

Minutes
Sleepy Eye ISD #84
Board of Education
March 10, 2026, 5:30PM

Responsible Everywhere. Respect Everyone. Respond Safely Every Time.

Agenda

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

Good News Items: Kaitlin Pietig took the 10th graders to the Guthrie to see Macbeth, and the kids had a great time. Honor Society members have logged over 600 hours of service to date. The MHS kids will be busy working the Lion's Club Waffle Feed this coming weekend. The senior class trip departs next Wednesday for Orlando. The kids are all very excited to share their experiences after they return at the next board meeting. Spring Sports are starting.

Recognition of visitors: Press and staff

Approve Agenda

Adam would like to pull items D and E for discussion M Joleen Dittbenner 2nd Casey Coulson M/C

Approve minutes of February 17, 2026 board meeting. M Brian Nelson 2nd Dan Marti M/C

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

Reports:

Board Committees: Naming Rights/Mascot Committee met and there is more of this on the superintendent's report. The Crisis Committee met and were told that Tina secured a grant for the school to purchase 5 new AED's, so we discussed the best place for them and the housing that we would need for them, also talked about the drills that have happened and made plans for new drills. Looking at software being installed that would allow the crisis teams and teachers to communicate more effectively during events. Negotiates met and made changes to the principal's contract and came on agreement with the MOU.

Elementary Principal: Kindergarten Roundup tonight, March 10th. End of 3rd quarter on March 12th there are 49 days of school left. Teacher evaluations completed and in personnel files. Teacher non-renewals done. Admin team starting to look ahead to next year for staffing plans/needs. Doing para evaluations right now, done by end of March. Principal evaluation completed by superintendent Cselovszki and goals were set for next year. Staff development day - March 23rd. Easter break from April 1st - 6th. March 18th all staff meeting. Behavior Team rolling out new office referral form, Info to staff on clear procedures and expectations for sped and gen ed student behavior response plans, March 12th is the meeting for this. Crisis Response team established. Info on measures being taken to improve the office referral process and increase parent buy-in/involvement in student behavior.

Grandparents Day on March 31st, doing Bingo in school 1:40-3:00 pm.

High School Principal: **FFA Week Update:** This was the week of February 23rd. Fun week recognizing FFA. They will be having a staff breakfast at some point that the school board will be invited to attend.

Crisis Meeting: There was a crisis team meeting on February 24th at 3:05. **Upcoming Presentation:** We had a speaker on March 4th. Focus was on overcoming obstacles and developing mental toughness. Students seemed to enjoy the speaker and hopefully there were students the message resonated with.

Teacher Evaluations: I completed all teacher evaluations for the school year. **Paraprofessional**

Evaluations: I have begun paraprofessional evaluations. **Schedule Update:** Noemi and I have begun

working on the master schedule for 26-27. Trying to keep the 7th and 8th grade cores blocked in the morning before lunch. This may be a way for us to build in intervention time due to READ Act legislation.

Staff Development: We have a full staff development day on March 23. Continue our work with ELA and Read Act preparation for next year. **Spring Break:** April 1 - 6, Deanna Nelson and Mindy Berkner were in the staff spotlight.

Superintendent: CRIC Collaborative Council meeting: Sleepy Eye was the host of the meeting on February 23rd. Delegates from Cedar Mountain, New Ulm, Redwood Area, Springfield and Sleepy Eye reviewed each school's plan and voted in favor to submit plans to each district's school boards for approval. **LTFM meeting:** Tim Harbo, Craig Murphy and I met and reviewed our Long-Term Facility Maintenance 10-year plan and made adjustments as needed. Tim will present our plan at our June board meeting as he has done in the past. **Naming Rights Committee:** Discussion of Allina and Athletic Training services and a contract conflict with SEMC. SE BB boosters (4 sponsors) \$10,000 5 year contract currently (3) coming to end of contract. Decision not to charge for HUDL. Discussion of BB boosters role to take in funds for video boards/livestream. John/Kate/Aaron gather address information for businesses. Do we need to look at others outside of town or in New Ulm as well? Decided we give businesses our options and dollar amount and a contact at the school to discuss payment options (Potentially some \$ to School and some to BB boosters). Create sponsor \$ tiers based on site ideas individual or group sites or opportunities. **Tomahawk Conference meeting highlights:** The conference schools vote in favor to continue with the current Tomahawk/Valley Conference. The conference will no longer use the Arbiter software but instead is moving forward using Bound as the scheduling system. Bound has other features that will allow us to do facilities scheduling and also has an option to move to an online ticketing system. Most conference schools are looking at that option as well as other conferences statewide. The conference is recommending to set adult tickets at \$8 (currently at \$7) and keep student admissions at \$5 for the 2026-27 school year. **MSBA/MASA Day at the Capitol Event:** Darla and I attended the event in St. Paul yesterday. We listened to a presentation about legislative priorities for the current session and a round table question and answer session by 2 house and 2 senate members. Sleepy Eye's priorities are: Compensatory funding hold harmless, Local optional Revenue increases, reduction of the SPED cross subsidies and funding support for mascot replacement related costs. We shared those priorities with our local legislators.

Discussion for D & E: We have put in time and effort into behavior plans and Adam just wants to make sure that this is followed up on in the next year. M Brian Nelson 2nd Joleen Dittbenner M/C

Action items:

Approve non-renewal of Joseph Daly as K-12 Vocal Music teacher at end of the 2025-26 school year, Roll

Call: Casey Coulson made a motion, Dan Marti 2nd Roll call 7-0 M/C

Approve resignation of Jon Macemon as K-12 Art teacher as of March 1st, 2026

Approve resignation of Blanca Lujan as SPED paraprofessional as of February 26, 2026

Approve agreement to extend probationary period with Benjamin Westphal

Approve elementary principal contract for the 2026-2027 school year

Approve high school principal contract for the 2025-2027 school

Approve the FY 2027-2029 Achievement and Integration Plan

Approve April 1st as the cut-off date for school purchases.

Approve the following open enrollment requests 2: 1 out to New Ulm, 1 in from St. James

Approve MOU for modification of benefits for superintendent

Approve retirement of Tammy Poncin as of May 22, 2026. Thank you, Tammy, for your time and talent.

Enjoy your retirement!

Approve resignation of Kathryn Serra as teacher effective the end of the year or two weeks after the date she accepts a new position. Thank you, Kathryn!

Approve resignation of Kathryn Serra as Summer Migrant Coordinator effective immediately

M Casey Coulson 2nd Brian Nelson M/C

Sleepy Eye I.S.D. #84

Member, Casey Coulson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION
AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT
OF JOSEPH DALY, A PROBATIONARY TEACHER.

WHEREAS Joseph Daly, is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 84.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 84, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes MS 122A.40 Subd. 5, that the teaching contract of Joseph Daly, is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 84, is hereby terminated at the close of the current 2025-26 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that written notice be sent to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal his/her contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL

March 10, 2026

Joseph Daly

Dear Joseph:

You are hereby notified that at a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 84 held on March 10, 2026, a resolution was adopted by a majority roll call vote to terminate your contract effective at the end of the current school year and not to renew your contract for the 2026-27 school year. Said action of the board is taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40 Subd. 5.

You may officially request that the school board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract. For your information, however, this action is taken because we feel you would be a better fit elsewhere.

Yours very truly,

SCHOOL BOARD OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DIST. NO. 84

Sheila Wurtzberger

Sheila Wurtzberger, Clerk of I.S.D. #84

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Dan, Joleen, Brian, Darla, Casey, Adam, Sheila and the following voted against the same: 0

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2026 @ 5:30PM

Adjourn. Time: 6:18 p.m. M Joleen Dittbenner 2nd Casey Coulson M/C

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Wurtzberger, Clerk