

Minutes

Sleepy Eye ISD #84

Board of Education

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 4:00PM

Responsible Everywhere. Respect Everyone. Respond Safely Every Time.

Call to order: Attendance: Dan Marti, Joleen Dittbenner, Brian Nelson, Darla Remus, Sheila Wurtzberger, Adam Barka and Casey Coulson arrived at 4:01

Good News Items: The Sleepy Eye FFA Chapter placed first as the Premier Chapter, this chapter award focuses on the areas of growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture.

Recognition of visitors: staff and press

Approve Agenda M Dan Marti 2nd Brian Nelson M/C

Discussion: Administrative structure for the 2026-27 school year, we have received many instructor emails and they are overwhelmingly telling us to hire another elementary principal, and one telling us that she thinks Shane would be fine to run both sections. Budget issues are an area of concern. Flexible staff would be a leader in the elementary when Shane is running the high school if we go with this position. This is a \$120,000 decision. Adam would like to propose a third option as hiring an assistant principal, to provide guidance to Shane. This person would provide assistance to Shane but he would be the final answer. Joleen would like to hire another principal but wants them to report to Shane and John. They meet every 2 weeks now but she thinks they should meet more, she wants instant feedback and criteria that needs to be met. Dan wants to hire a person with experience so they already know the expectations. We are starting this process late, so we are wondering if we are going to find the right candidate. Brian says that we need to do our due diligence. Licensure is the same for everyone as far as how we place the ad. Darla and Casey say we would just be going backwards if we were to go with an assistant or a lead person. Nothing is guaranteed and education is what we are here for. Maybe we could hire a person that would be willing to "learn" the position. Shane would be willing to "try" anything. *Adam Barka made a motion to post to hire a full principal and an assistant, both roles are open but only one would be filled. Brian Nelson seconded this motion. Shane would look at the candidate and assign the roles but they would not report to the board. 4 voted against. Darla Remus made a motion to hire a full time elementary principal Casey Coulson seconded roll call Dan Darla and Casey approve, Joleen Brian Adam and Sheila vote no. Joleen Dittbenner made a motion that we would post for a full time K-6 principal or an K-12 assistant principal Adam Barka seconded, Darla thinks we are doing a disservice to staff and students by not hiring a full principal. An assistant would be able to grow into a full principal. Roll Call, Dan, Joleen, Brian, Adam and Sheila vote to approve, Casey and Darla vote no, Motion Carried

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 12, 2026 @5:30PM

Adjourn. Time 5:02p.m M Joleen Dittbenner 2nd Casey Coulson M/C

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Wurtzberger/Clerk