kindem, John Gawarecki, Stacy Bender, Tye Van Pelt, Shana Dreher, Jamie Hand, Wyatt Jensen, and Aliza Lundin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Kevin Waldo, second by Tessa Koisti to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Truth in Taxation Hearing:

1. Business Manager Aliza Lundin presented the 2025 Payable 2026 Levy to be Certified later in the meeting.

Citizen's Forum:

1. Wyatt Jensen, Robotics Coach, presented the need for an additional Robotics coach on the team.
2. John Gawarecki introduced himself to the board and shared prior school administration experience to offer help and support when needed.

Reports & Presentations:

1. Presentations
 - a. Stacy Bender of Northwest Service Cooperative presented Continuous School Improvement Process
 - b. Miriam Kindem, Vocal and Classroom Music Teacher, and Tye Van Pelt, Band Teacher, presented April Music Trip itinerary and requested board funding
2. Administrative Reports
 - a. Superintendent Jeff Nelson provided a board report including an enrollment update and discussion on Indian Education Liaison position, Policy 509 adoption, MN Paid Leave, MOU with Education Minnesota - Kelliher Support

Staff, Kelliher Kids Parent Handbook update, and approval of Business Manager 2025-2027 Contract and Job Description.

- b. Business Manager Aliza Lundin provided a board report including information regarding levy amount to be certified, a revised budget update, and a MN Paid Leave update. Monthly items include bank reconciliation documentation and statements, revenue and expenditure summaries and student accounts as of 11/30/2025 for review and board bills, donations, and November minutes for approval.
- c. Principal Sherri Dahl provided a board report including congratulating the Music Department for a wonderful Christmas Program, discussed PBIS Attendance Campaign: "On Time" Challenge, and relayed the Christmas Spirit Week dress up days.

Committee Reports:

- 1. The Wellness Committee met November 19, 2025 and will meet again December 17, 2025 to review the current Wellness Policy.

Directors' Forum:

- 1. Rachel Jorgensen thanked the band and choir teachers for putting on the Christmas program and congratulated the basketball teams for their recent wins.
- 2. Mary Thayer also commented on the wonderful Christmas program and the decorations around the kitchen area making the school festive and welcoming to visitors.

Regular Business:

Motion by Tessa Koisti, second by Kevin Waldo to approve the November 17, 2025 Working Session and Regular Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dawn Jensen, second by Rachel Jorgensen to approve the November Treasurer's Report, payroll, and District bills in the amount of \$442,721.09. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- 1. Approve Resolution Accepting Donations.
- 2. Approve the appointment of Shirley Kampa as part-time Indian Education Liaison/American Indian Language and Culture Teacher for Semester two of the 2025-2026 school year. Approximately 15 hours/week at the hourly salary of \$50.24 (based on the MA Step 10 placement in the Ed. Mn. Kelliher salary schedule).

Motion made by Kevin Waldo, seconded by Tessa Koisti to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

1. Policy #509

Motion by Kevin Waldo, second by Tessa Koisti to approve the final reading and adoption of Policy 509 Enrollment of Nonresident Students. The motion passed unanimously.

2. MN Paid Leave Language

Motion by Rachel Jorgensen, second by Kevin Waldo to approve adding Employee Handbook language regarding MN Paid Leave effective January 1, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

3. KSS MOU

Motion by Dawn Jensen, second by Kevin Waldo to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Education Minnesota – Kelliher Support Staff clarifying part-time employees. Voting yes: Kevin Waldo, Dawn Jensen, Mary Thayer, Tessa Koisti. Voting no: Rachel Jorgensen. Motion passed.

4. Music Field Trip Request

Motion by Rachel Jorgensen, second by Dawn Jensen to approve payment of \$3,842.20 towards April 8-10, 2026 field trip to help offset costs. Voting yes: Dawn Jensen, Mary Thayer, Rachel Jorgensen. Voting no: Kevin Waldo and Tessa Kosti. Motion passed.

5. Business Manager Contract and Job Description

Motion by Kevin Waldo, second by Rachel Jorgensen to approve 2025-27 Business Manager Contract and revised Business Manager Job Description. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Certify 2025 Payable 2026 Levy

Motion by Rachel Jorgensen, second by Kevin Waldo to approve certifying the 2025 Payable 2026 Property Tax Levy in the amount of \$684,802.54. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Kelliher Kids Handbook Update

Motion by Dawn Jensen, second Kevin Waldo to approve parent handbook revisions for childcare center clarifying cancellation policy. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Rachel Jorgensen, second by Kevin Waldo to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next Regular School Board Organizational and Business Meetings are scheduled for Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Kelliher School Media Center.