

**Medford Area Public School District
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Medford Area Middle School
November 24, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Medford Area Public School District Board of Education was called to order by President Dave Fleegel, on Monday, November 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office Board Room.

Roll Call

Roll call indicated that Board Members Dave Fleegel, Kurt Werner, Brian Hallgren, Steve Deml, Heidi Haynes, Corey Dassow, Aemus Balsis and Don Everhard were present. John Zuleger was absent. Laura Lundy, District Administrator was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence

MASH Student Council Report: Reported on upcoming activities at MASH

Recognitions & Good News: Our schools shared good news of what has been happening in their buildings recently.

Legislative Update:

Election Notices and Deadlines: Nicole Gebert reviewed important dates for the upcoming Spring election. The due date for filing all ballot access documents is January 6, 2026.

Open Meeting Compliance

Dave Fleegel stated, "This meeting has been posted in accordance with the state open meeting law."

Period of Public Comment:

Jeremy Sperl addressed the board regarding a curriculum concern. He reviewed his experience with the reconsideration process and expressed that he felt the committee was not balanced, noting that district employees appeared to outweigh other members of the group.

Joanna Messman, a teacher at MASH, commented on the curriculum reconsideration process. She addressed concerns raised about indoctrination and noted that teachers are often accused of this. She emphasized that staff encourage questions from students and do not believe in censoring students.

Anne Zenner: The speaker shared her experience with the reconsideration committee and discussed the overall process. She provided an overview of the "coming of age" curriculum under review and expressed concerns about the current policy, including how the committee is structured, the roles of committee members, administrators, and board representation, and the process for determining the seven voting members.

She suggested that the voting options and decision-making framework should be reviewed to ensure clarity and effectiveness. She emphasized the importance of making thoughtful

revisions to ensure the curriculum best supports students. She also noted concerns about additional curriculum materials in the 9th-grade program that she reviewed.

Sean Porten: He read "I am very real" letter written in 1973.

Consent Agenda

Motion (Hallgren/Deml) to approve the consent agenda: Approval of Agenda; Secretary's Report; Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2025; Approval of treasurer's report, personnel reports minus the SES Elementary Principal position but including the addendum, and approval of charter amendments for the RVA. Motion carried.

Regular Business

1. **Taylor County Educator of the Month:** Stephanie Stockwell was presented with the Educator of the Month award.

2. **Consideration of Parent Request for Reconsideration of Curriculum Material:** A lengthy discussion between board members regarding the curriculum in question. It was agreed that they need to look at our current policy for reconsideration.

Motion (Everhard/) to not use the current 6 week section of ELA curriculum in question. Receives no second. Motion failed.

Motion (Fleegel/Dassow) to table the topic at this time. Roll call vote: No: Deml, Everhard, Werner, Hallgren Yes: Balsis, Dassow, Fleegel, Haynes motion fails 4-4.

Motion (Hallgren/Balsis) to accept the findings of the reconsideration committee to keep the video clip and corresponding slide deck in the 10th grade ELA curriculum. Roll call vote: No: Dassow, Everhard, Fleegel, Werner, Balsis, Haynes. Yes: Hallgren, Deml Motion Fails 2-6.

Motion (Haynes/Deml) to accept the findings of the reconsideration committee to keep the video clip and corresponding slide deck in the 10th grade ELA curriculum with the review of the rest of curriculum in the 6 weeks at a later date. Roll call vote: No: Balsis, Dassow, Everhard, Fleegel, Werner Yes: Deml, Hallgren, Haynes. Motion fails 3-5.

Motion (Hallgren/Everhard) To accept the findings of the Reconsideration Committee to keep the video clip and corresponding slide deck in the 10th grade ELA curriculum, until the board is able to review the entire 6 week Coming of Age unit in 10th grade ELA within the next 90 days. Role call vote: Yes: Fleegel, Balsis, Dassow, Everhard, Deml, Hallgren, Haynes, Werner. Motion passes 8-0.

3. **Review of District Test Scores & State Report Cards:** Elizabeth Rachu presented the district's test scores and state report cards.
4. **Consideration of School Forests Stewardship Plan & Timber Sale Proposal:** Elizabeth Rachu presented on the school forest stewardship plan

and timber sale proposal. Motion (Fleegel/Deml) To approve the Stewardship Plan and authorize the School Forest Committee to partner with the DNR to facilitate a timber sale. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of Calendars for the 2026-27, 27-28, 28-29 & Graduation

Date: Laura Lundy presented on calendars for the next three school years. One challenge being WIAA moved the sectional track meet to the Friday before Memorial day during the odd numbered years. Options to consider were to keep graduation on the Friday, move graduation to the Friday before Memorial Day, or look at a possible Thursday or Saturday graduation date.

Motion (Deml/Dassow) Motion to accept the 2026-27, 27-28 and 28-29 calendars as proposed by the Calendar Committee with graduation to be held the Friday of the week prior to Memorial Week. Roll call vote: No: Fleegel, Yes: Haynes, Hallgren, Balsis, Dassow, Werner, Everhard, Deml. Motion Passes 7-1.

6. Review of Construction Progress at MASH: Laura Lundy presented on the construction progress at MASH.

7. Update on Finance Meeting: Brian Hallgren and Audra Brooks presented a finance update. Finance is bringing the video display score board to the board to discuss. Discussion about score boards and cost. Motion (Werner/) to approve purchase of baseball scoreboard and if Ryan generates enough revenue for the football score board to move forward with the project. Receives no second. Motion fails.

Consideration of Assistant Principal position at SES: Laura Lundy presented information regarding the administrative structure at SES. In an effort to strengthen and sustain effective leadership and support for students and staff, the district is proposing to reclassify the Elementary Assistant Principal position as an Elementary Principal position.

The proposal includes an increase in contract days from 200 to 230 and an associated adjustment in compensation. Expanded responsibilities for the role would include, but are not limited to:

- Full principal duties at SES, including staffing, evaluations, budgeting, and daily operations
- **Collaboration** with the MAES principal on district-level activities and initiatives
- Facilitation and supervision of summer school programming in June and August

Motion from finance to accept the consideration of the assistant principal at SES. Motion carried.

- a. **Consideration of Bank Account for Health Insurance:** Motion from finance to approve a bank account for health insurance with Nicolet National Bank and presented. Motion carried.

8. Consideration of Board Policy Adoption and Deletion:

- a. For First Reading: 5111 - 5895: Students and 9130 - 9800.01: Relations
- b. For Second Reading: RVA IIB: School & Class Size; RVA-JEC: School Admissions; RVA-JECBD: Open Enrollment

Motion from RVA Board and Policy Committee To accept the changes to RVA IIB, RVA-JEC and RVA-JECBD policies as presented. Motion carried.

Contemplate Adjourning to Closed Session: Under Wisconsin Statutes to discuss and take action, if appropriate regarding Administrator Employment, Resignation, and Contract Non-Renewal [pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility and Wis. Stat. §118.24].

Motion (Everhard/Balsis) to adjourn to closed session. Roll Call Vote: Yes, Heidi Haynes, Dave Fleegel, Kurt Werner, Don Everhard, Aemus Balsis, Steve Deml, John Zuleger (absent), Corey Dassow, Brian Hallgren. Motion carried 8-0
The meeting adjourned to closed session at 9:04 p.m.

A short break was taken to clear the board room. Meeting reconvened in closed session at 9:12 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn (Hallgren/Everhard) Motion carried
The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Nicole Gebert
Recording Secretary_____

Steve Deml
Clerk_____