

Clerk's Minutes

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

Members present: Jerry Frederick, Todd Rengo, Steve McConnell, Rob Johnson, Leona Johnson, Margaret Sunnarborg and 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 Leona Johnson to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

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

- Approve the minutes of the February 9, 2026, regular School Board meeting.
- Checks.

Date	Check #s	Total
2/12/26	114080 – 114137	\$231,206.32
2/26/26	114138 – 114213	\$157,822.60

- Donations.
 - Northwoods Credit Union in the amount of \$250 for Robotics.
 - Ram Mutual Insurance in the amount of \$544 for I Love to Read books.
 - J.C.S. Miller Roofing in the amount of \$600 for Robotics.
 - Van Meter Inc. in the amount of \$500 for Robotics.
- Fundraising Request.
 - Esko School Forest – sell flats of flowers from the Cherry Greenhouse.
- Personnel.
 - Tenure for Nicole Fechtelkötter effective 2025/2026.
 - Updates to spring 2026 coaching staff.
 - Approve READ Act training Memorandum of Understanding with EEA.
- Contract.
 - Approve 2026/2027 Contracted District Literacy Lead Letter of Intent with the Northeast Service Cooperative.
- 2026/2027 Calendar Revision.
 - Move October 2026 conference dates to October 21st and 28th.
- Treasurer's Report.
 - February 2026.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 99

ESKO, MINNESOTA

TREASURER'S CASH REPORT

Month Ending February 28, 2026

Date of Report: 3/3/2026

FUND	BALANCE 01/31/026	CASH RECEIPTS	CASH DISBURSEMENTS	PAYROLL	SUNDRY JOURNAL	BALANCE 2/28/2026
01 General	4,340,461.01	1,368,242.59	(642,947.93)	(547,705.57)	(1,103.65)	4,516,946.45
02 Food Service	861,813.14	89,510.20	(52,389.90)	(9,550.60)	100.80	889,483.64
03 Transportation	144,880.38	0.00	(20,956.98)	(25,628.68)	123.26	98,417.98
04 Community Service	728,429.26	48,753.78	(19,698.43)	(31,587.59)	(2,984.16)	722,912.86
05 Capital Expenditure	(18,987.48)	1,166.67	(1,536.79)	(305.48)	0.00	(19,663.08)

06 Building Construction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07 Debt Service	463,438.33	6,132.40	(340,000.00)	0.00	0.00	129,570.73
11 Student Activity	68,367.10	4,048.60	(13,680.98)	0.00	2,703.00	61,437.72
18 Custodial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Cash for reg. oper.	6,588,401.74	1,517,854.24	(1,091,211.01)	(614,777.92)	(1,160.75)	6,399,106.30
45 OPEB Trust	967,298.58	7,038.18	(4,744.89)	0.00	2,749.43	972,341.30
TOTAL District Cash	7,555,700.32	1,524,892.42	(1,095,955.90)	(614,777.92)	1,588.68	7,371,447.60

<u>BANKS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
National Bank of Commerce	199,713.59
Other Banks (CD's & MN Trust)	6,200,020.54
OPEB Trust	971,713.47
TOTAL OF BANK BAL.	<u>7,371,447.60</u>

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

Electronic Transfer Report			
February			
Date	Account Transferred From	Account Transferred Into	Amount
02/05/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$50,000.00
02/11/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$600,000.00
02/26/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$475,000.00
02/27/26	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$140,000.00

Payrolls					
February					
Date	Payroll Type	Check's	Direct Deposits	Electronic Payments	Total
02/15/26	Regular	124921-124938	\$10,156.59	\$257,575.23	\$316,675.54
02/28/26	Regular	124939-124955	\$11,535.97	\$273,733.18	\$327,234.13
					\$589,431.34

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee Resolution

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Steve McConnell to approve The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee Resolution. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Revised 2025/2026 Budget

Moved by Rob Johnson, second by Todd Rengo to approve the revised 2025/2026 budget. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve FY 2027 Capital Budget and Related Projects

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Leona Johnson to approve FY 2027 capital budget and related projects. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve a Four Year Lease Agreement with Apple, Inc. for iPads

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Rob Johnson to approve a four year lease agreement with Apple, Inc. for iPads. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve CliftonLarsonAllen to Serve as Independent Auditors

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Rob Johnson to approve CliftonLarsonAllen to serve as independent auditors for the year ended June 30, 2026. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Accept Letters of Resignation from the Following

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Rob Johnson to accept letters of resignation from the following:

- Diane Ranua, full-time housekeeper, effective February 23, 2026, with permission to post two part-time positions and/or one full-time position to get the best candidates.
- Peggy Engseth, Cool Kids program assistant, effective June 4, 2026, with permission to post the position.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Accept a Letter of Resignation from Aaron Fischer, Superintendent

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Margaret Sunnarborg to accept a letter of resignation from Aaron Fischer, Superintendent, effective June 30, 2026. The Board thanks him for his years of service.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Contracting for Superintendent Search Services

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Rob Johnson to approve contracting for superintendent search services with Rising Tide School Board Services. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Accept a Letter of Resignation by Retirement from Julie Pelletier, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Rob Johnson to accept a letter of resignation by retirement from Julie Pelletier, administrative assistant. The Board thanks her for her years of service. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Hire of the Following as Paraprofessionals, background checks on file

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Margaret Sunnarborg to approve the hire of the following as paraprofessionals, background checks on file:

- Amanda Johnson, beginning April 6, 2026, for 6.75 hours per day.
- Brenna Roush, beginning March 10, 2026, for 7 hours per day.
- Lisa Johnson, beginning March 10, 2026, for 6.75 hours per.

Motion carried to hire Amanda Johnson by the following vote: Aye votes by Todd Rengo, Leona Johnson, Margaret Sunnarborg, Jerry Frederick and Todd Rengo with Rob Johnson abstaining from the vote and no nay votes.

Motion carried by unanimous vote to hire Brenna Roush and Lisa Johnson.

Administrative Reports:

Principals' Reports:

Elementary School: Mr. Harker reported on the following:

- Wrapping up I Love to Read month
- Many applications for open paraprofessional positions

High School: Mr. Hexum reported on the following:

- Imagine It! Day 2026 was held the last week of February
- Levi Raisanen qualified for State in swimming
- Elly Barta is a state finalist for the Section Triple A Award
- Esko graduate, Alex Prevendar, U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Squadron Chief will perform at the air show in July

Board Committee Reports

Leona Johnson – Special Education Task Force, Insurance Meetings
Jerry Frederick – MSBA Coffee Conversations, Robotics Competition
Steve McConnell – Imagine It! Day, Special Education Task Force

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fischer reported on the following:

- March 16th meeting with the County on the Highway 61 Project
- District website
- Esko Special Education Task Force
- MDE updates

Congratulations and Commendations

- I Love to Read month was a success. Thanks to the I Love to Read Committee for their hard work: Wendy Smith, Hailey Graves, Erin Dando, Allie Tacheney, Mary Durand, Jess Uecker, Jess, Zervas, Nikki Biondich, Sydney Poppenberg, Nichole Schmidt and Bridget Peterson

Communications

- Robotics Coach, Laura Zimny, received notification that the Region competition will be held in Minnesota and not in Illinois

Open Forum

- Mr. Barta from the Town Board updated all in attendance on township affairs
- An Esko parent expressed her opinion on special education matters in the district

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Todd Rengo, second by Leona Johnson to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Steve McConnell
Clerk