

Clerk's Minutes

The Esko Board of Education, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, held a special board meeting on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room.

Members present: Jerry Frederick, Todd Rengo, Margaret Sunnarborg, Rob Johnson, Leona Johnson and Steve McConnell. Also present: Brian Harker, Elementary Principal, and Jeff Pesta from Rising Tide Services.

Call the Meeting to Order

Chairperson Jerry Frederick called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Discuss and Approve Selection of Superintendent Finalist Candidates for Public Interviews

Jeff Pesta from Rising Tide Services re-stated the process with the Board members. He explained the rubric model and the scoring system. Confidential files were created for each candidate indicated by a letter to prevent public information from being shared. The scores were based on criteria that was worked on with Jeff and the Board at previous meetings. The scores totaled as follows with the maximum score being 12:

- 1 candidate scored an 11
- 2 candidates scored a 10
- 1 candidate scored a 9
- 1 candidate scored a 7

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Rob Johnson to approve to select the top three scorers for public interviews. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A discussion was held to decide on the next steps:

- Public interviews will be held on May 6, 2026:
 1. 4:00 - Board recap
 2. 4:30 – Interview #1
 3. 5:30 – Interview #2
 4. 6:30 - Interview #3
 5. 7:30 – Board reconvene for discussion on interviews

Jeff Pesta will present the questions to the candidates with the Board documenting the responses. Interviews will run 30-45 minutes. Interview questions still to be decided on. Jeff Pesta will provide a press release to local publications naming the candidates chosen for interviews.

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Steve McConnell, second by Margaret Sunnarborg to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Steve McConnell
Clerk