

## **Minutes of the April 22, 2026 Superintendent Finalist Evaluation Meeting of Holdingford Public School**

Chair Opatz called the Meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 5:11 PM in the meeting room. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct Superintendent final round evaluations with two candidates Jona Deavel and Dave Oehrlein.

Board Members present: Evelyn Martini, Ben Christensen, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel, Sarah Hansen and Pat Meier. Absent: None

Also present was: Search Consultants Dr. Eric Skanson and Todd Van Erp with School Pro, District Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka, Natasha Barber with Star Publications, Garrity Berber, Amanda McDonough, Ashia Berscheid, Terri Stoermann, and Lisa Jarnot.

Chair Opatz announced open meeting formalities.

Dr. Skanson explained the four stations that each candidate will be evaluated on: a writing prompt, a presentation of what their first one hundred days would look like, role playing in three different scenarios and candid conversation.

Dr. Skanson reintroduced Jona Deavel and she was evaluated by the Board through the stations lead by Dr. Skanson. After the stations were completed the Board had an opportunity to ask follow-up questions. This concluded the evaluation process for Ms. Deavel.

The Board recessed at 6:12 PM and reconvened at 6:33 PM.

Dr. Skanson reintroduced Dave Oehrlein and he was evaluated by the Board through the stations lead by Dr. Skanson. After the stations were completed the Board had an opportunity to ask follow-up questions. This concluded the evaluation process for Mr. Oehrlein.

The Board recessed at 7:42 PM and reconvened at 7:50 PM.

Board Chair Opatz opened deliberations leading a discussion on the strengths, weaknesses and over-all fit of each candidate which concluded with a motion by Christensen, to enter into negotiations with Candidate Dave Oehrlein for the Superintendent of Holdingford Public School ISD #738. Second by Knettel. Voting on roll call in favor: Martini, Christensen, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, Hansen and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. The new Superintendent will start July 1, 2026.

Board Chair Opatz thanked everyone that took part in the hiring process for their time and input as well as Dr. Skanson and Mr. Van Erp with School Pro.

The meeting was closed at 8:36 PM with a motion by Christensen to adjourn and a second by Martini. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Clerk Evelyn Martini