



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

January 20, 2026

The regular and organizational meeting of the Independent School District #2155 was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Dan Lawson. Other Board members present: Melissa Seelhammer, Julie Bushinger, Brandon Kern, Amanda Schmidt, Barb Tumberg and Supt. Lee Westrum.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board recognized the AAA Award Winners and EXCEL Award Winners.

The Board conducted the organizational items on the agenda:

Bushinger nominated Dan Lawson to the office of Chair. No other nominations given. Lawson elected Chair by acclamation.

Tumberg nominated Brandon Kern to the office of Vice Chair. No other nominations given. Kern elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

Seelhammer nominated Barb Tumberg to the office of Clerk. No other nominations given. Tumberg elected Clerk by acclamation.

Bushinger nominated Melissa Seelhammer to the office of Treasurer. No other nominations given. Seelhammer elected Treasurer by acclamation.

I. OTHER:

A. REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

A motion was made by Kern, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the 2026 regular monthly meeting schedule as noted below. Motion approved unanimously.

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-----------------|-------------------|
| January | 20 | Tuesday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| February | 17 | Tuesday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| March | 23 | Monday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| April | 20 | Monday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| May | 18 | Monday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| June | 15 | Monday 5:30 pm | Deer Creek |
| July | 7 | Tuesday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| August | 17 | Monday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| September | 21 | Monday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| October | 19 | Monday 5:30 pm | Bluffton |



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| November | 23 | Monday 5:30 pm | Robertson Theatre |
| December | 21 | Monday 5:30 pm | Truth in Taxation Hearing, Robertson Theatre |

B. NAMING OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATION:

A motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Seelhammer, to name the Wadena Pioneer Journal as the official publication. Motion approved unanimously.

C. NAMING OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES:

A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Tumberg, to name the official depositories as Wadena State Bank, the Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund, and MN Trust. Motion approved unanimously.

D. FINANCIAL AUTHORIZATION:

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Kern, to authorize the Business Manager, Senior Bookkeeper, Student Activity Administrative Assistant, and Payroll Clerk to use the facsimile signatures of the officers on school district checks after proper School Board and/or Superintendent authorization approving the payments of said claims or services, to make wire transfers, and to invest school funds in qualifying investments per previous listing of designated financial institutions. Motion approved unanimously.

E. FEDERAL PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE:

A motion was made by Kern, seconded by Seelhammer, to name Superintendent Lee Westrum, Business Manager Brian Jacobson, Elementary Principal Louis Rutten, and Senior Bookkeeper Megan Martin as official representatives and contact persons for Title I, Title II, Title IV and all other federal programs. Motion approved unanimously.

F. AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT SCHOOL ATTORNEY:

A motion was made by Bushinger, seconded by Schmidt, to give authorization to the School Board Chair and/or Superintendent to appoint a school attorney as needed. Motion approved unanimously.

G. SCHOOL BOARD COMPENSATION RATES FOR 2026:

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Bushinger to approve the school board compensation rate as follows: _____

H. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

The Board Chair will make committee assignments and notify members of their committees.



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A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the December 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Schmidt seconded by Tumberg, to approve the hires of Macy Wynn, Elementary Paraprofessional; Bridget Grewe, Elementary Paraprofessional. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Kern, to approve the resignations of Jil Fiemeyer, REACH/Business Teacher; Lindy Thompson, Track & Field; and the retirement of Sue Motzko, Food Service Director. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Bushinger, to approve lane changes for Alyssa Morlock. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bushinger, seconded by Seelhammer, to approve the seniority lists. Motion approved unanimously.

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

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

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Kern, to approve the following Disbursements:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Vendor Check #'s | 49096 - 49276 | \$316,263.39 |
| Credit Card (BMO Harris Bank): | | \$12,452.57 |
| Student Activity Check #'s | 23498 - 23523 | \$23,555.50 |

Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the following donations to the district:

| Donor | Purpose | Amount |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| Paper Family & Friends Charitable Trust | Athletics Gymnasium Sign | \$1,500.00 |
| Wadena Lions | Softball | \$500.00 |
| Wadena State Bank | Softball | \$1,000.00 |
| Smith Furniture | Softball | \$500.00 |



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| <i>Deer Creek Lions</i> | <i>Softball</i> | <i>\$3,000.00</i> |
| <i>Deer Creek Lions</i> | <i>Student Council</i> | <i>\$4,000.00</i> |
| <i>Wadena Elks Lodge</i> | <i>Yearbook</i> | <i>\$1,000.00</i> |
| <i>Nate & Anna Marie Tabery</i> | <i>Music</i> | <i>\$300.00</i> |
| <i>Ottertail Rod & Gun Club</i> | <i>Fishing League</i> | <i>\$1,500.00</i> |
| <i>Deer Creek Lions</i> | <i>BPA</i> | <i>\$1,000.00</i> |
| <i>Deer Creek Lions</i> | <i>National Honor Society</i> | <i>\$400.00</i> |

Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bushinger, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Retirement Incentive MOU for Teachers Group. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Kern, to approve the Retirement Incentive for Administrators Group. Motion approved unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Seelhammer, seconded by Bushinger, to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the WDC School Board is Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Robertson Theatre.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barb Tumberg, Board Clerk

Date: _____

Dan Lawson, Board Chair

Date: _____