

Fort Ransom School Board

FORT RANSOM SCHOOL DISTRICT #6 ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING JULY 23, 2026 7:00 PM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
President Lynn Thorfinnson called
the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll
call was taken.

Members Present:

Others Present:

Jarry Lauth

Dr. Steven Johnson, Superintendent

Lynn Thorfinnson

Lynelle Hanson, Business Manager

Chelsey Jones

Photographer Natalie Behring

Teara Davis

Members Absent:

Stacy Ercink

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chelsey moved to approve the consent agenda containing the May 12th and June 25th, 2026, school board meeting minutes, agenda, bills list and the bank reconciliation. Jarry 2nd the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all in favor, and the motion carried.

BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT

DICKEY RURAL NETWORK - READITECH

ND ASSOC. OF SCHOOL BUS MANAGERS

ND SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

STEVEN JOHNSON

WALOCK-JOHNSON INSURANCE INC

CITY OF FORT RANSOM

INFO TECHNOLOGY DEPT

RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE

WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE

CAROL HAARSAGER

CASS COUNTY ELEC COOP

BROOKE DEVITT

NOREEN FRAASE

MARILYN SORBY

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

• Board Member Reports: Jarry Lauth was contacted by Sodbuster's representative, Jacob Birkliid, to see if their organization could use a school bus for approx. 1 hour each day (Sept. 10th - 11th) to transport individuals

from Kathryn (Waldheim Church) to the State Park. They would also need to have the bus driver's services. Chelsey moved to allow the use of the bus/bus driver pending all things approved by Darla and the Lisbon School. Jarry seconded the motion. All in favor by unanimous roll call vote.

• Guests: Photographer Natalie Behring

• Public Comment: None

• Correspondence: None

• Superintendent's Report: Dr.

Steven Johnson presented the board with the highlights/challenges of the 2025-2026 school year and reorganization progress in his Annual Superintendent Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

• Annual Financial 2025-2026

Report - Jarry moved to accept the presented Annual Financial report with a 2nd by Teara. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Jarry moved to adjourn the 2025-2026 school board meeting with a second by Chelsey. All in favor and motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER 2026-2027 ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:

Members Present:

Others Present:

Jarry Lauth

Dr. Steven Johnson, Superintendent

Lynn Thorfinnson

Lynelle Hanson, Business Manager

Chelsey Jones

Members Absent:

Teara Davis

Stacy Ercink

Elected temporary Chairperson:
Chelsey acted as temporary chairperson.

Election of Officers:

• President: Chelsey nominated Lynn Thorfinnson as President. Jarry seconded the motion. Chelsey moved that nominations cease. Lynn abstained from voting. Vote and roll call were taken. Lynn will serve as President for the 2026-2027 year.

• Vice-President: Chelsey nominated Teara. Lynn seconded the nomination of Teara as Vice-President. Lynn moved nominations to cease. Teara abstained from voting. Vote and roll call were taken. Teara will serve as Vice-President for the 2026-2027 year.

CANVAAS ELECTION RESULTS FROM SPECIAL REORGANIZATION ELECTION:

Jarry moved to accept the results from the special Reorganization Election held July 22, 2026. The results were as follows: 29 votes were cast. 19 of the 29 votes were absentee votes. There were 2 votes "NO", and 27 votes "YES". Majority vote approved the Reorganization with the Lisbon School to take effect July 1, 2027.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Lynn Thorfinnson and Jarry Lauth read the Oath of Office for their new appointments that were approved on June 25th. Both Lynn and Jarry will serve in their school board roles until the next election.

FUTURE BOARD APPOINTMENT TO REORGANIZED DISTRICT:

The board had discussion on having a FRD board member sit on the new re-organization board serving a three-year term beginning July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2030. This board member would serve/represent Fort Ransom School District's interest. After that period of time, the Lisbon School Board will return to a 5-person board being chosen at-large. Tabled discussion to a later date.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL BOARD, SUPERINTENDENT, AND BUSINESS MANAGER roles during transition period: The school board will continue to operate through June 30, 2027, and will hold approximately 4 meetings for the year. Dr. Steven Johnson will continue to guide us through that same period of time operating through his service agreement presented. Lynelle Hanson, Business Manager, will continue to fulfill the financial requirements/reporting through June 30, 2027. At that point, Lisbon School District will take over all financial and reporting aspects.

TRANSITION OF BUS ROUTE and TUITION PAYMENTS:

Tabled until the next meeting

Set 2026-2027 Board Meetings:
The following dates were selected for board meetings:

• September 14th 2026 - Monday @ 7:00 pm Tax Levy Hearing and Board Meeting to follow

• December 15th 2026 - Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

• March 8th 2027 - Monday @ 7:00

pm

•June 15th2027- Tuesday @ 7:00

pm

BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT

	52.78
CITY OF FORT RANSOM	64.00
DICKEY RURAL NETWORK - READITECH	201.74
LISBON PUBLIC SCHOOL	67.00
ND SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION	195.00
STEVEN JOHNSON	4,166.67
BASE	280.00
ECOLAB PEST ELIM DIV	83.80
INFO TECHNOLOGY DEPT	41.12
LISBON PUBLIC SCHOOL	134.00
RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE	255.60
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	52.72
CASS COUNTY ELEC COOP	204.00
DARLA SMITH	128.80
JOHN KWAPINSKI	57.40
SANSTEAD LAW OFFICE	1,975.00
DFS, INC. FLEX PLAN	140.00
DFS, INC. FLEX PLAN	3,200.00

***These meetings are set, but subject to change, and special meetings can be held as necessary.

Select Depository: Chelsey moved, with a second by Jarry to keep Bank North as the FRSD Depository. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Stipend Rate for 2026-2027: Jarry moved to raise the School Board Stipend rate to \$75/President per meeting and \$60/reg. board member per meeting with a second by Teara. Approved by unanimous vote.

Official Newspaper: Chelsey moved, with a second by Jarry to keep the Ransom County Gazette as the official newspaper. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Certificate of Levy (2026-2027 budget): Chelsey moved to accept the certificate of levy presented which levies:

- \$316,400 {approx. of General Fund 60 mills & General Fund 10 mills (Discretionary)}, &

- \$49,720 {approx. 11 mills Miscellaneous}

- Total of \$366,120 levied.

Teara moved to second the motion. Approved by unanimous roll call vote. The board has the capability to amend the budget at the September meeting or before the October 10th deadline.

Tax Levy Hearing: The Tax Levy Hearing date has been set to Sep-

tember 14th, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Fort Ransom School office.

DISPOSITION OF SCHOOL INVENTORY & CLASS PICTURES:

Jarry moved to allow the museum caretakers to remove the Fort Ransom School class pictures and place them in holders housed in the Museum. Chelsey seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Chelsey moved to adjourn at 8:00 pm, with a second by Jarry.

MEETINGS:

Next Meeting: Tax Levy Hearing at 7:00 PM Sept. 14, 2026, at the Fort Ransom School with the Regular school board meeting following.

July 23, 2026

Lynn Thorfinnson

School Board President

Lynelle Hanson

School Business Manager

Publish:
October 5, 2026