ELLSWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
School Library
Ellsworth, Minnesota
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order and roll call

2. Approve meeting agenda

3. Student Council

4. EPTO

5. Consent Agenda Consider/Approve
   5.1 Minutes of regular board meeting on November 17, 2025.
   5.2 Student Activity Fund
   5.3 Treasurer's Report
   5.4 Donations: $40 from Barbara Engel, CAF America - $1,000 - grant for Music, $50 from City of Ellsworth - FACS week, $25 from Colette Smythe - FACS week

6. Administrative Reports
   6.1 Principal
      a.
      b.

   6.2 Superintendent
      a. School Board News

7. Action Items:
   7.1 Consider/approve monthly bills
   7.2 ESST/Sick Days
   7.3 Legal Analysis of Employee Visa & Green Card Acquisition
   7.4
   7.5

   7.6 Personnel
      a. Contract - Emma Jacobsma
      b. Resignation - Madison Walters

8. Buildings & Grounds:

9. Adjournment

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REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
School Library
Ellsworth, Minnesota
Monday, November 17, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ryan Heikes at 6:00 p.m. A roll call revealed all members present. Dustin Lefdal joined via phone. The Board of Education opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Staff present: Amy Labat, Bill Strom, Darcey Groen, Craig Gaul, Leah Deutsch, Lori Romans & Seth Afriyie.

Visitors: Maggie Lenz & Amy Mollberg with Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co.

A motion was made by Jenniges and seconded by Lynn to approve the meeting agenda with one addition. Motion carried.

Maggie Lenz reported on these items for Student Council: Red Ribbon Week, speaker for the event, pie fundraiser, & Christmas plans.

Lisa Lynn reported on these items for EPTO: Christmas Movie event will be on December 7, planning a mother-son event, dance camp, & father-daughter dance.

Amy Mollberg with Meulebroeck, Taubert, & Co. presented the FY25 School District Audit. A motion was made by Lenz and seconded by Jenniges to approve the FY25 Audit as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Jenniges to approve the Consent Agenda items:
- Minutes of the regular school board meeting on October 20, 2025.
- Student Activity Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Donations: $300 from Comm. Club for Book Club, $750 from Comm. Club for cell phone cases.

Motion carried.

Ms. Labat presented the following items: Stronger Connections grant - field trip, NHS Induction Ceremony, Black Hills Playhouse performance, parent-teacher conferences, Veterans Day program, and a site visit from the stronger connections grant.

Amy presented the Comprehensive Achievement & Civic Readiness Report.
Amy presented the Achievement & Integration Report.

Mr. Strom's report included information on the following items: budget information, negotiations, MN Paid leave act, fund transfer, & bus information.

Darcey Groen presented the bills with one addition. A motion was made by Lenz and seconded by Lynn to approve the bills as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The following voted in favor: Lenz, Lynn, Harms, Jenniges, Lefdal & Heikes. The following voted against: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Strom presented information on the MN Paid Leave Act. A motion was made by Jenniges and seconded by Lynn to approve the MN Paid Leave Act as presented. Motion carried.

Ms. Labat presented information for a Proclamation for FACS week December 1-5. A motion was made by Lenz and seconded by Harms to approve the Proclamation for FACS week. Motion carried.

Ms. Labat presented the District Mission & Vision Statements proposed by the MTSS Leadership team.
The Mission Statement reads: Rooted in community and driven by personalized learning, Ellsworth Public School empowers each student to grow, achieve, and lead with confidence in a changing world.
The Vision Statement reads: Our vision is to EQUIP students with the knowledge and skills for lifelong success, ENGAGE their hearts and minds in learning and community, and ELEVATE them to become confident leaders and contributing members of society.
A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Jenniges to approve the proposed Mission & Vision statements as presented. Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding a Permanent Residency for a staff member. A motion was made by Jenniges and seconded by Lenz to table this conversation until more information is received from the school attorney. A roll call vote was taken. The following voted in favor: Lynn, Jenniges, Lefdal, Harms, Lenz & Heikes. The following voted against: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Strom presented information on the cell phone pockets. A donation was received for these from the Ellsworth Community Club. A motion was made by Lenz and seconded by Lynn to approve the purchase of the cell phone pockets. A roll call vote was taken. The following voted in favor: Lenz, Jenniges, Lynn, Lefdal & Heikes. The following voted against: Harms. Motion carried.

Dustin Lefdal was disconnected from the meeting at 7:15.

Mr. Strom presented information on the Under Levy. A motion was made by Jenniges and seconded by Harms to approve an Under Levy to be applied to the 25 pay 26 LLC, (scheduled for final approval by the School Board at the regular December meeting) with an annual amount to be $4,250 per year for seven years, or $29,750 in a one-year lump sum, The actual amount and duration of payments is to be determined by the district superintendent and financial advisor. The School Board will vote to approve the final levy at the December School Board meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The following voted in favor: Harms & Jenniges. The following voted against: Lenz, Lynn & Heikes. The motion failed.

A discussion was held regarding the January & February board meetings as they fall on legal holidays. A motion was made by Lenz and seconded by Lynn to set these dates for the school board meetings:
January 21 at 6:00 pm.
February 23 at 6:00 pm.
Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the contract for Sharlyn Galas. A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Lenz to continue with the contract for Sharlyn Galas but also advertise for a full time 4th/5th grade teacher position. A roll call vote was taken. The following voted in favor: Lynn, Jenniges, Lenz & Heikes. The following voted against: Harms. Motion carried.

The following items were discussed for buildings & grounds: doors, door windows, & gym floor.

There being no further business Chairperson Ryan Heikes called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Jenniges to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ellsworth District 514 School Board Clerk