

New Salem-Almont School Board Proceedings

NEW SALEM-ALMONT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18, 2026 | 6:00 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

President John called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. John, Hoovestol, Feland, Reiner-Pletan, Miller, and Lausch were present.

Superintendent Christopherson, Business Manager Dukart, and Principals Bennett and Olson were in attendance. Richard Mendoza from the Morton County News Journal was also present.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reiner-Pletan moved to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes from the April 20 regular board meeting and negotiations committee meeting, bills, and the financial report. Feland seconded the motion. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

No public comment.

In unfinished business, the second reading of policy DEBH – Employee Use of Social Media was reviewed. Feland moved to approve, seconded by Miller. All members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

The second reading of policy DEBH- BR – District Social Media Accounts was read. Miller moved to approve, seconded by Hoovestol. All members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

In new business, the math specialist position was reviewed. Lausch spoke on behalf of the personnel committee as well as Principals Olson and Bennett. Discussion was had. The committee recommended hiring Kayla Christopherson to

fill the math specialist position. Feland moved to accept the committee's recommendation and hire Kayla Christopherson. Seconded by Hoovestol.

All members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

In preparation for the upcoming school board election, Miller made a motion to designate one precinct and two polling places, the New Salem Auditorium and the Fire Hall in Almont, which will open at 7:00 am and close at 7:00 pm for the annual school board election on June 9, 2026. The motion was seconded by Lausch; all members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

Reiner-Pletan moved to authorize Business Manager Dukart to contact and secure election workers and pay them \$14.25 per hour. If, for some reason, a judge and/or clerk is unable to fulfill their duties, Ms. Dukart has the authority to find a replacement without formal board approval. Lausch seconded the motion. All members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

The board was presented with Mrs. Michelle Kaelberer's resignation. The board accepted Mrs. Kaelberer's resignation and thanked her for her years of service to the New Salem-Almont School District. Miller moved to accept the resignation, seconded by Hoovestol. All members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

The administrative contracts recommendation was given to the board by the negotiations committee. The committee recommended a 3% salary increase for the principals and the superintendent. As well as adding two days to the principal's regular

contracts, increasing their total days from 202 to 204. The negotiations committee also recommended a 6-day work agreement for the principals, as they have additional duties to implement Infinite Campus this summer. Reiner-Pletan moved to accept the committee's recommendation on the administrative contracts, seconded by Feland. A roll call vote was as follows: Reiner-Pletan: Yes; Hoovestol: Yes; Lausch: Yes; Feland: Yes; Miller: Yes; John: Yes. All members present voted yes, and the

motion passed.

Business Manager Dukart shared an update on the school's banking services. Feland moved to refer the discussion to the finance committee for further review and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Hoovestol. All members present voted yes, and the motion passed.

Miller moved to adopt a banking resolution officially authorizing the school's business manager and board president to act on behalf of the school district in all banking transactions. The motion was seconded by Lausch. All members present voted yes, and the motion passed. Vice President Reiner-Pletan signed the adopted banking resolution.

In his report, Supt. Christopherson shared an update on the music position at the elementary. As well as a staffing update for the upcoming school year. Supt. Christopherson shared that staff will be completing threat assessment training this fall and shared a draft of a crisis plan the TLA group is putting together.

Principal Olson shared an overview of the end of the year

and graduation. He said state testing results are coming in and that he will provide the board with an overview at the June meeting. He also shared the status of the Infinite Campus implementation.

Principal Bennett shared an update on the end of the school year at PVE. She shared sum-

mer school and summer reading program information with the board. She also shared an update on the Infinite Campus rollout.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, at 6:00 pm in the high school conference room.

Lausch moved to adjourn

the meeting, seconded by Feland. All members voted, "Aye." The meeting was adjourned.

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