Cass County School District 097
Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools
May 13, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools was convened in open public session at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 in the Board Room in the high school at Murdock as advertised. Board members Jeff Backemeyer, Joel Clements, Tami Graham, Eric Towle, Mark Meyer, and Tyson Vogt were present. Also present were Superintendent Ryan Knippelmeyer, Secondary Principal Zach Barrett, and Elementary Principal Trisha Nichelson.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings, including publication in The Voice Newspaper. Notice of this meeting and the subjects to be discussed at the meeting were given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. A current copy of the agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice.

Board President Backemeyer called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Vogt / Meyer (M/S) to approve the agenda, board bills, April regular meeting minutes, financial reports, roll, and the employment termination of Jennifer Smith. Motion passed 6-0.

The Board reviewed reports from: Elementary Principal, Secondary Principal, and Superintendent/Activities Director.

No committee reports were given.

Opportunity was presented to receive audience comments, none were received.

<u>Action Items:</u>

Clements / Vogt (M/S) to approve a certified teacher employment contract for Mrs. Laura Blomstedt for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion passed 6-0.

Towle / Graham (M/S) to approve a certified teacher employment contract for Mrs. Deb Mumford for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion passed 6-0.

Graham / Meyer (M/S) to approve a certified teacher employment contract for Ms. Elizabeth Heng for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion passed 6-0.

Towle / Clements (M/S) to approve addendum to employment contract for Mrs. JoDee Paulsen to include Summer Library Services. Motion passed 6-0.

Clements / Meyer (M/S) to approve addendum to employment contract for Mr. Luke Dlouhy to include Elementary Summer Enrichment. Motion passed 6-0.

Graham / Vogt (M/S) to approve addendum to employment contract for Mrs. Kori Dlouhy to include Elementary Summer Enrichment. Motion passed 6-0.

Towle / Clements (M/S) to approve addendum to employment contract for Mrs. Mikaela Collins to include Elementary Summer Enrichment. Motion passed 6-0.

Clements / Towle (M/S) to approve the extra-duty assignments for the 2026-2027 school year as presented by the administration. Motion passed 6-0.

Backemeyer / Meyer (M/S) to approve the purchase of student and teacher computers from Apple Inc., as presented by the superintendent. Motion passed 6-0.

Towle / Graham (M/S) to approve the purchase of Chromebooks from IT-Outlet as presented by the superintendent. Motion passed 6-0.

Clements / Backemeyer (M/S) to approve the asphalt and concrete proposal from Byrne & Jones Construction to be completed at both the elementary and secondary school sites. Motion passed 6-0.

Graham / Meyer (M/S) to approve the district surplus items as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

Graham / Meyer (M/S) to approve the preventative maintenance 3-year contract with Hayes Mechanical. Motion passed 6-0.

Backemeyer / Clements (M/S) to hold a public hearing to discuss and receive input on American Civics at Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools at 9:29 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Clements / Vogt (M/S) to adjourn the Public Hearing to receive input on American Civics at Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools at 9:35 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Backemeyer / Meyer (M/S) to go into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing potential litigation against the school district. Motion passed 6-0.

Backemeyer / Vogt (M/S) to come out of Executive Session at 10:13 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

<u>Discussion items</u>:

Discuss the end of the 2025-2026 school year and May 9, 2026 Graduation Ceremony.

Clements / Vogt (M/S) to adjourn at 10:17 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 10th, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room in Murdock.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Towle, Board Secretary