UNOFFICIAL
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

A RESCHEDULED, REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SPEARFISH SCHOOL DISTRICT 40-2, LAWRENCE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, WAS HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ON THE 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: President Nathan Hoogshagen, Vice President Eric Skavang, Alesha Limbo, Terssa Markworth, and Kevin McGill. School administrators present were: Gottlob, Caldwell, Wademan, Williams, Anderson, Lyon, Jacobs, Sumners, Seyer

All motions were passed by unanimous vote unless stated otherwise.

President Hoogshagen called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

President Hoogshagen led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Limbo, seconded by Markworth and carried to approve the agenda with the addendum.

There was no unscheduled audience participation.

The Board did not have any conflict-of-interest wavers to consider.

Superintendent Gottlob provided an update for the board regarding the following:

- The current preliminary enrollment number are 2242.2; the board budgeted for 2264. The board will continue to receive updated enrollments counts as they become available.
- Administration closely monitored the Lookout Mountain fire, as it was in close proximity to Creekside Elementary and other school facilities. Communications were sent to families indicating there was no interruption to the school schedule. There were approximately 25-30 students who were excused by parents that day.
- One of the tiny homes constructed during the 2025-26 school year will go to auction at the end of the month (pending board approval); the other 2025-26 home will be completed by the advanced building trades class, and the new 2026-27 tiny home will also be completed. Both structures will be available for sale in the coming year.
- The Middle School Track Project is nearing completion; the site crew was released, and the track crew is finalizing their portion of the project. An inaugural competition is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on September 28.
- Later, in the agenda, the board will consider a decision to bid the fence project on the west side of the Middle School track.
- Supt. Gottlob is waiting for civil engineered plans for the drainage project in the same location as the Middle School/High track and practice field area. The project then will be considered to go to bid.
- The Middle School gym floor replacement is nearing closure; EMC Insurance distributed the first reimbursement for loss in the amount of roughly $220,000; final losses will be reimbursed in the near future.
- Academic assessment information is becoming available. In conjunction with the curriculum director and other administration, successes and areas for growth will be identified and enhancement strategies built based on the data. Math assessments are showing positive change. ACT testing is now required of all high school students which will affect the average scores (previously roughly 50-60% of students took the exam)

Motion made by Limbo, seconded by McGill and carried to approve the change order for the Mountain View alley project.

Motion made by Markworth, seconded by Skavang and carried to solicit sealed bids for the Fence Replacement Project.

Motion by Limbo, seconded by McGill and carried to approve the online auction with McPherson Auction Company for the District Tiny Home.

Motion made by Skavang, seconded by Limbo and carried to approve the following consent agenda with the addendum:

A. Personnel *(all hires contingent on successful completion of background check*)
   1. Consider the following resignations:
      a. Ciera Whelchel, Middle School, SPED-ESP, effective 08/17/2026
      b. Tricia Gainey, Cognia Co-Chair/District Improvement Team, effective 08/19/2026
   2. Consider the following classified agreements:
      a. Elise Derrek, Custodian, 8/hr. day, 12 months, $17.70 per hour, effective 08/24/2026
      b. Kelly Braaten, Middle School, SPED-ESP, 7/hr. day, 9 months, $17.70 per hour, effective 08/24/2026
      c. Tristyn Jackson, Mountain View Elementary, SPED-ESP, 7/hr. day, 9 months, $17.70 per hour, effective 09/14/2026
      d. Cindy Lloyd, Mail/Freight Delivery Person, 10 to 15 hours per week, $18.03 per hour, effective 09/02/2026
   3. Consider the following extra-duty agreements:
      a. Harlon Hendrick, Assistant Boys' Golf, Level 5 $2,891.60
      b. Heidi Work, Educator Rising Advisor, Level 3 $1,823.76 (split 2x = $911.88)
      c. Lana Main, Educator Rising Advisor, Level 3 $1,823.76 (split 2x = $911.88)
      d. Lyric Williams, Homecoming Co-Chair, Level 2 $1,289.84 (split 3x = $429.95)
      e. Audra Zwaschka, Assistant Speech/Debate, Level 5 $2,891.60
      f. Danielle Ligtenberg, High School, Cognia Co-Chair/District Improvement Team $1,075
      g. Katie Reed, West Elementary, Cognia Co-Chair/District Improvement Team $1,075
      h. Taylor Vitto, Middle School Volleyball, Level 3 $1,823.76
   4. Approve the new teacher contract change (additional college credits)

a.	Michaela Curran	96 units	$53,000	
b.	Jacob Kruse	100 units	$53,000	pro-rated .39 = $20,670
c.	Janelle Rauterkus	61 units	$52,250	
d.	Kari Van Zee	94 units	$53,000	
e.	Allison Zacher	272 units	$56,750	

B. Recognize Spearfish Baseball Association (SBA) as a non-school club sport
C. Approve the following School-Based Club Activities:
   1. Creekside Super Speed Stack Club (grades 3-5)
   2. Spearfish Destination Imagination (grades KG-12)
   3. Running Club (grades 6-8)
   4. Ag Club (grades 6-8)
   5. SMS/SHS Robotics (grades 6-12)
   6. SMS Fishing Club (grades 6-8)
   7. SMS Culinary Club (grades 7-8)
   8. Spartan Archery (grades 6-12)
   9. Art Club (grades 6-8)
   10. Maker Space (grades 6-8)

11. Book Club (grades 7-8)
12. Unified Spartans (grades 3-12)
13. Chess Club (grades 6-12)
14. Teen Library Advisory (grades 9-12)
15. FBLA (grades 9-12)
16. Key Club (grades 9-12)
17. HOSA – Future Health Professionals (grades 9-12)
18. Educators Rising (grades 9-12)
19. Fellowship of Christian Athletes/Activities (grades 9-12)
20. Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) (grades 9-12)
21. Investment Club (grades 9-12)
22. Bible Bites (grades 9-12)
23. Green Club (grades 9-12)
24. Spartan Referee Club (grades 9-12)
25. Math Contest (grades 9-12)
26. National Honor Society (grades 11-12)
27. SkillsUSA (grades 10-12)
28. Drama Club (grades 9-12)
29. SHS Book Club (grades 9-12)

D. Volunteers
Mtn. View Elem. West Elem. Creekside Elem. High School

(**Addendum**) Personnel *(all hires contingent on successful completion of background check*)

3. Consider the following extra-duty agreements:
   b. Heidi Work, Educator Rising Advisor, Level 3 $1,823.76 (split 2x = $911.88)
      change will not be split = Level 3 $1,823.76
   c. Lana Main, Educator Rising Advisor, Level 3 $1,823.76 (split 2x = $911.88)
      change remove from agenda

Mistie Caldwell provided the FY2026 year-end update on the school budget. Mistie thanked the business office staff – Burditt, Drolc, James and Kahl for their work in efficiently and effectively managing the business and financial aspects of the district. FY26 experienced increased revenues in the general fund and increased expenditures in the same fund. Other fund balances were explained with an overall financially healthy year in Capital Outlay, Special Education, Qualified School Construction Bonds, Food Service, Drivers Education and Fiduciary Accounts. In summary, the district was aware of the planned deficit spending in the General Fund for FY26, as it takes the time to assess the next few years with volatile enrollment. As FY27 progresses, the administration and the school board will start looking at strategic methods to bring the budget into alignment with enrollment. The Spearfish School District is in a positive financial position and looks to continue the expectation of responsible and prudent financial management.

Motion was made by Markworth, seconded by Limbo and carried to approve the meeting minutes of the regular meeting on August 10, 2026.

Motion was made by Skavang, seconded by Limbo and carried to accept the financial reports and bills as presented.

Motion made by Skavang and seconded by Limbo and carried to approve going into executive session in accordance with SDCL: 1-25-2(1) at 6:31 p.m.

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The board came out of executive session at 7:13 p.m. There was no action taken from the executive session.

Motion was made by Limbo, seconded by Markworth and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Nathan Hoogshagen, Board President _____

Mistie Caldwell, Business Manager _____