

Minutes  
Sleepy Eye ISD #84  
Board of Education  
January 7, 2026, 5:30PM  
Conference Room

Responsible Everywhere. Respect Everyone. Respond Safely Every Time.

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

Good News Items: Winter band and choir concert went well

Recognition of visitors: Press and staff

Approve Agenda M Brian Nelson 2nd Joleen Dittbenner M/C

Election of Officers:

Chairperson: Darla Remus

Vice Chair: Casey Coulson

Clerk: Sheila Wurtzberger

Treasurer: Joleen Dittbenner M Brian Nelson 2nd Adam Barka M/C

Approve Committee Assignments

Riverbend: Darla Remus

CED: Joleen Dittbenner

Br. Co. Advisory Board: Sheila Wurtzberger

Vocational Programs: Brian Nelson

Business:

Graphic Arts

Construction Trades

Agriculture

Meet and Confer 1. Sheila Wurtzberger 2. Brian Nelson 3. Casey Coulson

Negotiations 1. Joleen Dittbenner 2. Brian Nelson 3. Darla Remus

Transportation 1. Adam Barka 2. Sheila Wurtzberger 3. Dan Marti

MNSHSL Darla Remus

Policy 1. Brian Nelson 2. Sheila Wurtzberger 3. Dan Marti

SE Schools 1. Adam Barka 2. Sheila Wurtzberger 3. Casey Coulson

Legislative Liaison Darla Remus

Staff Development Joleen Dittbenner

Food Service 1. Darla Remus 2. Sheila Wurtzberger 3. Dan Marti

CAT 1. Adam Barka 2. Joleen Dittbenner 3. Sheila Wurtzberger

Facilities 1. Brian Nelson 2. Adam Barka 3. Casey Coulson

Shared Superintendent 1. Darla Remus 2. Brian Nelson 3. Dan Marti

Mascot and Branding naming Rights 1. Brian Nelson 2. Casey Coulson 3. Sheila Wurtzberger

M Brian 2nd Adam M/C

Approve minutes of December 10, 2025 M Joleen Dittbenner 2nd Adam Barka M/C

Approve financial transactions and reports M Adam Barka 2nd Brian Nelson M/C

## Reports

Board: CAT committee met and went over the band and choir segment, basically keeping things the same as they are now with a few tweaks, both teachers were ok with the plan that Shane had worked on with them. We moved Personal Finance to a senior class instead of a 10th grade class so they are better prepared for it.

Elementary Principal: 2nd semester has started! It's been a good return to school. Overall, students are happy to be back and doing very well! Hiring a long-term sub for the K-4 counseling position while our current counselor is on leave - will come in a few days per week to support staff and provide continued skills support to students / gen ed staff. Mr. Westphal out on leave, predicted Jan 12-30 (3 weeks) for the birth of a new baby boy. Congratulations!! Plans are in place for this. Teacher evaluations. Two tenured evaluations left, after this week, predicted to be only 1 non-tenured evaluation left. Doing mid-year goal setting meetings to check in on the teacher's annual goal progress. Teachers doing well overall - a lot of focus on winter/spring testing prep. Creating a Behavior Team in January responsible for: Defining "minor" vs "major" behaviors in school & accompanying procedures, A process for dealing with major behaviors/ disruptive behaviors, especially gen ed students without SPED support. A dedicated group to brainstorm ideas/plans for student behaviors, finding that PST and CST aren't always enough time to "solve" issues, improving communication and awareness schoolwide of behavior plans as they adapt/change over the school year. Asked all teachers to conclude winter assessments/testing by the end of January so that data is ready/available for Elementary conferences happening Feb 11th/12th. Wax museum on January 16th - students working hard to prepare for this event. Spelling bee on January 23rd (5th through 8th). Staff Development Day January 19th, no students at school. Early out at 1 pm on January 26th.

High School Principal: 7-12 Band and Choir concert on December 15th; there was good attendance and the groups performed well. Ended Semester one with a reward day for those qualifying on December 19th; Others assigned to study rooms. Finished up 2nd performance evaluations with non-tenured teachers. Semester two is off and running. Staff spotlighted for the past month were: Katie Emmett, Caitlyn Pietig, Troy Vangsness, Brianna Peitso, and Cory Haala. Teachers will be reviewing course descriptions for the registration guide; registration materials will be out at the end of January/beginning of February.

Superintendent: SEU Coaching search: so far 4 applications received: Mr. Haala and Mr. Woitas will be setting up interviews. MSHSL Region 2 Triple A selection committee meeting on January 21. MSBA conference reminder: evening of January 14 through January 16th. Building and Grounds Update: Personnel Information, Fully Staffed, Part time help has been working the extra winter events. Doug Domeier potentially replacing Bruce as Grounds Maintenance. Progress on Projects- HS Gym Floor to be replaced at the end of May. AD and Branding are working on a plan layout. Roof Bids might go out as soon as next week. Inspections are complete for appraising. Waiting on a 1st floor HVAC controller switch out this Spring or Summer. Getting a bid on replacing 2 doors that didn't pass Fire code going forward. (Weight Room and North Doors). Comments: Once we get the Gym Floor done and the Roof project completed, we should be good for a while.

## Action items

Approve lane change request from Aaron Nesvold MA 30 to MA 45

Approve \$6,000 donation from Bill & Julie Ries to SE FFA Thank you, your donation is very appreciated

Approve resignation of Brent Kucera as head football coach

Addendum  
Sleepy Eye, ISD #84  
Board of Education  
January 07, 2026

Action Items Continued:

Approve Judy Suprenant as Elem Social Worker long term substitute at \$31.41/hr

M Joleen Dittbenner 2nd Adam Barka M/C

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 17, 5:30PM (John is in Nashville the 11-14)

Adjourn. Time: 6:11 p.m.

M Adam Barka 2nd Brian Nelson M/C

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Wurtzberger/Clerk