

**HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 294
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING
Thursday, December 1, 2022
Minutes**

- I. Call to Order – Vice chair Josh Norlien called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Members present were Mimi Carlson, Mark Swenson, Josh Norlien, Gene Lundak, and Mary Morem. Arlin Peterson arrived at 6:11PM. Absent were Richard Erdmann and Tom Stilin.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Agenda Approval – Board member Swenson made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Lundak. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Resolution for Closed Meeting for Negotiations Strategy
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Consent Items – A motion was made by Swenson to approve the consent items. Seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.
 - A. Minutes
 1. Approval of November 3, 2022 Minutes
 2. Approval of November 17, 2022 Minutes
 - B. Payment of Bills
 - C. Personnel
 1. Contracts
 - a. Amber Kulig
 2. Increased Contracts
 - a. Ron Ralph
 - b. Tracy Sigl
 3. Hiring Memos
 - a. Damon Carrier
 - b. Adam Florin
 - c. Travis Frank
 - d. Travis Kingsley
 - e. Matt Runningen
 4. Resignations
 - a. Annette Dulek
 - b. Michelle Knutson
- VII. Discussion Items
 - A. Superintendent Evaluation – Superintendent Morem opened the floor for board members to share their input on the Superintendent Evaluation. Board members shared that Superintendent Morem has met the goal of continuing to grow our student offerings and school capacity at Houston High School and MNVA. Board members would like to continue to work on increasing communication with our community engagement.
 - B. World’s Best Workforce – Superintendent Morem discussed each school’s plan to meet the goals for the World’s Best Workforce plan. Principal Mangan also contributed to the discussion on behalf of Houston High School.
- VIII. Old Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)
 - A. Germany 2024 Trip - Karla Gotham presented information on the Germany Trip planned for 2024. A motion was by Lundak to approve the pricing for the trip in 2024. Seconded by Swenson. Motion approved unanimously.

- B. Policies for Second Reading – A motion to approve by Swenson. Seconded by Lundak. Motion passed unanimously.
 - 1. Policy 304 – Superintendent Contract, Duties, and Evaluation
 - 2. Policy 306 – Administrator Code of Ethics
- IX. New Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)
 - A. Policies for First Reading – Board members were encouraged to review the policies for approval at the January 2023 board meeting.
 - 1. Policy 204 – School Board Meeting Minutes
 - 2. Policy 209 – Code of Ethics
 - 3. Policy 210 – Conflict of Interest – School Board
 - 4. Policy 214 – Out of State Travel by School Board Members
 - 5. Policy 534 – Unpaid Meal Charges
- X. Adjourn for Truth in Taxation Meeting – A motion was made by Swenson to recess the regular meeting. Seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously. Regular meeting was adjourned at 6:29PM.
 - A. The Truth and Taxation Meeting began at 6:30PM.
 - 1. Finance Director Gwen Rostad conducted a presentation providing a general background on school funding, school district property taxes, and information on the proposed tax levy.
 - 2. Public Comment – Community members in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions and express their views regarding their taxes and the impact of the proposed levy.
 - 3. Superintendent Morem, Finance Director Gwen Rostad, and Board members were able to answer their questions.
- XI. Re-convene for Regular Meeting – A motion was made by Carlson to re-convene to Regular Meeting. Seconded by Peterson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting reconvened at 7:19PM.
- XII. Announcements
 - A. Important Events – Winter Break December 23 – January 2, Organizational Meeting January 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM, MSBA Leadership Conference January 11th – 13th, 2023, MSBA Phase I Training offered in La Crescent on December 8th, 2022; Holiday Concerts are coming up this weekend; Students currently on the DC Trip; Holiday Concerts are coming up for each school. Sherman Cole passed away recently.
 - B. Meeting and Committee Updates – Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 at 5:00PM; Special Board Meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 at 6:00PM. HVED Meeting update from Lundak. Board member Lundak shared that the Auditor went over the audit and everything looks good. Achieve program in Kellogg still having a challenging time with student behaviors and destruction of property. Achieve is looking to hire more staff to help with these issues. Program possibly looking at using the St. Stan’s school building in Winona for their program. Board member Peterson shared about a recent meeting with the MSHSL. MSHSL is still waiting on referees to turn in bills so final financials will be coming. Discussion was had regarding adding boys’ volleyball team. Board member Carlson shared regarding a recent Online Schools committee meeting. Everything is going very well currently. The newly added Reading Interventionist is seeing good success and progress.
 - C. Board/Superintendent Feedback/Thank You’s/Future Agenda Items – Superintendent Morem acknowledge Gene Lundak (5 years) and Tom Stilin (20 years) for their Years of Service.
- XIII. Closed Session for Negotiation Strategy – Vice Chair Norlien called the closed session to order at 7:57PM. Members present were Mark Swenson, Gene Lundak, Arlin

Peterson, Josh Norlien, Mimi Carlson, and Mary Morem. Members absent were Tom Stilin and Richard Erdmann. Discussion was held concerning the final contracts awaiting approval.

- XIV. A motion to adjourn was made by Carlson and seconded by Peterson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.