INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2155
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 21, 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. Also present were Brian Jacobson, Business Manager; Tyler Church, MS/HS Principal; and Kevin Tumberg, Elementary Principal.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The agenda was approved as amended. Taelor Borgenheimer, Elementary Paraprofessional, was added to the personnel hires. Items 6 and 7 under Part B, the closed session and reconvening of open session, were removed from the agenda.

The Board recognized School Board Recognition Month.

Abigail Worden, representing the Wadena-Deer Creek FFA Chapter, presented information regarding a proposed FFA Lock-In in February.

A motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Kern, to approve the August 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Bushinger, seconded by Tumberg, to approve the hires of Donald Barthel, Elementary Paraprofessional; Emily Curtis, Elementary Paraprofessional; Makayla Jensen, Elementary Paraprofessional; Paula Geiger, Elementary Paraprofessional; Lauren Becker, Elementary Paraprofessional; Pamela Canning, MS/HS Paraprofessional; Christa Zimmer, MS/HS Behavioral Paraprofessional; and Taelor Borgenheimer, Elementary Paraprofessional. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Kern, seconded by Bushinger, to accept the resignation of Jared Reinitz, Junior High Boys and Girls Basketball Coach. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Tumberg, to approve lane changes for Carly Carkhuff, Ryan Elfering, Megan Heino, Brooklyn Huttunen, Madeline Irsfeld, Abbie Schultz, and Melissa Stevens. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the Business Manager's Report. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Kern, seconded by Bushinger, to approve the Journal Entries as presented. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Bushinger, seconded by Schmidt, to approve district disbursements as presented. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Kern, seconded by Tumberg, to approve the following donations: Ross Seelhammer Plumbing, $390 for WAYB Raffle; Pizza Ranch, $365 for WAYB Raffle; Kyle Dykhoff, $610 for WAYB Raffle; Golf Scramble, $18,970 for WDC Sports; Wadena State Bank, $4,350 for Football; Lamson Family Trust, $1,400 for Drama; Paper Family Foundation, $2,000 for FCCLA; MMFCU, $100 for FCCLA; Kelderman, Inc. Fun Zone, $100

for FCCLA; and DC Lions Pull Tabs, $500 for FCCLA. Total donations were $28,785. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Seelhammer, to approve the maximum preliminary Pay 27 levy of $2,826,592.93. The preliminary maximum levy represents a 2.99% increase over the 2026 levy. The final levy will be considered in December. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

The Board set a special meeting for Monday, November 9, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. to canvass School Board election results. Motion by Kern, seconded by Schmidt. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the second reading of policy updates to Policies 208, 402, 423, 425, 509, 521, 524, 613, 621, 624, 709, 721, 722, 406, 522, and 528. Policy 721 was updated to establish a $25,000 emergency expenditure limit for the superintendent or designee when an emergency situation does not allow time to convene the Board. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

The Board tabled action on the continuation of inactive student activity accounts until the October meeting to allow time for written responses from activity advisors.

A motion by Kern, seconded by Seelhammer, to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for Monday, December 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Robertson Theatre. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

Items 6 and 7 under Part B, the closed session to consult with the School Board's attorney on pending litigation and the reconvening of open session, were removed from the agenda and were not held.

The Board discussed scheduling future meetings of the Facilities and Technology Committees. No formal committee action was taken.

Elementary Principal Kevin Tumberg reported that the school year has started well. The elementary Open House had 88% attendance for K-4 families. Fall benchmark testing has been completed by the Title I team, and the PTO held its first meeting on September 8 with 10 members. The PTO is beginning a fundraiser and continues to support field trips, picnics, the First Responders lunch, and other activities.

MS/HS Principal Tyler Church reported on the start of the school year, grade-level meetings, the sixth-grade canoe trip, the September 15 College Fair, the first advisory period, and preparations for Homecoming Week. The College Fair included WDC juniors and seniors, students from eight neighboring schools, and representatives from approximately 60 colleges and technical schools. Homecoming Week begins September 28, with Coronation and the Homecoming Parade scheduled for October 2.

Activities Director Norman Gallant was unable to attend due to an activity. Superintendent Johnson noted that the recent student leadership event hosted at WDC for area activities directors and high school students was successful.

Superintendent Brad Johnson reported on required state reporting, including Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness requirements; the search for a new district daycare director; the September 28 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony; National Custodial Appreciation Day on October 2; upcoming Fire Marshal

inspections; development of the district Cardiac Emergency Response Plan team; possible use of Chromebooks or similar devices for Board meetings; issues with the MS/HS door access system; and needed repairs or replacement of the choir room sound system.

A motion was made by Tumberg, seconded by Bushinger, to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____ Date: _____
Barb Tumberg, Board Clerk

_____ Date: _____
Dan Lawson, Board Chair