

BOARD BRIEFS
I.S.D. #553
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, January 5, 2026
5:30 PM

ATTENDANCE: All School Board Members Plus Superintendent A. Johnson and M. Maki. Visitors D. Vomhof and D. Faysak.

CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR- at 5:30 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance

SETTING THE AGENDA TO DETERMINE THE ORDERS OF THE DAY- Approved.

CALLING FOR THE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR
VOTING FOR CHAIR- Mursu elected as 2026 Board Chair.

CALLING FOR THE NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR
VOTING FOR VICE CHAIR- Ehnert elected as 2026 Board Vice Chair.

CALLING FOR THE NOMINATIONS FOR CLERK
VOTING FOR CLERK- Seelhammer elected as 2026 Board Clerk

CALLING FOR THE NOMINATIONS FOR TREASURER
VOTING FOR TREASURER- Braukmann elected as 2026 Board Treasurer.

NAMING 2026 OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSPAPER-New York Mills Dispatch. Approved.

NAMING 2026 OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES- Farmers and Merchants State Bank of New York Mills, Minnesota, Inc., and the Liquid Asset School District Investment Fund, and any other United States Insured Banking Institution insured with FDIC coverage. Approved.

NAMING THE 2026 SCHOOL ATTORNEY- Squires, Waldspurger & Mace PA for consultations at the discretion of the Superintendent or School Board. Approved.

SETTING 2026 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING DATES, SITE, AND TIME
NOTICE OF 2026 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING;

DATES- Regular Monthly Meeting Dates

January	26	July	27
February	23	August	24
March	23	September	28
April	27	October	226
May	18 (Third Monday)	November	23
June	22	December	21 (Third Monday)

LOCATIONS- The meeting location will be the High School Media Center.

TIMES- All Regular Meetings will be conducted at 5:30 pm with the exceptions of June, July, and August when the meetings will be held at 4:30 pm.

WORKSHOPS- Quarterly workshops will be as requested February 9, May 11, August 10 and November 9 or as needed.

MEET AND CONFER - February, April and October. Date, time and location to be determined and mutually agreed upon.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS- Approved.

Otter Tail Family Collaborative: Kern

Community Education Delegate: Seelhammer

MSBA Legislative Liaison: Mursu

MSHSL School Board Representative: Braukmann

Teacher License Renewal Committee: Braukmann

Food Service Hearing Officer: Ehnert

Region IV Service Coop Delegate: Geiser

World's Best Workforce Committee Representative: Vice Chair

C&C Chamber Membership: All School Board & Administration

Special Education Coop: Superintendent of Schools

NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Ehnert, Mursu, Braukmann
CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND POLICY COMMITTEE: Mursu, Schermerhorn, Seelhammer
BUDGET AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Braukmann, Ehnert, Geiser
SUPPORT SERVICE COMMITTEE: Geiser, Schermerhorn, Kern

BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN CHAMPIONS-
SEL and ACADEMICS: Mursu
COLLEGE, CAREER & CHOICE READINESS: Geiser, Schermerhorn
FACILITIES: Braukmann, Kern
COMMUNICATION, BRANDING & MARKETING: Ehnert
PARTNERSHIPS: Seelhammer

2026 SCHOOL BOARD COMPENSATION- To set the per meeting compensation at \$75, \$100 for all day meetings and the annual amount being Chair– \$600, other officers & directors– \$400. Approved.

AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT TO PERFORM FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT- Approved.

AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EMPLOY DAY AND SPECIALIZED LABOR AS NEEDED- Approved.

AUTHORIZE THE BUSINESS MANAGER TO ASSIST THE TREASURER AND CLERK AS WELL AS AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY AND BOOKKEEPER TO ASSIST SAME OFFICERS IN DISPATCHING THEIR DUTIES- Approved.

AUTHORIZING THE ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OF PAYROLL TAX DEPOSITS AS ALLOWED BY MS 471.38- Approved.

SETTING THE DATE and COMMITTEE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANNUAL STAFF APPRECIATION DAY ACTIVITIES- CONSENSUS: To name Ehnert as the Ad Hoc Chair, plus Seelhammer & Mursu, for this activity with the date and theme to be determined by the committee.

AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE FISCAL AUDITOR TO MAKE YEAR-END TRANSFERS TO ELIMINATE ANY OPERATING FUND DEFICIENCIES- Approved.

ASSIGNING SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR 2026 TO SELECTED POSITIONS- Approved.
SUPERINTENDENT: >Legal & Compliance Officer >State Dept. Contact >Ex Officio Board Member > Otter Tail County Collaborative >LEA Representative >Sp Ed Coordinator >MSHSL Rep. > SAR Coordinator >Staff Development >Human Rights Officer
BUSINESS MANAGER: >State Department Reporting >Fiscal Data Reporting
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: >Curriculum Co-Coordinator >Assessment Coordinator >Human Rights Officer
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL: >Human Rights Officer > Curriculum Co-Coordinator
COMMUNITY EDUCATION DIRECTOR: >Community Service Programming >Title I Coordinator
FOOD SERVICE SUPERVISOR: >Breakfast and Noon Meal Service
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR: >Route, Driver, & Vehicle Development >Traffic Control
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: >OSHA/EPA >Air Quality >Building Security Coordinator >Safety Coordinator

AUTHORIZATION TO SELL ANY EXCESS SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AT PUBLIC AUCTION IN THE SUMMER OF 2026 WITH SPECIFIC DATE TO BE DETERMINED AND ADVERTISED- Approved.

ADJOURNMENT- 5:47 pm