

**IND. SCHOOL DISTRICT #36
KELLIHER PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2026**

The School Board of ISD #36, Kelliher, MN met September 21, 2026 in the School Media Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Thayer at 6:01 p.m. Members present: Mary Thayer, Rachel Jorgensen, Tessa Koisti, Dawn Jensen, Kevin Waldo, Jake Neft and Jeff Nelson, Superintendent, Ex-Officio. Members absent: None.

Visitors: Laetitia Wickham, Ali Waldo, Thaaydis Adams, Lyle Donnell, Hannah McCurdy, Forest Pederson, August Poxleitner, Janessa Wickham, Alisha Everwind, Natalie Roosdett, Lauren Thayer, Curtis Lundin, Sherri Dahl, and Aliza Lundin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Rachel Jorgensen, second Kevin Waldo to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizen's Forum:

1. None.

Reports & Presentations:

1. Presentations
 - a. Laetitia Wickham and Student Council members presented treats for Board Member Appreciation Month.
2. Administrative Reports
 - a. Superintendent Jeff Nelson gave an update on enrollment that is currently at 295 students, relayed District is sending a mailing on September 22, 2026 of survey to residents, updated on shop class plans for baseball dugout repairs and construction, relayed information for the City of Kelliher repairs to street estimating \$46,000 for ISD \$36, gave an update on the American Indian Education positions and hiring, and discussed Athletic Coop Agreement.
 - b. Business Manager Aliza Lundin gave an update on election of board member positions, relayed levy calculations and changes for the current 2026 Payable 2027 levy, gave update on audit status, and relayed grant and rebate information.
 - c. Principal Sherri Dahl reported starting school year went well with all positions filled, discussed homecoming dates, relayed information on career fair in Bemidji

20+ students visited, relayed blood drive sponsored by National Honor Society planned, field trip for elementary to the Water Festival, Flu Shot dates, and the Achievement & Integration renewal application will be due in October.

Directors' Forum:

1. Rachel Jorgensen and Tessa Koisti thanked Student Council for the School Board Appreciation posters and treats.
2. Mary Thayer gave a thank you to all Kelliher School staff for the great start to the school year.

Regular Business:

Motion by Dawn Jensen, second by Kevin Waldo to approve the August 3, 2026 Board Workshop and August 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dawn Jensen, second by Rachel Jorgensen to approve the August Treasurer's Report, Payroll, and District bills in the amount of \$523,345.05. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve Resolution Accepting Donations.
2. Approve hire of Aleisha Pemberton, American Indian Education Coordinator effective August 31, 2026 at \$32.25 per hour (based on, Step 13, Lane B-2-3 of Education Minnesota – Kelliher Support Staff Contract – actual MOU/Contract Agreement or AT-Will Agreement TBD - any future changes to be paid retroactively.)
3. Approve appointment of Sonja Budde, Native American Liaison effective August 31, 2026 at \$25.35 per hour (based on, Step 5, Lane A-2 of Education Minnesota – Kelliher support Staff Contract – actual MOU/Contract Agreement or At-Will agreement TBD – any future changes to be paid retroactively.)
4. Approve appointment of Carly Amsden, Student Support Services Coordinator effective August 28, 2026 (this is an At-Will contract based on Masters Lane, Step 15, of Education Minnesota – Kelliher Salary schedule of \$77,719)
5. Approve hire of Steve Geerdes, Assistant Varsity Football Coach for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$4,451.31 (based on 2025-2026 base salary – final salary amount will be dependent on the final outcome of a new co-op agreement or calculations based on past practice at Kelliher if a joint agreement cannot be made with Northome.)
6. Approve hire of Aaron Jorgensen, Junior High Football Coach for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$2,475.95 (based on 2025-2026 base salary – final salary amount will be dependent on the final outcome of a new co-op agreement or

calculations based on past practice at Kelliher if a joint agreement cannot be made with Northome.)

7. Accept Resignation of Beth Skoe, Junior Class Advisor.
8. Approve hire of Staci Lagerquist, Junior Class Advisor for the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of \$1,535.70.

Motion made by Kevin Waldo, seconded by Dawn Jensen to approve the consent agenda.
Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

1. 2026 Payable 2027 Levy

Motion made by Kevin Waldo, seconded by Rachel Jorgensen to approve Proposed 2026 Payable 2027 Levy at \$713,362.84. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Truth in Taxation

Motion made by Tessa Koisti, second by Kevin Waldo to set Truth in Taxation Hearing for Monday, December 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m in the Kelliher Public School Media Center.
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Energy Efficiency

Motion made by Rachel Jorgensen, second by Tessa Koisti to approve Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through Headwaters Regional Development Commission for \$20,000: \$11,000 to cover ongoing facility energy efficiency and feasibility studies; and the remaining \$9,000 for future energy efficiency and conservation planning and technical assistance. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Handbook

Motion by Dawn Jansen, second by Kevin Waldo to approve the Staff Handbook for 2026-2027 School Year. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Parent-Student Handbook

Motion by Kevin Waldo, second by Tessa Koisti to approve Parent-Student Handbook for the 2026-2027 School Year. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Close Meeting

Motion by Rachel Jorgensen, second by Kevin Waldo to close meeting at ____ pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) and Minn.Stat. 13D.03 to consider strategy for labor negotiations with the Kelliher Support Staff (KSS/EdMN). Motion passed unanimously.

7. Reopen Meeting

Motion by Kevin Waldo, second by Tessa Koisti to reopen the meeting at 7:18 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Dawn Jensen, second by Jake Neft to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

The next Regular School Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Kelliher School Media Center.