

Clerk's Minutes

The Esko Board of Education, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, held their regular board meeting on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room.

Members present: Jerry Frederick, Leona Johnson, Margaret Sunnarborg, Steve McConnell, Rob Johnson and Superintendent Aaron Fischer. Member absent: Todd Rengo.

Call the Meeting to Order

Chairperson Jerry Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Leona Johnson to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Rob Johnson, second by Leona Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, with the removal of donation/grant item dii for individual consideration/action.

- Approve the minutes of the October 13, 2025, regular School Board meeting.
- Checks.

Date	Check #s	Total
10/10/25	113378	\$350.00
10/21/25	Voided 113326	(\$915.30)
10/22/25	113379 – 113381	\$8,490.75
10/23/25	113382 – 113461	\$640,012.07
10/28/25	113462 – 113463	\$1,124.00
11/3/25	113297	(\$206.50)
11/4/25	113464 – 113527	\$61,116.55
11/5/25	113528 – 113529	\$1,260.00
11/6/25	113530	\$108.00

- Personnel.
 - Approve winter coaching additions – Douglas Roberts and Andrew Dammer as junior high boys' basketball coaches. Clear background checks on file.
 - Approve 6th assignment additions – Jeremy Zywicki Semester I and Cora Vandewege Semester II.
- Donations/Grants.
 - USG Interiors in the amount of \$500 for Robotics.
- Fundraising Request.
 - Choir, Band and French Club – Spirit Night at Cloquet Dairy Queen.
 - Boys' Basketball – Donations through Leading Edge and a ball toss.
 - Music Boosters – Sell candy bars and water at band and choir concerts.
- Treasurer's Reports.
 - October 2025.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 99

ESKO, MINNESOTA

TREASURER'S CASH REPORT

Month Ending October 31, 2025

Date of Report: 11/9/2025

FUND	BALANCE 9/30/2025	CASH RECEIPTS	CASH DISBURSEMENTS	PAYROLL	SUNDRY JOURNAL	BALANCE 10/31/2025
01 General	5,944,756.00	1,548,197.32	(986,946.81)	(557,717.66)	37,699.91	5,985,988.76
02 Food Service	738,173.86	102,012.94	(55,210.85)	(8,694.97)	(125.00)	776,155.98

03 Transportation	(162,992.08)	0.00	(176,169.50)	(27,745.88)	2,605.64	(364,301.82)
04 Community Service	696,594.49	80,561.71	(27,355.45)	(32,826.38)	(1,626.23)	715,348.14
05 Capital Expenditure	(404,401.53)	0.00	(11,938.72)	(305.85)	0.00	(416,646.10)
06 Building Construction	(34,283.05)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	(34,282.95)
07 Debt Service	662,272.62	275,369.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	937,642.37
11 Student Activity	65,086.91	27,095.25	(12,630.44)	0.00	700.44	80,252.16
18 Custodial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total Cash for reg. oper.	7,505,207.22	2,033,236.97	(1,270,251.77)	(627,290.74)	39,254.86	7,680,156.54
45 OPEB Trust	970,388.42	3,915.84	(5,377.76)	0.00	3,050.13	971,976.63
TOTAL District Cash	8,475,595.64	2,037,152.81	(1,275,629.53)	(627,290.74)	42,304.99	8,652,133.17

BANKS	AMOUNT
National Bank of Commerce	694,206.69
Other Banks (CD's & MN Trust)	6,985,341.03
OPEB Trust	972,585.45
TOTAL OF BANK BAL.	8,652,133.17

This report reflects CASH balances of the district, NOT fund balances.

Electronic Transfer Report September			
Date	Account Transferred From	Account Transferred Into	Amount
10/03/25	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$200,000.00
10/13/25	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$400,000.00
10/29/25	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$450,000.00

Payrolls September					
Date	Payroll Type	Check's	Direct Deposits	Electronic Payments	Grand Total
10/15/25	Regular	124796-124807	\$8,965.81	\$257,172.48	\$291,897.46
10/31/25	Reg/Retro	124809-124822	\$9,252.17	\$291,830.86	\$312,477.39
					\$558,035.75
					\$613,560.42

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Discussion/Approval of Donation/Grant Item dii Removed from Consent Agenda for Individual Consideration/Action

Discussion/Explanation was heard regarding Boreal Waters Community Foundation Grant in the amount of \$25,000 for Branda Thwaits. The grant will be used to pay for summer staffing and programs for special education students in grades K-6.

Moved by Jerry Frederick, second by Steve McConnell to approve Boreal Waters Community Foundation Grant in the amount of \$25,000 for Branda Thwaits. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Presentation: Robotics Team Regarding Out of State Travel

Robotics team captains, Ethan Klunenber and Ahna Brekke, presented a proposal to the Board to request permission for out of state travel to Illinois to participate in a second regional competition.

Approve Robotics Team for Out of State Travel

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Margaret Sunnarborg to approve the Robotics Team for out of state travel to Illinois to participate in a second regional competition. Aye votes by Steve McConnell, Margaret Sunnarborg, Rob Johnson and Leona Johnson with Jerry Frederick abstaining from the vote, and no nay votes.

Presentation: Achievement and Integration Update

Mr. Fischer presented updates on achievement and integration as provided by Lexi Saarela the district's Student Success and Family Liaison. Copy on file in the district office.

Administrative Reports:

Principals' Reports:

Elementary School: Mr. Harker reported on the following:

- First quarter went well
- 6th grade class at ELC this week
- PIE group is planning fundraisers for playground enhancements

High School: Mr. Hexum reported on the following:

- Cast, crew and directors of The Secret Garden wrapped up a fantastic show
- End of quarter 1 – excellent work by our students and staff
- Esko Girl's Soccer Team placed 3rd at the State Tournament
- Seniors volunteered and did yard cleanup. Sophomores stepped up and cleaned up roadways.

Board Committee Reports:

Steve McConnell: Special Ed Task Force

Leona Johnson: Special Ed Task Force, School Play

Jerry Frederick – AFSCME Negotiations, Town Board Meeting, School Safety Committee, Online MSBA Meetings, Carlton County Highway Department Meeting

Rob Johnson – Non-Certified Negotiations

Margaret Sunnarborg – School Play

Superintendent's Report:

Supt. Aaron Fischer:

Mr. Fischer reported on the following:

- Current enrollment is at 1,280
- Carlton County Highway Department is examining a potential roundabout at Highway 61 and Canosia Road as a safety measure
- Special Ed Task Force is moving forward
- Audit is postponed due to audit firm's time line. Special board meeting will be held on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
- Northern Lights Academy Board moving forward with the building project pending state funding

Congratulations and Commendations

- Volleyball Team and Coaches for four consecutive section finals
- Girl's Soccer Team and Coaches for MSHSL 3rd place finish at State
- Sharon Lahti, State Soccer Coach of the Year
- Andy Madill, State Assistant Soccer Coach of the Year
- Britta Koski, Whitney Hanson and Eilee Straub, Soccer All-State Players
- Addy Parrott, Britta Koski, Soccer All-Tournament Team
- Soccer Team awarded Section 7 Fair Play Award
- Soccer Team awarded Gold Team Academic Award
- Soccer Team awarded All-State All-Academic Award
- School Forest Committee – Pumpkin Walk
- Braxton Male for donation of benches for the Sport Court as part of his Eagle Scout Project

Open Forum

- Mr. Barta from the Town Board reported on the following:
 - Township is engaged in Highway 61 redevelopment project
 - Public Forum will be held on January 8, 2026, in regard to the Highway 61 project
 - New staff at Thomson Township

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Steve McConnell, second by Leona Johnson to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Steve McConnell
Clerk