

Clerk's Minutes

The Esko Board of Education, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, held their regular board meeting on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Education Conference Room.

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

Call the Meeting to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Steve McConnell to approve the Consent Agenda items pending Treasurers review of the * checks and removal of Purchase Item - DocuSign Agreement for discussion.

- Minutes.
 - Approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026, Board meeting.
- Checks.

Date	Check #s	Total
6/11/26	114671-114744	54,208.68
6/24/26	114668 Voided	(\$828.00)
6/25/26	Online Payment	\$106.95
6/30/26	114745-114789	\$98,976.38
7/1/26	Wire	\$22,551.00
7/1/26	Wire	\$2,514.84
7/2/26	Wire	\$198,108.74
7/7/26	Wire	\$783.02
7/7/26	114790-114856	\$595,248.13
*7/17/26	114857-114895	\$87,441.55
*7/27/26	114786 Voided	(\$3,823.22)
*7/28/26	114720 Voided	(\$69.90)
*7/29/26	114927 Voided	(\$9.37)
*7/29/26	114896-114945	\$217,043.93
*8/1/26	Wire	\$222,340.96
*8/5/26	114946-114972	\$40,132.88

*Pending Treasurer's Approval.

Personnel.

- Petition for Salary Lane Change from BA45 to MA from Emily Peterson, Semester I FY27
- Teaching assignment change for Sydney Poppenberg moving from 4th grade to 1st grade beginning the 2026/2027 school year.
- Employment status change for Emma Mesdahl from long term substitute to approved hire beginning the 2026/2027 school year.
- Fundraiser Request.
 - Football Team – contact family and friends and request donations.
- Purchase.
 - Approve technology purchase of a TV stand and Apple TV for new Special Education position, not to exceed \$1,000.
 - Approve purchase of DocuSign at a cost of \$4,212.
- Donation.
 - Cirrus Design Corp in the amount of \$1,500 for the Fishing Team.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda for Individual Consideration

The Board held a discussion to review the Docusign agreement. They agreed that it would save the district time and money in the future.

Moved by Steve McConnell, seconded by Rob Johnson to approve the purchase of Docusign at a cost of \$4,212. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Bread and Milk Provider

Moved by Leona Johnson, seconded by Rob Johnson to approve Pan O Gold Baking Co as the bread provider and Kemps as the milk provider for the 2026/2027 school year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Snow Removal Provider

Moved by Steve McConnell, seconded by Rob Johnson to approve NUW Transport LLC as the snow removal provider for the 2026/2027 school year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Transportation Fuel/Propane Provider

Moved by Steve McConnell, seconded by Rob Johnson to approve Como Oil and Propane as the transportation fuel/propane provider for the 2026/2027 school year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve An Increase in Adult Meal Prices

Moved by Leona Johnson, seconded by Rob Johnson to approve adult meal prices to \$2.55 for breakfast and \$5.30 for lunch as mandated by the Minnesota Department of Education. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Amber Fisher as Designated Authorized Personnel, Statement Recipient and for Electronic Fund Transfers

Moved by Leona Johnson, seconded by Rob Johnson to approve Amber Fisher as designated authorized personnel, statement recipient and for Electronic Fund Transfers, effective immediately. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election

Moved by Leona Johnson, seconded by Rob Johnson to approve the Resolution Relating to the Election of the School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Annual Review of Policy 807 – Health and Safety

Moved by Leona Johnson, seconded by Rob Johnson to approve the annual review of Policy 807 – Health and Safety. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Policy 208 – Development, Adoption and Implementations of Policies

Moved by Rob Johnson, second by Leona Johnson to approve policy 208 – Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve Rate for iPad Insurance, Fees and Fines

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Rob Johnson to approve rates for iPad insurance, fees and fines for the 2026/2027 school year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve High School and Elementary Extracurricular Faculty Assignments

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Steve McConnell to approve the Elementary and High School Extracurricular Faculty Assignments for the 2026/2027 school year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Following Handbooks

Moved by Rob Johnson, second by Leona Johnson to approve the following handbooks for the 2026/2027 school year:

- Paraprofessional Handbook
- Winterquist Elementary Student Handbook
- High School Student Handbook
- Staff Handbook

- Activities Handbook
- Sports Parent Handbook

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Accept Letters of Resignation from the Following

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Steve McConnell to accept letters of resignation from the following. The board thanks them for their service.

- Stephanie BarBee, Paraprofessional, effective July 30, 2026.
- Hannah Leuch, Cool Kids Program Assistant, effective July 31, 2026.
- Jenna Viita, Grade 1 Teacher, effective immediately.
- Randie Rote, Paraprofessional, effective immediately.
- Audrey Liikala, Paraprofessional, effective immediately.
- Amanda Johnson, Paraprofessional, effective immediately
- Gretchen Hexum, Bus Diver, effective August 31, 2026.
- Linda Berglund, Food Service, effective August 31, 2026.

Motion carried by the following vote: Aye votes by Leona Johnson, Margaret Sunnaborg and Jerry Frederick and Steve McConnell with Rob Johnson abstaining from the vote and no nay votes.

Accept Letters of Resignation by Retirement from the Following

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Rob Johnson to accept letter of resignation by retirement from the following. The Board thanks them for their years of service.

- Alice Salo, Food Service, effective August 9, 2026.
- Leanne Rambow, Food Service, effective August 10, 2026.
- Cindy Salo, Paraprofessional, effective August 31, 2026.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Hire of the Following Teachers Beginning the 2026/2027 School Year

Moved by Rob Johnson, second by Steve McConnell to approve the hire of the following teachers beginning the 2026/2027 school year, clear background checks on file:

- Stephanie BarBee as a 1.0 FTE K-8 Special Education Teacher at a BA Step 1.
- Hailey Graves as a 1.0 FTE 4th Grade Teacher at a BA Step 5.
- Anna Escobedo as an ECFE/SR Coordinator and Teacher at the contracted hourly rate.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Hire of Amanda Johnson as Technology Help Desk and Communications Assistant

Moved by Leona Johnson, second by Steve McConnell to approve the hire of Amanda Johnson as Technology Help Desk and Communications Assistant, beginning the 2026/2027 school year, clear background check on file.

Motion carried by the following vote: Aye votes by Leona Johnson, Margaret Sunnaborg, Jerry Frederick, and Steve McConnell with Rob Johnson abstaining from the vote and no nay votes.

Approve the hire of the following

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Rob Johnson to approve the following hires, clear background checks on file:

- Rod Eilefson as a part-time Housekeeper, effective August 11, 2026.
- Austin Robnik as a part-time Housekeeper, effective August 11, 2026.
- Mary Cooper as a Paraprofessional for 6.75 hours per day, beginning the 2026/2027 school year.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Administrative Reports:

Principals' Reports:

Elementary School: Mr. Harker reported on the following:

- There are a lot of moving parts in the Para world
- Working on in service agenda
- Principal Academy next Wednesday
- Crisis Prevention
- Enrollment looks good – Kindergarten at 88 – Kinder camp going on now

High School: Mr. Wickenheiser reported on the following:

- Fall sports with captains practice going on
- Trying to get to know people
- Coaches meeting with Chad
- Carlton Co. Collaborative
- Listening sessions with High School staff

Board Committee Reports

Leona Johnson – Esko Fun Days

Jerry Frederick – Meeting with Mr. Hexum, Carlton County

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hexum reported on the following:

- Update on athletic event prices
- Projects – High School commons area looks great- staircase looks amazing
- Sealcoating Football parking lot
- HVAC unit 1,3,4 having issues, parts ordered
- Gym floor will start Thursday 8/13/26
- Painting turf until turf replacement
- HWY 61 – Summer 2027 – Parking flow discussion
- Culvert replacement
- Great weekend of community events
- Hall of Fame Inductees – Jesse Bertogliat, Sammi Mattson and Cynthia Johnson (CJ)
- Constitutional Amendment for voting educational

Congratulations and Commendations

- Thank you Melanie Rice for work for Esko Fun Days

Communications

- Jerry wrote a letter to the Governor about mascot changes

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Rob Johnson, second by Steve McConnell to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Steve McConnell
Clerk