

Minutes  
Sleepy Eye ISD #84  
Board of Education  
December 10, 2025 5:30PM  
Conference Room

Responsible Everywhere. Respect Everyone. Respond Safely Every Time.

Call to order: Attendance: Dan Marti, Joleen Dittbenner, Brian Nelson, Darla Remus, Casey Coulson, Adam Barka, Sheila Wurtzberger

Good News Items: Elementary concert was well attended. St. Mary's raised some money for us. Winter sports started. The MHS has completed two successful donation drives this fall - collecting 1,826 pounds of food for our local food shelf and dozens of items (coats, hats, gloves, snacks) for the care closet located in the Elementary school. So far this year, MHS members have logged 330 hours of community service, ranging from Food for Kidz meal packing, Holiday Lights in Motion setup, tutoring, taking out the recycling in both buildings weekly, and assisting in our youth sports programs.

Recognition of visitors: Press and Staff and members of NU School Board

Approve Agenda M Joleen Dittbenner 2nd Adam Barka M/C

Approve minutes of November 12, 2025 M Casey Coulson 2nd Brian Nelson M/C

Approve financial transactions and reports M Casey Coulson 2nd Joleen Dittbenner M/C

Reports

**Board:** BCPH met Influenza in Brown County has a 7.2 positivity rate right now, which is not good but not really bad either. Measles is still a concern so they are continuing with the MMR Campaign that they are conducting right now there is also a Cannabis campaign right now and the 3rd Annual Mental Health Clinic will be held on May 6th at the Sleepy Eye Event Center. A Branding Committee meeting was held today and we picked the 5 images that we will see on uniforms and the gym in the near future. We had a Cat Committee meeting and introduced two new music classes. Staff Development met and approved days off for staff development. Community Ed met and are looking at partnering with NU for some new events and there are 21 students taking Driver's Ed.

**Elementary Principal:** Free meal Nov 25th in cafeteria for staff, kids and staff appreciated the Thanksgiving menu. PBIS- Kids played turkey bingo 11/25, a fun end to the week before Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving break offered a reset for all. Hired a new paraprofessional, she's doing well and we are fully staffed on para support now. Colder but kids still having fun outside for recess, snow gear required. K-4 Winter concert Dec 8th went well, kids did great and families were proud, good attendance, full gym. 5 / 6 will have their Winter concert on Dec 15th. Elem parent survey via QR code displayed at Winter concert and remains posted in elem front lobby for parents. Kindergarten doing NWEA testing due by Dec 19th. Ben attended SW Division principals meeting in St Clair Dec 2nd. New math standards, books are fun, MnMTSS overview and principal networking. Making plans for SEL coverage in Jan - March 2026 with counselors out. Looking at adjustments to SPED services / caseloads implemented Jan 2026. Sarah Rossing now runs periodically before and after school SPED para training, good chance to ask questions and build skills in SPED Paras. Update on teacher evaluation progress, only a few tenured observations left to do. Onto the third round of non-tenured observations, a few are shared staff and Shane is doing some. PBIS activity Fri Dec

19th to celebrate fundraising efforts for the food shelf, students will watch movies and have hot cocoa. Dress up days Dec 15-19. IEP checks and meetings (CST, PST, IEPs, leadership, staff meeting, and parent meetings). Ben's upcoming leave in January. Set up a CPI training for new staff Jan 2026, Ordered KTEA assessment for sped staff because our district needs it.

**High School Principal:** Attended a multi-language learning webinar that is part of our process.

Completing 2nd round of performance evaluations for non-tenured teachers. Conducting meetings with students and parents of struggling 9th graders. I attended a CAT meeting. Worked on developing a master schedule for next year that includes a general music option for 7th and 8th grade students. I attended a branding meeting. 7-12 concert on Monday and they are having a fun day on the Friday before break. Staff spotlight this past month

**Superintendent:** Enrollment update: 8/13/25: elementary: 280, HS: 234 total: 514; Now: K-6: 274; 7-12: 230 total: 504. AD negotiations: I met with Mr. Haala and discussed his AD compensation; We did agree on the \$4000 increase to his current agreement. SEU Football Coop Committee Meeting: joint committee met and reviewed program direction. MSHSL Region 2 Committee Meeting: started a new two-year term as the Superintendent group representative on the committee. Working on 2026-27 Calendar. The Mascot Committee met with Lower Sioux: we presented to the Lower Sioux Tribal Council about keeping the Indian name as per the recent law change. The answer was no to the mascot but they allow us to keep the Ishtakhaba mural and his likeness in our building as long as it is not mascot related Presentations:

Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR) Presentation was World's Best Workforce: we met some goals and struggled with others.

FY 25 Audit presentation by ABDO

Truth and taxation by Todd Netzke (6:00PM promptly)

Discussion Item F: Approve new music course offerings per CAT committee recommendation. Casey believes that if we remove the option of band and choir then less kids will take band or choir. Students are really becoming belligerent in not wanting to participate, and disrupting class for the kids that want to participate. Shane sees issues as well. We want to see the program grow and are not sure that making it a not required class will help it. It would be an option to place another instructor to help. Shane does recommend that we look at changing things. Motion by Adam would like to refer this back to the Cat committee and Joleen would second. M/C

Action items:

Approve SEPS CACR plan

Approve winter coaching assignments

Approve FY 25 Audit

Approve Activities Director Agreement for 2025-27

Approve Blanca Lujan as SPED paraprofessional 6.5 hrs/day @\$16.52/hr

-F: Approve new music course offerings per CAT committee recommendation for the 2026-27 school year.

Approve open enrollments: 1 out to Comfrey, 1 in from GFW, 1 in from Nicollet

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Action Items Continued

Approve corrected 25-27 SEEA contract.

A motion was Made by Joleen Dittbenner to approve items A through E and items G and H  
2nd Adam Barka M/C

Approve Truth and Taxation Continuation hearing or Approve 2026 payable 2027 Levy. Now Therefore, be it resolved by the School Board of Sleepy Eye Public Schools, Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, that the levy to be levied in 2026 to be collected in 2027 is set at \$1,310,539.69. The clerk of the Sleepy Eye School Board is authorized to certify the proposed levy to the County Auditor.

M Brian Nelson 2nd Casey Coulson M/C

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Adjourn Time: 7:10 p.m.

M Joleen Dittbenner 2nd Adam Barka M/C

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2026, 5:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Wurtzberger/Clerk