UNAPPROVED

MINUTES OF SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MARCH 9, 2026

A 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 9TH DAY OF MARCH 2026. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: President Ryan Niesent, Vice President Ellen Plocek, Eric Skavang, Nathan Hoogshagen and Alesha Limbo. School administrators present were: Easton, Crosswait, Heilman, Main, Wademan, Gottlob, Williams, Seyer, Lyon, Sumners, Gottlob and Anderson.

All motions were passed by unanimous vote unless noted otherwise.

Meeting was called to order by Board President Ryan Niesent.

President Niesent led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Plocek, seconded by Hoogshagen and carried to approve the agenda with addendum.

During the scheduled or unscheduled audience participation segment, Thomas Brown presented his concerns on a middle school library book *Thirteen Reasons Why.*

Middle School Principal Don Lyon and Isabella Luebken presented information on the 8th Grade Career Fair.

Building teachers of the year were recognized

- Mtn. View Elementary – Denise Nepodal
- West Elementary – Betsy Koistinen
- Creekside Elementary – Ashley Skavang
- Middle School – Kristin Rath
- High School – Danielle Ligtenberg

District teacher of the year Betsy Koistinen was recognized.

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

Superintendent Kirk Easton provided an update on the Mountain View Elementary alley project with an estimated cost of $450,000 and a completion date of August 25, 2026 the middle school track and field project with an estimated completion date of September 21, 2026 and year to date donations of $720,000, an upcoming West Elementary renovation meeting on March 12, 2026, the school's new website going online March 13, 2026 and upcoming negotiations with SEA and SCEA.

Motion was made by Hoogshagen, seconded by Limbo and carried to approve Ellen Plocek and Eric Skavang as the School Board negotiators for Spring 2026 with SEA & SCEA.

Motion was made by Skavang, seconded by Plocek and carried to approve the negotiation ground rules with SEA.

Motion was made by Limbo, seconded by Hoogshagen and carried to approve the second reading of the 2027-28 school calendar.

Motion was made by Skavang, seconded by Limbo and carried to approve the technology purchases for the 2026-27 school year.

Motion was made by Limbo, seconded by Skavang and carried to approve to retain the book with current restrictions. Aye: Plocek, Skavang, Limbo. Nay: Hoogshagen

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Motion was made by Hoogshagen, seconded by Plocek and carried to approve the agreement with 3Peark Architecture and JLG Architects for the West Elementary study.

Motion was made by Skavang, seconded by Limbo and carried to approve the agreement with Monument Health – athletic training services.

Motion was made by Limbo, seconded by Hoogshagen and carried to approve the consent agenda.

A. Personnel *(all hires contingent on successful completion of background check)*
   1. Approved the following contract beginning 2026 – 2027 school year:
      a. Gary Walz, High School, Academic Life Skills/504 Coordinator, MA-0 19 Ugrad, 50 Grad, = 269 Units = $56,500
   2. Approved the following transfer beginning 2026 – 2027 school year:
      a. Bailey Carmany, Middle School Mathematics to High School Mathematics
   3. Approved the following resignations:
      a. Anthony Bradley, Head Girls' Soccer Coach, effective 02/12/2026
      b. Christine Hevern, Creekside Elementary, SPED-ESP, effective 03/13/2026
      c. Joel Martin, Head Girls' Wrestling Coach, effective end of 2025 – 2026 school year
      d. Tricia Burry, District, ESL-ESP, effective 05/14/2026
   4. Approved the following extra-duty agreements:
      a. Anthony Bradley, Head Boys' Soccer Coach, Level 9 $5,060.65
      b. Sarah Popkes, Prom Advisor (split 2x = $644.92)
      c. Lyric Williams, Head Varsity Dance Coach, Level 9 $5,060.65

B. Approved Trust & Agency Account, High School Clubs, 66-936

C. Approved volunteers

Motion was made by Plocek, seconded by Hoogshagen and carried to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 9, 2026 and special meeting minutes from February 25, 2026, March 6, 2026 and March 7, 2026.

Motion was made by Plocek, seconded by Limbo and carried to approve the bills and financial statements.

Motion was made by Plocek, seconded by Hoogshagen and carried to move into executive session. SDCL1-25-2(4) Preparing for contract negotiations or negotiating with employees or employee representatives and SDCL: 1-25-2(1) Discussing the qualifications, competence, performance, character or fitness of any public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. The term, employee, does not include any independent contractor. 6:02 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session, the regular meeting resumed. 6:31 p.m.

Motion was made by Hoogshagen, seconded by Plocek and carried to offer the superintendent contract to Nick Gottlob beginning on July 1, 2026.

Motion was made by Limbo, seconded by Plocek and carried to adjourn the meeting. 6:31 p.m.

Ryan Niesent, Board President ____________________________________

Craig Crosswait, Business Manager ____________________________________