

Minutes for April 15, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting

Chair Opatz called the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:00 PM in the meeting room.

Members present: Ben Christensen, Evelyn Martini, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Sarah Hansen, Pat Meier and Student Rep Afton Scegura. Member absent: Rob Knettel.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Secondary Principal Tom Cooper, Director of Finance and Operations Garrity Gerber, and Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka.
Guests in attendance: Holly Heinen, Robin Heinen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Christensen, second by Hansen, to approve the amended agenda. Items added: 6.5. Approve Ad Artwork for FB/TR Scoreboard; 6.6. Authorization to order classroom furniture; 7.5. Approve a one-year (FY27 school year) Leave of Absence for Pat Caspers; 7.6. Authorization to hire LTS Mackenzie Householder; 7.7. accept letter of resignation from Teacher Nathan Anderson. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Martini, second by Christensen, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the 3/12/2026 Spl. Board meeting and 3/18/2026 Reg. Board meeting; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$283,044.11. Computer checks approved #59416 through #59571 and #31483 through #31486 in the amount of \$10,286.02; approval of the electronic transfer for March 2026, \$462,375.17, acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$5,910,104.01; approval of revised Policies 506 Student Discipline, 722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests and 806 Crisis Management; approval of lane change from MS to MS20 for Sara Szafranski effective at the start of the FY27 school year. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Christensen, Burg, Opatz, Hansen and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Opatz welcomed fellow board members, administration, staff and guests.

Chair Opatz opened public comment and advised of the required format. Robin Heinen spoke regarding her senior daughter and participation in the graduation ceremony. Chair Opatz thanked Mrs. Heinen for her comments and assured her that her concerns will be forwarded to the Superintendent's Office and someone will respond within a timely manner.

Reports:

Superintendent Swenson reported on the upcoming State FFA Convention, the District Testing Schedule, the new website, the FFA Banquet, Grandparents Day, and upcoming Concerts. He informed the Board that he is working through the process of organizing his Google drive in preparations for a new Superintendent.

Student Rep Afton Scegura reported on the Students of Excellence Banquet, Prom, Scholarship night, and spring sports which are all doing great! She added everything is going great!

Secondary Principal Tom Cooper reported on the State FFA Contests and recognized Jaden Ebnet for his hard work and accomplishments. He talked about the PSAT being discontinued and reported spring sports are in full swing with the end of the school year nearing with all the concluding activities. Mr. Cooper informed the Board that the ACT testing went great, round one of MCA's are done with only 8 students opting out compared to 40

students last year. He announced upcoming dates for Prom April 25, Tractor Day May 15th and Graduation May 29.

Elem Principal Jim Stang offered appreciation to all those helping through the death of our seventh grade student, everyone rose to the challenge pitching in and helping out to make sure everyone was taken care of and everything was covered! He reminded the Board that Grandparents Day is May 1st and help is needed to facilitate the day.

BSED report, Pat Meier reported on proposed calendar changes, budget revisions, that eight staffing positions were being added, hiring Physical Therapy Services with locked in cost for 3 years, donation from Rockville Lions, child count , unified club activities that are being implemented in some districts, Graduation, and that a facility has been found to house the Voyageurs Program along with many of the other programs.

Business Manager Gerber reported a small Kindergarten class is coming in for next school year and a large senior class is going out. He will have a revised budget for the May board meeting and a FY27 budget for the Board in June. Mr. Gerber also informed the Board that he has canceled the purchase of the handicapped van.

Business Items:

Motion by Christensen, second by Martini, to adopt the Resolution Accepting Donations. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Holdingford Public Schools, ISD 738, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Designated Purpose (if any)</u>
Holdingford Lioness	\$150	Community Ed's Storybook Theatre
Holdingford Fine Arts Now	\$1000	Community Ed's Storybook Theatre
Joseph Phannenstein	\$1500	Archery Program
Two Rivers	\$250	Archery Program
Rudolph's Redneck Roost	\$1000	Archery Program
St Wendel Sportsmans Club	\$300	Cross Country
Coborns	\$50	High School PBIS
St Wendel Sportsmans Club	\$1000	Trap Shooting
Darkhouse Anglers Assoc. Central MN Chapter	\$1000	Trap Shooting
Booster Club (Meat Raffle)	\$167.50	Trap Shooting

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows: In favor: Martini, Christensen, Burg, Opatz, Hansen and Meier. Against: None. Absent: Knettel. Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted. Board Chair Opatz read the donations aloud and thanked the donors for their generosity.

Motion by Hansen, second by Burg, to Schedule Friday, April 17th for Superintendent Semifinal Interview Day starting at 7:45 AM. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Christensen, to Schedule Wednesday, April 22nd for Superintendent Finalist Interview Day starting at 5:00 PM. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber explained the project will be paid for by a restroom remodel grant and MA dollars. Because there are dollars available a handicap shower may be added. Motion by Hansen, second by Meier, to approve the Bid from BJH Construction for the remodeling of 2 toilet rooms in the amount of \$82,311.06. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber presented a graphic proof for Board review of the advertisement sponsorships for the football/track scoreboard including all of the locations that will have sponsorship signage. Motion by Meier, second by Christensen, to approve the proof for football/track scoreboard sponsorships. Motion carried. AIF.

Superintendent Swenson asked to be excused at 6:45 PM to attend Cora Stock's Services.

Mr. Gerber presented the district rotation to replace classroom furniture as the capital budget allows. This year the proposal is to replace fifth grade and secondary art classroom furniture. Motion by Martini, second by Hansen, to approve initiating the order of furniture for the 26-27 school year including fifth grade and secondary art as presented. The total is approximately: \$85,820.00. Motion carried. AIF.

Personnel:

Motion by Christensen, second by Martini, to hire Ashley Koester and Tara Wolford for Co-Student Council Advisors for the start of the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Christensen, second by Burg, to accept the resignation from the District Mentorship/Induction Coordinator Milissa Walz effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried. AIF. The Board and Administration thanked Ms. Walz for her time serving in the District Mentorship/Induction Coordinator Position.

Motion by Meier, second by Hansen, to accept the resignation from Custodian Daniel Nienaber effective 5/22/2026. Motion carried. AIF. Mr. Gerber commended Mr. Nienaber for his dedication to the District and the Board thanked Mr. Nienaber for his seven years with the District.

Motion by Christensen, second by Burg, to hire Ashley Koester for the District Mentorship/Induction Coordinator for the start of the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Burg, second by Hansen, to approve a one-year (FY27 school year) Leave of Absence for Pat Caspers. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Hansen, second by Christensen, to hire MacKenzie Householder for a Long Term Substitute 5th Grade Teacher under Ms. Sailor's supervision. Starting approximately 5/4/2026 and continuing to the end of the 2025-26 school year. Starting pay is Para wage of \$16.51/hr plus 10% for supervision. Once the teaching license is obtained pay transitions to Teacher salary at BS Step 1. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Christensen, second by Burg, to accept the letter of resignation from Secondary Science Teacher Nathan Anderson effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried. AIF. The Board and Administration thanked Mr. Anderson for his 4 years serving in the District.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Superintendent Semifinalist Interviews April 17, 2026, 7:45 AM, Meeting Room

Superintendent Finalist Interviews April 22, 2026, Time TBD, Meeting Room

Reminder- Grandparents Day is May 1st, 2026, contact Camille if you can help, 320-290-6653

School Board Meeting May 20, 2026 @ 6:00 PM, Meeting Room.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 6:54 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Christensen, and a second by Hansen. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by Clerk Evelyn Martini