

Minutes for December 10, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting

The Truth in Taxation Hearing 2025 payable 2026 was opened at 6:01 PM. Business Manager Garrity Gerber presented the Annual Truth in Taxation information which included a review of funding sources. 83% comes from the state, 15% from local levy, 1% from federal sources, and a small portion from miscellaneous local sources and donations. He reviewed the overall revenues and expenditures of the district by category. Mr. Gerber explained the proposed Levy is a net change of 2.5%. No district constituents were present. He entertained questions from the Board and explained that the increase in property values is causing the District to receive less state aid and paying more out of local levies. Chair Opatz closed the Hearing at 6:07 PM.

Chair Lori Opatz called the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:08PM in the meeting room.

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

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Linda Zapzalka District Adm. Assistant, and Board Member Elect Sarah Hansen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Christensen, second by Evelyn, to approve the amended agenda. Added items 7.7. Course proposal; 8.8. Approve Health Office Assistant contract; 8.9. Approve Activities Director/Dean contract. Mr. Swenson requested to remove item 8.9. Motion carried with the removal of 8.9. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the Minutes from 11/5/25 work session and 11/12/2025 regular board meeting; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$290,439.30. Computer checks approved #58790 through #58959, and #31463 through #31474 in the amount of \$3,294.95; approval of the electronic transfers for November, 2025, totaling \$438,681.87; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$8,843,492.67; approval of Policy 410 Family and Medical Leave Policy; approval of Policy 306 Family and Medical Leave Policy; approval of Policy 606 Textbooks and Instructional Materials; accepted the following donations: \$5,150 To the Football Team from various donors: \$350 - Two Rivers, \$100 - Gerad's Oil, \$200 - Winter Repair, \$300 - Custom Craft Woodworking, \$300 - Central Stone Works, \$300 - Versabank, \$2,000 Kasella Contracting, \$300 Engineered Transportation (Polar), \$300 - ABS Supply, \$200 - Jerry Rudy Truck Brokerage, \$200 - TNL Painting, \$500 - Bysse Roofing, \$500 - Greg Konsor toward football fan bus, \$10,000 - American Legion to Community Ed, \$10,000 - American Legion to District Activity Fund.

On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Christensen, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, Feia, Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried. Chair Opatz recognized and thanked all Donators for their tremendous support and generosity!

Chair Opatz welcomed fellow board members, board member elect and administration.

Superintendent Swenson refreshed the Board on the protocol that he uses to call early outs, cancelled days and late starts. No concerns were reported regarding the recent weather related decisions. He reported the administration is in the early planning stages of budget reductions for FY27. Discussions will continue with administration and the Board. Mr. Swenson updated the Board on the Tech Director, Lance Feia's resignation. Reporting some applications have been received. Mr. Swenson informed the Board that he has met with Ms. Hanson to help get her onboard for the start of her term. Lastly he thanked Ed Feia for his eight years on the

Board and his dedication to the school district!

BSED Report - Meier reported that the regular meeting is next week, however the BSED Continuing Ed. Committee met and were informed that PELSB approved some new options for Continuing Ed. clock hours.

Business Manager reported the new MN Paid Leave has been rolled out to all employees, the district is switching to MEDICA Health Insurance on January 1st, 2026 and he has met with Mr. Gardner to discuss necessary projects for this summer. The biggest project being the Intermediate Gymnasium renovation and with grant funds the renovation of the bathrooms near the pool. Lastly Mr. Gerber informed the Board that the new electronic payment point of sale cash register for concessions and the card reader for ticket sales has been implemented.

Business:

Mr. Gerber highlighted the Levy details. Motion by Meier, second by Christensen, to Certify the 25 Pay 26 Levy \$2,930,948.67 an 2.5% increase. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber explained this is done annually to start the budget process for the next school year. Motion by Meier, second by Feia, to authorize budget adjustments for the 2026 fiscal year. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Swenson explained the September 1st start prior to the Labor Day Calendar for FY27. Motion by Feia, second by Burg, to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Knettel, to Adopt the Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places For Multiple Precincts. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Christensen, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, Feia, Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried.

The meeting continued with discussion on Board Committee Assignments for 2026 and review of the 2026 Board Calendar.

Mr. Swenson explained the class proposal was developed by Mr. Roberts for students to earn a credit for their Ag work done in the summer. Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to approve a new course proposal, Summer Ag Experience. Motion carried. AIF.

Personnel:

Motion by Knettel, second by Christensen, to hire Denise Waletzko for a 5th Grade LTS Teacher from approximately 5/8/2026 through the end of the 2025-26 School Year. Motion carried. AIF. Mr. Swenson thanked Denise for her flexibility in Subbing in the District!

Motion by Feia, second by Christensen, to accept the resignation from Kid Zone Assistant, Mekenna Bartkowicz effective 12/17/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Christensen, to accept the resignation from Lance Feia Technology Director contingent upon official approval by prospective employer. Effective date to be determined. Motion carried. AIF. Board Chair Opatz on behalf of the entire Board thanked Mr. Lance Feia for his 14 years of service with the District and wished him luck on his next chapter!

Motion by Martini, second by Burg, to approve the 2025-2027 Contract with Ganelle Jackson, American Sign Language Interpreter. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Christensen, second by Meier,
to approve the 2025-2027 Contract with Jan Notch, Food Service Director. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Christensen, to approve the 2025-2027 Contract with Principals. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Christensen, to approve the 2025-2027 Teachers Master Agreement. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Martini, to approve the 2025-2027 Contract with Kaitlyn Thell, Health Office Assistant.
Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Special Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 @ 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room. (Oath of Office)

MSBA Conference January 14-16, 2026

Organizational Board Meeting Jan 21, 2026 @ 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 6:45 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Christensen, and seconded by Martini. Motion carried.
AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk Patrick Meier