

FERTILE-BELTRAMI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Independent School District #599
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
8:00 p.m., January 13, 2026
Fertile-Beltrami School Board Conference

The Board of Education of Independent School District #599 met in regular session at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2026. The following were present: Matt Erickson, Nate Rasch, Paul Stromstad, Ryan Opdahl, Mark Sorenson, April Grunhovd, Bookkeeper Jessica Vanderplaats, Principal Messick, Dean Bruggeman, and Superintendent Clarke.

Visitors: Jenna Schrom, Amy Kleinwachter, Kayla Campbell, Karina Skaug

Chairman Erickson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m..

Election of Officers

Opdahl nominated Erickson for chairperson, Opdahl moved, Stromstad seconded, nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. UC

Sorenson nominated Rasch for vice-chairperson, Sorenson moved, Opdahl seconded, nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. UC

Grunhovd nominated Opdahl for clerk, Grunhovd moved, Rasch seconded, nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. UC

Stromstad nominated Grunhovd for treasurer, Stromstad moved, Sorenson seconded, nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. UC

Opdahl moved, Sorenson seconded to set the board appointments and committees as follows:

Board Appointments:

Minnesota State High School League – Tia Gullickson
Legislative Liaison – Paul Stromstad, Mark Sorenson
Pine to Prairie Vocational Board – Matt Erickson
Polk County Family Services Collaborative—Ryan Opdahl

Board Committees:

Staff Development – April Grunhovd, Ryan Opdahl
Technology – Mark Sorenson, Tia Gullickson, Nathan Rasch
Community Education – Matt Erickson, Nathan Rasch
Transportation – Paul Stromstad, Ryan Opdahl & Mark Sorenson
Facilities – Nate Rasch, Tia Gullickson & Matt Erickson
Negotiations – April Grunhovd, Nathan Rasch & Matt Erickson
Policy/Meet & Confer – Ryan Opdahl, Paul Stromstad & Nathan Rasch
Discipline – Nathan Rasch, April Grunhovd & Mark Sorenson. UC

Rasch moved, Opdahl seconded to designate the Fertile Journal as the official school newspaper, Old National (main account), Red River State Bank (revolving account) and the PMA Financial Network, Inc. are designated as the official depositories. UC

Sorenson moved, Stromstad seconded to delegate the authority to make electronic transfers to the Superintendent, the bookkeeper will initiate electronic transfers upon approval of the superintendent. U

Sorenson moved, Opdahl seconded to set the school board meetings and informational meetings for the Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m, March mtg at 8:01 (due to Township Elections) , Informational Meetings- the 4th Tuesday of each month. UC

Rasch moved, Grunhovd seconded to set the board per diem as \$85 per meeting, \$100 for meetings over 4 hours & board chair stipend of \$500. UC

Rasch moved, Opdahl seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting Regular Meeting, December 15, 2025, Negotiations Cmt, December 16, 2025, and Negotiations, December 16, 2025, Negotiations Cmt, January 6, 2026. UC

Stromstad moved, Opdahl seconded to approve the agenda as presented/amended. UC

The following made public comments: Kayla Campbell offered to donate a microwave to the lunchroom if needed, Superintendent Clarke will visit with Jodi regarding the status of current microwave.

Cash balances for December were reviewed.

Rasch moved, Sorenson seconded to approve payment of the January bills in the amount of \$815,013.59 (checks- 70504-70576 \$154,623.21 and wires- \$660,390.38). UC

Dean Bruggeman reported on the following: Triple AAA representatives- Drew Gullickson and Katrina Hitchen, winter sports activities, Solo Contest 1/26/26.

Principal Messick reported on the following: student fundraising events, Winter Concert, end of 1st Qtr Jan 16th, February is I Love to Read month.

Superintendent Clarke reported on the following: acoustical panel project install, GV Tech grant, add MN Paid Leave costs, security camera and building access install.

Member Rasch introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND
POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFOR.

WHEREAS, there is an anticipated reduction in student enrollment, and,
WHEREAS, this reduction in expenditures may include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and
WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers; contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 599, as follows:
That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures and, as a result of a reduction in enrollment, make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Stromstad and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Opdahl, Sorenson, Grunhovd, Stromstad, Rasch, Erickson.

and the following voted against the same: none
whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Opdahl moved, Sorenson seconded to authorize the continued use of the 2025 check signature plate until a new one can be obtained. UC

Stromstad moved, Sorenson seconded to rescind Wrestling Coaching Contract for Drew Rasch- UC
Member Rasch- abstained.

Grunhovd moved, Opdahl seconded to approve Drew Rasch-Volunteer-Wrestling. UC Member Rasch-
abstained.

Rasch moved, Stromstad seconded to approve the 2026 Seniority List. UC

Sorenson moved, Grunhovd seconded to accept a letter of resignation from Lisa Christianson- Special
Education. UC

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 8:00 p.m., February 10, 2026

Chairperson Erickson adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m..

_____ Chairperson _____ Clerk