School Board Meeting
Lavina Public School Music Room
Monday, May 11, 2026 7:00p.m.

Minutes

On Monday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Dan Peters called the regular School Board meeting to order. Trustee KJ Fauth, Ben Lehfeldt, Superintendent Nicole Hanson and Clerk Charly Tatom were in attendance. Guests present were Francine Egge, Lillian Jansen, Kim Kopetzky, Scott Kopetzky, Kelli Schwehr, Lindsay Fauth, Robert Morehead, Lisa Bloomquist, Rena Kouba, and Kevin Wineteer, Rachel Whited.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2026 and April 21, 2026, 2026 Board Meetings. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Reorganization of the Board

1. **Canvass the Ballots:** Ben made a motion to certify the election results. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
2. **Swearing in of Newly Elected Trustee:** Dan Peters was given the oath of office by Rachel Whited, County Clerk and Recorder.
3. **Call for Nominations for Chairperson:** Ben nominated KJ Fauth as Chairperson. Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.
4. **Election of Vice-Chairperson:** Ben nominated Dan Peters as Vice-Chairperson. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.
6. **Appointment of Clerk:** Ben made a motion to appoint Charly Tatom as Clerk for a one-year term. Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
7. **Swearing in of Clerk:** Charly Tatom was given the oath of office by Rachel Whited, County Clerk and Recorder.

Public Participation/Comments: Kevin Wineteer addressed the Board regarding employee health insurance and requested clarification regarding changes from previous years. Ben responded that Boards may choose different approaches to attract applicants and that decisions can vary depending on Board membership and district needs.

Lisa Bloomquist representing the Golden Valley Community Foundation, shared information regarding upcoming summer community projects and opportunities for community participation and involvement.

Lisa Bloomquist left at 7:19pm

Communications:

1. **Trustee's report:** KJ reported that an Appreciation Dinner for Beef2School was held on April 27th at 5:00pm and was well attended. Three new donors are expected for next school year, and a $5000 grant is being pursued by Mrs. Hanson from the Montana Farmers Union Foundation for beef processing costs.
2. **Student Council:** Lillie Jansen reported that Student Council elections will be held on Monday and that the Color Run is scheduled on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

3. **Teacher's organization:** Kelli Schwehr reported spring testing is wrapping up. The Awards Banquet will be held Wednesday at 6:00pm, and the Honor Trip which will include nine students.
4. **AD's Report:** Francine reported that the high school track meet is on May 14 in Lewistown and Junior High track meet is May 15 in Winifred. Divisionals track will be698- held in Laurel on May 21st. Class C Caucus is June 14-16. MCA is July 29-31. Sports physicals are on Monday, May 18.
5. **Maintenance Report:** None

Rachel Whited left at 7:28pm

Superintendent's Report:

Parent Survey Results: Parent survey results were reviewed and will help guide future planning and decision-making efforts.

Grant Updates:

- **COPS Grant:** The district is currently working with Andrew Henshaw, Talia and T.E.S.T. on a new bells/security system for the school.
- **FEMA Grant:** The district is exploring a potential FEMA grant opportunity to assist with foundation repairs. Discussions remain preliminary.

MTSS Summer Institute: Nicole Hanson and several staff members will be attending the MTSS Summer Institute in Bozeman using Montana Literacy Grant funding.

Reading Coach Position: Interviews for the Reading Coach position are scheduled for May 22. Candidates include Lynette Larson, a retired educator from Roundup, and Eva Schaff.

School Nutrition Compliance: Charly has been working closely with Carolyn Bilden regarding school nutrition compliance documentation. Carolyn Bilden has been extremely helpful throughout the process, and the district plans to formally recognize her assistance.

Tutoring Program: The tutoring program has concluded for the year. Participation was lower than anticipated, and the district will work to improve future participation and engagement.

Preschool Screening: Preschool screening was held last week. A total of seven students were officially screened using the PELI and Brigance assessments.

Enrollment Update: Several families have contacted the district regarding enrollment. Approximately nine new students may enroll next school year.

Driver's Education: Driver's Education will begin June 1 and is being taught by Ms. Martin. Additional information can be found in the board packets.

Old Business:

1. **MTSBA Policy Updates and Reviews-**

2322- Contest for Students: Ben made a motion to adopt Policy 2322, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

2700- AI Integration in Education: Ben made a motion to table Policy 2700 at the request of Superintendent Hanson. The SMASS group is working on a revised AI proposal slated to be complete in August. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

6410- Evaluation of Administrative Staff: Ben made a motion not to adopt Policy 6410, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

The following policies were reviewed:

1120- Annual Organization Meeting*
1610- Goals and Objectives*
2162- P2- Section 504- Procedures
3210- Equal Educational Opportunity and Nondiscrimination
3224- Student Dress
3311- Firearms and Weapons
3415- Management of Sports Related Concussions
3520- Student Fees, Fines, and Charges
4210-P1- School-Support Organizations, Boosters and Fundraisers
4332- Conduct on School Property
5010- Equal Employment Opportunity and Nondiscrimination
5222- Evaluation of Staff

5223: Personal Conduct*
5314: Substitutes ***Policy 5314 Substitutes.pdf***
5420- Paraprofessionals
5510- HIPPA
6110- Superintendent
6410- Evaluation of Administrative Staff
7430- Financial Reporting and Audits
7500- Property Records
8124- Student Conduct on Buses
8410- Operation and Maintenance of Facilities
8550- Cyber Incident Response
Ben made a motion to approve the above policies after reviewing, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

2. **FFA Teacher Extended Contract:** Ben made a motion to approve a 40 hour extended contract for the FFA extended summer contract, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Items for Discussion: None

New Business:

1. **Update Wellness Policy:** Discussion was held about the required verbiage to meet School Nutrition guidelines from OPI. ***"Food and Beverage Marketing and Advertising***
2. *The Lavina School District will ensure that all foods and beverages marketed or advertised to students on campus during the school day meet or exceed the USDA* ***Smart Snacks in School*** *nutrition standards. This includes, but is not limited to, advertising through signage, vending machines, scoreboards, school publications, fundraising materials, and other promotional efforts. Marketing of foods and beverages that do not meet Smart Snacks standards is prohibited during the school day."* Dan made a motion to approve the required updates to the School Wellness Policy, Ben 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
3. **Choose Window Bid:** Ben made a motion to accept BigSky Exterior Designs bid for replacement windows in the old portion of the building, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
4. **Federal (Ed-Flex) Waiver Application:** Dan made a motion to approve the Ed-Flex Waiver Application for Title funding with the Office of Public Instruction, Ben 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Robert Morehead left at 8:17pm

5. **Renew/Non-Renew Classified Contracts:** Recommendations were previously made by the Superintendent during the April meeting.
6. **Classified Wages:** Ben made a motion to approve a 3% wage increase for classified staff, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Rena Kouba and Kevin Wineteer left at 8:36pm

7. **Renew/Non-Renew Bus Drivers Contracts:** Ben made a motion to renew contracts for Kelly Becktold, Abby Hansen and Susan Wood as bus drivers, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
8. **Activity Driver's Wage:** Ben made a motion to approve $17 per hour for activity driving and $13 per hour for down time, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
9. **Hire North Route Driver-Scott Kopetzky:** Ben made a motion to hire Scott Kopetzky as the North Route Driver, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
10. **County Transportation Committee Representative:** Ben made a motion to appoint Dan Peters as the County Transportation Committee Representative, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
11. **Driver's Ed-Saturday Class:** Ben made a motion to approve Saturday Driver's Education classes during the month of June. Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
12. **Clerk Contract:** Dan made a motion to approve changes to the Clerk contract for the 2026-2027 school year. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

13. **Hire Head of Maintenance-Scott Kopetzky:** Ben made a motion to hire Scott Kopetzky as Head of Maintenance at $20.00 per hour, including health insurance benefits. Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
14. **Gym Floor:** Dan made a motion to approve ACT Services for the gym floor maintenance on July , Ben 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
15. **Reading Coach Job Description:** Dan made a motion to approve the Reading Coach job description. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
16. **Hire Groundkeeper for Teacher Housing-Charly Tatom:** Dan made a motion to approve hiring Charly as groundskeeper for the teacher housing, KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

Ben made a motion to approve the bills and payroll as presented. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

The next special meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 22, 2026 and the regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Ben made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25p.m. Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

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Chairman of the Board District Clerk

_____ _____

Date Date