

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2711
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS
AURORA, MN 55705**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Chair, Walt Hautala at 5:30 p.m. on April 13, 2026 in the Board Room (204) with the following in answer to roll call.

ROLL CALL: Director Adams, Director Gross, Director Baudhuin, Director Hautala, Superintendent Burgess, Director LaFrenier, Director Undeland

Present: Directors Justin Adams, Amanda Gross, Chris Baudhuin, Kathy Undeland, Superintendent Burgess

Absent: Directors Walt Hautala, Pamela LaFrenier

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL: Moved by Director Gross, seconded by Director Adams to approve the agenda as amended by removing 9.3 and adding 9.14.

All in favor---Motion passed.

DISTRICT PATRON AND VISITOR COMMENTS: Student Council has a Spring Fling Dance for Jr. High

Consent Agenda: Moved by Director Baudhuin, seconded by Director Gross to approve the consent agenda as presented: Payrolls and Bills in the amount of \$1,079,805.05; Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026; Tuition Agreements with ISD #709 Duluth for 3 students with start dates of 10/3/25, 12/9/25, 2/9/26 and Minnesota Transitions Charter School for 1 student with a start date of 8/25/25.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Non-Renewal of Probationary Teacher: Member Baudhuin introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT
OF CRYSTAL NUCECH-DUESLER PROBATIONARY TEACHER**

WHEREAS, Crystal Nucech-Duesler, is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 2711.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2711, that, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subd. 5, the teaching contract of Crystal Nucech-Duesler, a probationary teacher in and of Independent School District No. 2711, is hereby terminated at the close of the current 2025-2026 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that written notice be sent to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal of her contract to the extent of 1.00 FTE as provided by law and statute, and that notice be in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE OF TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL**

Ms. Nucech-Duesler

Dear Ms. Nucech-Duesler:

You are hereby notified that at a Regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. #2711 held on April 13, 2026, a resolution was adopted by a majority vote to terminate your contract to the extent of 1.00 FTE with the school district at the end

of the 2025-2026 school year and not to renew your contract to the extent of 1.00 FTE for the 2026-2027 school year. Said action of the board was taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 5.

You may officially request that the school board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract. For your information, however, this action was taken because of the financial condition of the school district and decrease in enrollment.

Yours very truly,

Pamela LaFrenier
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #2711

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Gross and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Director Gross, Director Baudhuin, Director Undeland, Director Adams

and the following voted against the same: None.

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Chairperson

Clerk

Non-Renewal of Probationary Teacher: Member Baudhuin introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT
OF CHRISTINE RANTA PROBATIONARY TEACHER**

WHEREAS, Christine Ranta, is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 2711.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2711, that, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subd. 5, the teaching contract of Christine Ranta, a probationary teacher in and of Independent School District No. 2711, is hereby terminated at the close of the current 2025-2026 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that written notice be sent to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal of her contract to the extent of 1.00 FTE as provided by law and statute, and that notice be in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE OF TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL**

Ms. Ranta

Dear Ms. Ranta:

You are hereby notified that at a Regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. #2711 held on April 13, 2026, a resolution was adopted by a majority vote to terminate your contract to the extent of 1.00 FTE with the school district at the end of the 2025-2026 school year and not to renew your contract to the extent of 1.00 FTE for the 2026-2027 school year. Said action of the board was taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 5.

You may officially request that the school board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract.

Yours very truly,

Pamela LaFrenier
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #2711

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Adams and upon the vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Director Baudhuin, Director Undeland, Director Adams, Director Gross

and the following voted against the same: None.

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Chairperson

Clerk

Program and Position Reduction Resolution: Removed from the Agenda.

Memorandum of Understanding: Moved by Director Adams, seconded by Director Baudhuin to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between ISD 2711 and Ed MN Local #1255 addressing the amount of duty days and prep time minutes per day.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Crisis Go Renewal 2026: Moved by Director Adams, seconded by Director Gross to approve the Crisis Go Contract Renewal effective May 1, 2026 for a 3 year term for a total contract value of \$6,771.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Teacher Resignation: Moved by Director Baudhuin, seconded by Director Adams to accept the resignation of Elyssa Birchem as Elementary Teacher effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year with appreciation for her dedicated service to the district.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Indian Education Tutor Assignment: Moved by Director Baudhuin, seconded by Director Gross to approve Sonja Steele as Indian Education Tutor up to 2 hours per week effective March 17, 2026.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Indian Education Tutor Assignment: Moved by Director Adams, seconded by Director Baudhuin to approve Holly Cromley as Indian Education Tutor up to 2 hours per week effective March 24, 2026.

All in favor---Motion passed.

NESC Literacy Lead Letter of Intent: Moved by Director Adams, seconded by Director Gross to approve the Northeast Service Cooperative District Literacy Lead Letter of Intent for 2026-2027.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Coaching Recommendations: Moved by Director Baudhuin, seconded by Director Adams to approve the following coaching recommendations: Jon Powell-JH Baseball Coach; Riley Lind-JH B/G Track Coach; Brian Karich -Head Volleyball Coach for 2026-2027.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Maintenance/Bus Driver Resignation: Moved by Director Gross, seconded by Director Adams to accept the resignation of Jim Karkinen as Maintenance/Bus Driver effective April 15, 2026 with appreciation for his dedicated service to the district.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Range Mental Health Professional Services Contract: Moved by Director Baudhuin, seconded by Director Gross to approve the Professional Services Contract between Mesabi East School District and Range Mental Health to provide Children's Mental Health Services. The term of the agreement is from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

All in favor---Motion passed.

Acceptance of Donations Resolution: Moved by Director Gross, seconded by Director Adams to approve the Acceptance of Donations to Mesabi East School District Resolution:

RESOLUTION
Acceptance of Donations to Mesabi East School District

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 465.03 requires a school district to accept donations by resolution expressed in the terms prescribed by the donor in full; and,

WHEREAS, acceptance of the donations in accordance with donor's terms is in the best interest of the Mesabi East School District:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mesabi East School District does accept the below-described donations from said organizations in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mesabi East School District wishes to extend its grateful appreciation to these various individuals and organizations.

- Monetary donation in the amount of \$3,800 earmarked for Jr. Class/Prom
- Monetary donation in the amount of \$100 earmarked for a Dance Assembly
- Monetary donation in the amount of \$1,000 earmarked for Mesabi East Prom
- * Monetary donation in the amount of \$200 earmarked for Community Ed Elementary Spring Play

Roll Call:

Ayes: Director Adams, Director Gross, Director Baudhuin, Director Undeland

Nays: None --- Motion passed.

REPORTS: Under Separate Cover.

MEETING SCHEDULE: Regular Board Meeting, May 4, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Board Room (204)

Adjournment: Moved by Director Gross, seconded by Director Adams to adjourn at 6:03 p.m.

All in favor---Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Chairperson

Clerk