



**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2155
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

August 17, 2026

The regular meeting of the Independent School District #2155 was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Dan Lawson. Other Board members present: Brandon Kern, Melissa Seelhammer, Barb Tumberg, Julie Bushinger, Amanda Schmidt, and Supt. Brad Johnson. Absent: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Kern, seconded by Seelhammer, to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board welcomed and recognized new teachers joining Wadena-Deer Creek for the 2026-2027 school year: Myles Dziengel, 3rd Grade; Stephanie Drange, MS/HS DCD; Grace Doraska, Preschool; Molly Cordes, Kindergarten; Madi Stusse, 3rd Grade; Jade Gerlach, MS/HS Choir; and Emma Bushinger, Elementary Special Education. Dziengel, Cordes, Stusse and Gerlach attended the meeting and were introduced to the Board.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Seelhammer, to approve the July 7, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Kern, to approve the August 6, 2026 Special Board Meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bushinger, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the hire of Madi Stusse, Junior High Volleyball Coach. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Schmidt, to accept the retirement/resignation of Bridget Grewe, Elementary Paraprofessional, and Lisa Ashbaugh, Food Service. Motion approved unanimously.

Following the personnel action, the Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Lisa Ashbaugh, who recently passed away. Lisa served the Wadena-Deer Creek School District for 21 years as a member of the food service staff.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Kern, to approve the Business Manager's report. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the Manual Journal Entries as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bushinger, seconded by Seelhammer, to approve district disbursements as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Kern, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the following donations:



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Donor	Purpose	Amount
<i>WDC Nordic Ski Foundation</i>	<i>Nordic Ski expenses for FY27</i>	<i>\$6,200.00</i>
<i>Kern Electronics and Lasers</i>	<i>Wadena Area Youth Baseball</i>	<i>\$245.00</i>
<i>WDC Parent Teacher Organization</i>	<i>Fourth Grade Picnic</i>	<i>\$724.30</i>
<i>MN Women of Today</i>	<i>Reach Program</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Arvig</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$250.00</i>
<i>VFW Auxiliary</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>
<i>Wadena Elks</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Wadena Fire Department</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Chris & Sarah O’Kane</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>
<i>Wadena Rotary</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$250.00</i>
<i>Wadena Family Dental</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Chris O’Kane Dental</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>Hunkes Transfer</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$250.00</i>
<i>Arvig</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$250.00</i>
<i>Hockerts</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Greiman Silk Screen</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Bruce Wangsness</i>	<i>FCCLA</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>

The donations totaled \$7,219.30 to the district and \$2,790.00 to district student activities, for a combined total of \$10,009.30. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the Elementary and MS/HS Parent/Student Handbooks for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Kern, to approve the 2026-2027 eLearning Plan. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Athletic Trainer Contract and Marketing Agreement with Astera Health. Motion approved unanimously.



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A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the special education consulting contract with Next Level Special Education Partners, LLC, to provide additional outside support and services for the high school DCD classroom during the first half of the school year. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the Activities Director's recommendation regarding athletic event admission prices and the district's continued transition toward cashless ticketing. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board conducted a first reading of policy updates to Policies 208, 402, 423, 425, 509, 521, 524, 613, 621, 624, 709, 721, 722, 406, 522 and 528. No action was taken on the first reading.

The Policy Committee reported that it had recently met to review the policy updates presented to the full Board. The Board also discussed scheduling future meetings of the Technology Committee and the Facilities Committee. The Facilities Committee will review potential next steps as additional information becomes available regarding roof damage and the insurance process following this summer's hailstorm.

Elementary Principal Kevin Tumberg updated the Board on preparations for the upcoming school year and back-to-school activities. 5-12 Principal Tyler Church was unable to attend, and no report was given.

Activities Director Norman Gallant reported that fall activities were underway, with August 17 marking the first day of practices. He also reported that the recent Wolverine Scramble golf fundraiser is expected to generate approximately \$10,000 in profit for the district.

Superintendent Brad Johnson updated the Board on final preparations for the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year. District staff will return the following week for back-to-school workshop activities, followed by students returning the week after.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Bushinger, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barb Tumberg, Board Clerk

Date: _____

Dan Lawson, Board Chair

Date: _____