

SOUTHLAND ISD 500 ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the School Board of Independent School District No. 500 held their organizational and regular meetings at Southland Public School in Room B126 on January 21, 2026. Due to inclement weather, members attending remotely were Michelle Nelsen, Kretta Menuey, and James Stratton. Others attending remotely were Brian Schoen Prek-8 Principal, Randy Smith AD, and Melanie Welsh Business Manager. At 6:30 p.m., Chair Michelle Nelsen convened the meeting with the following members physically present: Holly Meyer and Dana Sorenson. Also present was Superintendent/HS Principal Scott Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

(Remote Meeting Participation states that all votes must be conducted by roll call.)

1. A motion by Sorenson and seconded by Stratton to approve the agenda. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
2. A motion by Meyer and seconded by Stratton to approve Robert's Rules of Order. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
3. Acting Chair Nelsen asked for nominations for Chair. Meyer nominated Nelsen as Chair. No more nominations were presented. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Upon vote being taken Nelsen was declared Chair.
4. Chair Nelsen asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Nelsen nominated Meyer as Vice Chair. No more nominations were presented. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Upon vote being taken Meyer was declared Vice Chair.
5. Chair Nelsen asked for nominations for Clerk. Menuey nominated Sorenson as Clerk. No more nominations were presented. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Upon vote being taken Sorenson was declared Clerk.
6. Chair Nelsen asked for nominations for Treasurer. Nelsen nominated Menuey as Treasurer. No more nominations were presented. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Upon vote being taken Menuey was declared Treasurer.
7. A motion by Sorenson and seconded by Meyer to approve the regular monthly meetings to be held on the third Monday of the month with the meetings starting at 6:30 p.m. not to exceed 3 hours unless the board approves extending the meeting. The January and February meeting dates will be set at the December meeting as the third Monday of those months are federal holidays with no meetings allowed. All meetings will be held at Southland School in Room B-126. The protocol for visitors to the board meeting wishing to speak must sign in before the meeting identifying themselves and the topic they wish to address. At the beginning of each meeting a maximum of ½ hour will be allowed for any general citizen comments, with a maximum of 5 minutes per individual. The motion was amended by Stratton and seconded by Meyer to state that the regular monthly board meetings will start at 5:30 p.m. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
8. A motion by Meyer and seconded by Sorenson to approve board members being paid \$50 per meeting and \$90 for an all-day meeting or conference. Any meeting that exceeds four hours is considered an all-day meeting. The board members will be paid for regular board meetings, special meetings, and committee meetings as well as board assignments. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.

9. A motion by Menuey and seconded by Sorenson approving officer pay. The clerk and treasurer will receive \$100/year, vice-chair will receive \$250/year, and chair will receive \$500/year additional compensation. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
10. A motion by Meyer and seconded by Menuey to approve the current IRS Standard Mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.725 per mile. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
11. A motion by Meyer and seconded by Sorenson to approve the following:
- Designate the Mower County Independent as the official newspaper and official board minutes for the school district.
 - Ratwik, Rozak & Maloney are designated as legal counsel for the district.
 - United Farmers State Bank of Adams to be designated as official depositories, payroll and regular district billing of the district funds as indicated for the 2026 calendar year.
 - Banking institutions for the district's investments:
 - First Bank of LeRoy
 - Midland National Bank
 - Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund
 - PMA Securities
 - United Farmers State Banks of Dexter & Adams
 - US Bank of Austin
 - US Bank of Minneapolis
 - US Bank of St. Paul
 - Wells Fargo
 - Employees of District 500 will be bonded as follows:
 - Central Office Bookkeepers - \$5,000
 - Central Office Secretary - \$5,000
 - Records Secretary - \$5,000
 - HR/Payroll Secretary - \$5,000
 - K-12 Secretary - \$5,000
 - The Superintendent of Schools and Business Manager are hereby authorized to invest such amounts of funds as will not be currently needed for district operation in any investment allowed by Minnesota Statute. The Superintendent and Business Manager are authorized to make necessary wire transfers. Where required by statute the authorized depository institution shall deposit a bond to the district, executed by a corporate surety equal to the amount of the investment, or in lieu thereof assign to the district collateral securities to the extent that such deposit may not otherwise be insured.

Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.

12. A motion by Stratton and seconded by Menuey to approve the following appointments to be district representatives of the following committees:

Administration Rep- Continuing Ed Committee	Brian Schoen
Athletic Committee	Michelle Nelsen
Building and Grounds Committee	Holly Meyer, Michelle Nelsen, & Dana Sorenson
Community Ed Committee	Michelle Nelsen
Continuing Ed Committee	James Stratton
District Advisory Committee	Holly Meyer & Dana Sorenson
Family Services Collaborative Committee	Kretta Menuey
Finance Committee	Kretta Menuey, Michelle Nelsen, & James Stratton
Integration Liaison	Dana Sorenson
Meet and Confer Committee	Michelle Nelsen & James Stratton
MSBA/Legislative Liaison	Scott Hall
MSHSL Representative/Athletic Advisory	Michelle Nelsen
Negotiations Committee	Kretta Menuey, Michelle Nelsen, & James Stratton
Policy Committee	Kretta Menuey & Dana Sorenson
SMEC Representative	Michelle Nelsen
Transportation Committee	Holly Meyer, Dana Sorenson, & James Stratton

Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.

13. A motion by Meyer and seconded by Sorenson to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.

- Minutes Approved
 - i. December 15, 2025 Board Meeting
- Personnel
 - i. Lane Change
 - 1. Brooklyn Eastman to MA
 - ii. Leave of Absence
 - 1. Savannah Lohuis
 - iii. Resignations/Retirements
 - 1. Macy Baldauf, teacher, effective at the end of the 25-26 school year
 - iv. Employment
 - 1. Craig Boeddeker, 1.0 FTE Building Substitute Teacher
 - v. Gifts and Donations
 - 1. \$1,000 Pioneer Prairie Wind Farm-General
 - 2. \$500 Rose Creek Fire Relief Association-Softball
 - 3. \$500 Dexter Firefighters Relief Association-Softball
 - 4. \$500 Rebel Nation-Boys Basketball
 - 5. \$456.94 Christine Weis-Softball
 - 6. \$400.56 Rebel Nation-Mr. Phillips
 - 7. \$50 Rebel Nation-MS Knowledge Bowl
 - 8. \$50 Rebel Nation-HS Knowledge Bowl
 - 9. \$50 Leonard and Gail Kiefer-Drama

14. A motion by Menuey and seconded by Stratton to approve the bills and financial reports. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.

15. PreK-Middle School Principal report was given.

16. High School/District report was given.
17. Activities report was given.
18. New business: discussed was the vacant School Board position.
19. A motion by Stratton and seconded by Menuey to approve a special meeting be held on February 12, 2026, 4:00 p.m. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
20. A motion by Menuey and seconded by Meyer to approve filling the school board seat vacancy with an application process that includes interview questions on the application. The applications will be accepted from January 28, 2026-February 11, 2026. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
21. A motion by Sorenson and seconded by Meyer to approve the Geoffrey Burgos Housing Tax Abatement Application. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
22. A motion by Sorenson and seconded by Menuey to approve the 2025-2027 Teacher Contract. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
23. A motion by Meyer and seconded by Menuey to approve the 2026 Seniority List. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
24. A motion by Sorenson and seconded by Stratton to approve the 1st reading of the 2026-2027 Registration Guide. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
25. A motion by Meyer and seconded by Sorenson to approve the 1st reading of the 2026-2027 Academic School Calendar. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
26. A motion by Meyer and seconded by Sorenson to approve rescheduling the next regular board meeting to February 19, 2026. Roll call vote. Yes=Meyer, Sorenson, Stratton, Menuey, Nelsen. No=none. Motion carried.
27. Chair Nelsen adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Dana Sorenson
Clerk