

Clerk's Minutes

The Esko Board of Education, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, held their regular board meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room.

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

Call the Meeting to Order

Chairperson Jerry Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Rob Johnson to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Leona Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- Approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, regular School Board meeting.
- Checks.

Date	Check #s	Total
1/15/26	113891 – 113945	\$262,229.45
1/22/26	113946 - 113998	\$45,114.62
1/28/26	Wires	\$30,235.64
1/30/26	113999 – 114026	\$56,843.71
1/30/26	Voided Check	(\$44.00)
2/2/26	Wire	\$340,000.00
2/6/26	Voided Check	(\$74.00)
2/6/26	114027 – 114079	\$31,259.71

- Donations.
 - Outdoor Advantage in the amount of \$200 for the Fishing Club.
 - National Bank of Commerce in the amount of \$100 for Robotics.
 - Daugherty Appliance Cloquet in the amount of \$150 for Robotics.
 - Community Memorial Hospital in the amount of \$250 for Robotics.
 - Larry and Donna Pulkrabek Foundation in the amount of \$2,000 for Robotics.
- Fundraising Request.
 - Esko Music Boosters – a suggested \$5.00 donation at the door of the Jazz Band Concert on February 14, 2026, along with selling desserts and refreshments.
- Personnel.
 - Caitlin Lilly – addition of second semester 6th assignment.
 - Tanya Pagelkopf – addition of Paraprofessional position for 3.5 hours per day effective February 10, 2026.
- Treasurer's Report.
 - January 2026.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 99

ESKO, MINNESOTA

TREASURER'S CASH REPORT

Month Ending January 31, 2026

Date of Report: 2/4/2026

FUND	BALANCE 12/31/2025	CASH RECEIPTS	CASH DISBURSEMENTS	PAYROLL	SUNDRY JOURNAL	BALANCE 1/31/2026
01 General	4,422,396.37	1,343,051.49	(900,954.06)	(534,278.45)	10,245.66	4,340,461.01
02 Food Service	811,699.85	69,114.50	(10,680.09)	(8,528.94)	207.82	861,813.14
03 Transportation	197,549.07	0.00	(29,232.37)	(24,681.32)	1,245.00	144,880.38

04 Community Service	723,543.39	47,151.47	(24,574.39)	(25,116.83)	7,425.62	728,429.26
05 Capital Expenditure	(11,838.02)	0.00	(6,845.08)	(304.38)	0.00	(18,987.48)
06 Building Construction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07 Debt Service	991,273.52	0.00	(531,850.00)	0.00	4,014.81	463,438.33
11 Student Activity	67,487.12	9,211.00	(8,123.20)	0.00	(207.82)	68,367.10
18 Custodial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total Cash for reg. oper.	7,202,111.30	1,468,528.46	(1,512,259.19)	(592,909.92)	22,931.09	6,588,401.74
45 OPEB Trust	962,178.59	7,038.18	(4,744.89)	0.00	2,826.70	967,298.58
TOTAL District Cash	8,164,289.89	1,475,566.64	(1,517,004.08)	(592,909.92)	25,757.79	7,555,700.32

<u>BANKS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
National Bank of Commerce	147,832.48
Other Banks (CD's & MN Trust)	6,438,903.80
OPEB Trust	968,964.04
TOTAL OF BANK BAL.	<u>7,555,700.32</u>

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

Electronic Transfer Report						
January						
<u>Date</u>	<u>Account Transferred From</u>	<u>Account Transferred Into</u>	<u>Amount</u>			
01/08/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$750,000.00			
01/14/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$500,000.00			
01/20/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$200,000.00			
01/26/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$200,000.00			
01/28/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$450,000.00			

Payrolls						
January						
<u>Date</u>	<u>Payroll Type</u>	<u>Check's</u>	<u>Direct Deposits</u>	<u>Electronic Payments</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>	
01/15/26	Regular	124892-124904	\$9,139.56	\$256,359.27	\$311,758.50	\$558,978.21
01/31/26	Regular	124906-124920	\$9,054.72	\$257,012.04	\$312,131.71	\$560,089.03

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the 2026/2027 School Calendar

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Rob Johnson to approve the 2026/2027 school calendar. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the 2025/2026 Seniority List

Moved by Rob Johnson, second by Leona Johnson to approve the 2025/2026 seniority list. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Leasing Garage Space to the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Todd Rengo to approve leasing garage space to the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative for \$50 per month. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Purchase of Football Uniforms

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Rob Johnson to approve the purchase of football uniforms at a cost of \$33,100.00. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Hire of the Spring Coaching Staff

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Rob Johnson to approve the hire of the spring coaching staff pending return of clear background checks. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve 2026/2027 Membership Enrollment Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement with the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Todd Rengo to approve the 2026/2027 Membership Enrollment Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement with the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve a Rate Increase for Various Substitute Positions

Moved by Rob Johnson, second by Leona Johnson to approve a rate increase from \$15.00 to \$15.50 per hour for substitutes in the following areas: paraprofessionals, custodians, food service, clerical, Cool Kids program assistants and ECFE/SR program assistants, effective February 16, 2026. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Accept Letters of Resignation from the Following Staff

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Leona Johnson to accept letters of resignation from the following, with permission to post the positions:

- Leann Fetter, Paraprofessional, effective January 13, 2026.
- Rebecca Haapanen, Paraprofessional, effective February 6, 2026.
- Evan Lembke, Technology Director, effective February 20, 2026.
- Michele Carlson, Community Education Director, effective June 30, 2026.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Hire of the Following beginning February 10, 2026

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Rob Johnson to approve the hire of the following beginning February 10, 2026:

- Carol Nordin in Food Service for 3.5 hours per day, clear background check on file.
- Brittney Kemi as a Paraprofessional for 6.75 hours per day, clear background check on file.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Hire of Angela Orvedahl-Jalonen as Technology Director, effective February 23, 2026

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Todd Rengo to approve the hire of Angela Orvedahl-Jalonen as Technology Director, effective February 23, 2026, clear background check on file. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Administrative Reports:

Principals' Reports:

Elementary School: Mr. Harker reported on the following:

- Paraprofessionals are stepping up and filling in
- Goods and Service Day in second grade
- Cupid's Kitchen for third graders at Hank's
- Esko hosted Gathering of Great Minds
- School Forest Activities hosted by Mr. Krueger
- Testing season will be starting soon

High School: Mr. Hexum reported on the following:

- National Honor Society is hosting a blood drive
- Attended 31st Esko Snoball
- READ Act training for High School English teachers
- One Act Play participants qualified for sections
- Gathering of Great Minds – Peer to Peer Reach Out

Board Committee Reports

Margaret Sunnarborg – MSBA Conference, At Will Negotiations

Leona Johnson – MSBA Conference, Gathering of Great Minds, Community Education, Special Education Task Force

Jerry Frederick – MSBA Conference, At Will Negotiations, MSBA Zoom Meetings, Technology Director Interviews

Todd Rengo – MSBA Conference, Technology Director Interviews

Steve McConnell – MSBA Conference, Technology Director Interviews, Special Education Task Force

Rob Johnson – MSBA Conference, At Will Negotiations, Winterfest

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Hexum reported on the following for Mr. Fischer:

- Meet and Confer scheduled soon
- Meeting with the County on the Highway 61 Project

Congratulations and Commendations

- Jennifer Hoffmann and Melissa Halverson for a successful Gathering of Great Minds event
- Corey Gray, Deb DeArmond and students for opening Kavhia during Gathering of Great Minds and having it available for participants
- Jerry Frederick – awarded a seat on the State School Board
- Emily Davey – certified by the County in non-licensed billing

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Leona Johnson, second by Steve McConnell to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Steve McConnell
Clerk