

Clerk's Minutes

The Esko Board of Education, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, held their organizational board meeting on Monday, January 12, 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.

Election of Officers

Acting Chairperson Jerry Frederick called for nominations for Board officers.

- Call for nominations for Board Chair.
Todd Rengo nominated Jerry Frederick for the position of Board Chair. There were no other nominations and Jerry Frederick was elected Chairperson by acclamation.
- Call for nominations for Vice Chair.
Rob Johnson nominated Todd Rengo for the position of Vice Chairperson. There were no other nominations and Todd Rengo was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.
- Call for nominations for Treasurer.
Jerry Frederick nominated Margaret Sunnarborg for the position of Treasurer. There were no other nominations and Margaret Sunnarborg was elected Treasurer by acclamation.
- Call for nominations for Clerk.
Leona Johnson nominated Steve McConnell for the position of Clerk. There were no other nominations and Steve McConnell was elected Clerk by acclamation.

Approve the Update of the Signature Plate for Checks

No changes to the signature plate, the officers stayed the same.

Approve Designation of Authorized Personnel and Statement Recipient

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Steve McConnell to approve Aaron Fischer, Superintendent, Teresa Hart, Business Manager, and Julie Pelletier, Administrative Assistant as Authorized Personnel and Teresa Hart as the Statement Recipient. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Act on Setting Salary of School Board Members

Moved by Rob Johnson, second by Todd Rengo to keep the current per meeting rate at \$60 for each meeting with a six month cap of \$1,680.

BE IT RESOLVED that all members of the Board of Education, Independent School District, No. 99, are compensated at a rate of \$60 for each meeting and/or workshop attended with a cap of \$1,680 per six month period. Members shall be paid semi-annually in June and December 2026. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Set 2026 School Board Meeting Dates

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Steve McConnell to set 2026 School Board Meeting dates as follows: 2nd Monday of each month starting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Newspaper for Legal Publication for 2026

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Leona Johnson to approve the Pine Knot newspaper for legal publication for 2026. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Depositories for School District Funds for 2026

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Margaret Sunnarborg to approve depositories for district funds for 2026 as follows: US Bank, Northwoods Credit Union, PMA/MN Trust/Associated Bank, National Bank of Commerce, Members Cooperative Credit Union. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye votes by Todd Rengo, Leona Johnson, Margaret Sunnarborg, Jerry Frederick, and Rob Johnson with Steve McConnell abstaining from the vote and no nay votes.

Approve Squires, Waldspurger, and Mace, P.A. as the Attorneys of Record for 2026

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Rob Johnson to approve Squires, Waldspurger and Mace, P.A. as the attorneys of record for 2026. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Board Committee Assignments for 2026

No changes, committee assignments will stay the same as 2025.

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|------------------------------|--|
| • Finance | Committee of the whole |
| • Certified Negotiators | T Rengo, L Johnson, S McConnell |
| • Non-certified Negotiators | J Frederick, M Sunnarborg, R Johnson |
| • Community Education | L Johnson, R Johnson, M Sunnarborg/Alternate |
| • Special Education | T Rengo, A Fischer/Alternate |
| • MSHSL Governing Board | T Rengo, S McConnell/Alternate |
| • Town Board Liaison | J Frederick, M Sunnarborg/Alternate |
| • Township Recreation Board | S McConnell, J Frederick/Alternate |
| • Staff Development | L Johnson, R Johnson/Alternate |
| • Safety | J Frederick, T Rengo |
| • Technology | J Frederick, S McConnell |
| • Facilities | T Rengo, J Frederick, S McConnell |
| • Policy | M Sunnarborg, R Johnson, S McConnell/Alternate |
| • Wellness | L Johnson, M Sunnarborg |
| • Curriculum Advisory | L Johnson, R Johnson |
| • Health Insurance Committee | T Rengo, L Johnson |
| • Meet & Confer | J Frederick,(Chair), T Rengo,(Vice Chair) |

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Authorization to Perform EFT

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Rob Johnson to authorize the Business Manager and the District Administrative Assistant to perform Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT). 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 December 8, 2025, regular School Board meeting.
- Checks.

Date	Check #s	Total
12/4/25	113640 - 113708	\$75,243.92
12/12/25	113709 - 113748	\$67,751.79
12/17/25	113749 – 113796	\$233,013.03
12/23/25	113797 – 113817	\$36,731.09
1/5/26	Wire	\$3,365.84
1/8/26	113818 – 113890	\$782,761.55

- Donations.
 - Sappi in the amount of \$200 for the Fishing Club.
 - Buffalo Valley in the amount of \$300 for Robotics.
 - Minnesota Power Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 for Robotics.
 - Cirrus Aircraft in the amount of \$1,000 for Robotics.
 - Cindy and Jeff Salo in the amount of \$40 for the School Forest.

- Personnel.
 - Increase in days for Katelyn Kromm from 3 hours per day 2 days a week to 3 hours per day 3 days a week, effective December 8, 2025.
 - Petition for Salary Lane Change from MA15 to MA30 from Christine Ringat Semester II FY26.
 - Leave Request from Emily Peterson beginning January 2, 2026.
 - Leave Request from Laura Grenier beginning April 6, 2026.
 - Leave Request from Steve Alexander beginning January 19, 2026.
 - Letter of Intent from Katie Wood to return to her teaching position at Winterquist Elementary beginning the 2026/2027 school year.
 - Approve Aaron Perrault as the Fishing Team Coordinator.
- Treasurer's Report.
 - December 2025.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 99

ESKO, MINNESOTA

TREASURER'S CASH REPORT

Month Ending December 31, 2025

Date of Report: 1/7/2026

FUND	BALANCE 11/30/2025	CASH RECEIPTS	CASH DISBURSEMENTS	PAYROLL	SUNDRY JOURNAL	BALANCE 12/31/2025
01 General	5,274,106.76	1,404,845.44	(612,959.83)	(531,633.60)	2,620.96	5,536,979.73
02 Food Service	817,766.82	84,250.97	(80,258.40)	(9,977.67)	(85.92)	811,695.80
03 Transportation	(429,947.91)	2,498.61	(22,776.70)	(24,848.24)	2,398.99	(472,675.25)
04 Community Service	712,646.44	70,785.03	(28,641.68)	(31,139.88)	(886.09)	722,763.82
05 Capital Expenditure	(448,863.03)	0.00	(5,541.98)	(305.85)	0.00	(454,710.86)
06 Building Construction	(53,103.33)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(53,103.33)
07 Debt Service	989,248.62	48,691.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,037,939.97
11 Student Activity	66,667.11	12,261.00	(9,388.27)	0.00	(1,421.70)	68,118.14
18 Custodial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Cash for reg. oper.	6,928,521.48	1,623,332.40	(759,566.86)	(597,905.24)	2,626.24	7,197,008.02
45 OPEB Trust	960,846.80	7,038.18	(4,744.89)	0.00	2,873.16	966,013.25
TOTAL District Cash	7,889,368.28	1,630,370.58	(764,311.75)	(597,905.24)	5,499.40	8,163,021.27

<u>BANKS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
National Bank of Commerce	219,394.06
Other Banks (CD's & MN Trust)	6,977,489.87
OPEB Trust	966,137.34
TOTAL OF BANK BAL.	8,163,021.27

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

Electronic Transfer Report December			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Account Transferred From</u>	<u>Account Transferred Into</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12/15/25	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$425,000.00
12/19/25	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$200,000.00
12/29/25	PMA/TRUST	National Bank of Commerce	\$500,000.00

Payrolls December					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Payroll Type</u>	<u>Check's</u>	<u>Direct Deposits</u>	<u>Electronic Payments</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
12/15/25	Regular	124863- 124877	\$9,214.31	\$249,504.14	\$291,562.66
12/31/25	Regular	124878- 124891	\$12,469.57	\$264,173.08	\$302,165.05
					\$550,281.11
					\$578,807.70

- Fundraising Request.
 - Elementary Office requesting to participate in the Box Tops for Education program to help with various elementary activities and transportation costs.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Resolution Supporting Use of Cooperative Facilities Levy to Pursue State Matching Dollars for Construction of New Northern Lights Academy Facility

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Leona Johnson to approve the Resolution Supporting Use of Cooperative Facilities Levy to Pursue State Matching Dollars for Construction of New Northern Lights Facility.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Resolution Limiting Open Enrollment

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Rob Johnson to approve the Resolution Limiting Open Enrollment.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Resolution Directing Administration to make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions and Reasons Therefor.

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Todd Rengo to approve the Resolution Directing Administration to make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions and Reasons Therefor. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Administrative Reports:

Principals' Reports:

Elementary School: Mr. Harker reported on the following:

- School year is almost half over.
- In-Service Day, January 26th - Gathering of Great Minds
- Winter benchmark time
- PIE Group adding new pieces of playground equipment

High School: Mr. Hexum reported on the following:

- Teachers are in Phase II of the READ Act
- Career Connected Learning with surrounding co-ops
- Snoball is January 24th

Board Committee Reports

Margaret Sunnarborg – Town Board Meeting, Second Harvest

Leona Johnson – Special Education Task Force, Town Board Meeting

Jerry Frederick – Town Board Meeting, Meet & Confer, MSBA Coffee and Conversations

Todd Rengo – Meet & Confer, Sports Meeting

Steve McConnell – Special Education Task Force, Town Board Meeting

Rob Johnson – MSBA Conference

Superintendent's Report

- Auditor RFP
- Highway 61 proposed roundabout
- District will be hosting Gathering of Great Minds

Open Forum

- An Esko resident expressed his opinion in reference to the proposed Highway 61 roundabout
- Mr. Barta from the Town Board updated all in attendance on township affairs

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Todd Rengo, second by Leona Johnson to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Steve McConnell
Clerk