Minutes
Sleepy Eye ISD #84
Board of Education
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
5:30PM
Conference Room
Responsible Everywhere. Respect Everyone. Respond Safely Every Time.

Agenda

Call to order: Attendance: Joleen Dittbenner, Brian Nelson, Darla Remus, Casey Coulson, Adam Barka, Sheila Wurtzberger Absent: Dan Marti

Good News Items: Ms. Reding was able to take two groups of students to participate in the Uniquely-Abled Program through South Central College in Mankato. On 1/27/2026, Ms. Reding took four students to tour the MnDOT building and learned about a variety of jobs that are available to recent graduates, and how MnDOT provides job-training programs to help individuals advance in their careers. Students were able to sit in a snowplow and watch a cement cylinder get crushed under high levels of pressure. On 2/2/2026, Ms. Reding took a group of five students to tour Label Works, a division of Taylor Corporation, and they saw how labels are ordered, designed, printed, packaged, and shipped across the country. The students enjoyed receiving a bag of different types of labels and stickers. Following both industry tours, the students had lunch and a tour of SCC. The Wax Museum was very well attended and all the students had great presentations. The Spelling Bee was held and Noah Briones was the winner. Wrestling is going to state, Sleepy Eye has one wrestler, Jace Schuman was KNUJ player of the week. Congrats to Eric Lozano who had 1000 points!!

Recognition of visitors: Press and Staff

Approve Agenda M Joleen Dittbenner 2nd Brian Nelson M/C

Approve minutes of January 7, 2026 M Casey Coulson 2nd Joleen Dittbenner M/C

Approve financial transactions and reports M Casey Coulson 2nd Brian Nelson M/C

Reports

Board: Naming Right had its first meeting to determine what our robot will be used for and how people can use it to advertise on the fields during the football season and maybe the track season, also may look at putting naming rights on the gym floor to help us fund more things. Our next meeting is next Wednesday. Meet and Confer met with issues such as behavior and concerns about not having an accounting service in the building. Negotiations met and are still working on their issues.

Elementary Principal: Mr. Westphal returned from paternity leave on February 2nd. Judy Surprenant still covering for Mrs. Whooley through March. Behavior Team started January 29th working on policy language and how the policy is worded.

Time of the year for surveys and reflection to improve future practices, some of the numbers look very positive. Parent Teacher conferences were on February 11th and 12th, good turnout. Grandparents Day date set for March 31st. Vision & Hearing screening on February 25th. Early Out (dismissal at 1 pm) on February 27th. Kindergarten Roundup on March 10th. One teacher observation left to do this school year. IEP reviews for SpEd going well.

High School Principal: **Teacher Surveys:** Students completed teacher surveys the week of February 9th. Results will be reviewed with teachers. **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Parent/teacher conferences were Thursday, February 13th. A tally was kept for households attending. There were approximately 30

households that attended. We had a Building resilience presentation for all parents. We had a scholarship meeting for seniors and parents of seniors. **Parent Surveys:** A notification about completing the parent survey was sent home to households a few weeks back. We also had a QRF code parents could scan the night of conferences to complete the survey. **AAA Interviews:** I was a panel member for the Region 2A AAA interviews. Sam Price was a sub-section winner and represented Sleepy Eye well. **MASSP Conference:** I attended my principal's winter conference. A lot of moving parts in today's education climate. **Attendance Committee Update:** We have met two times. We want to reformat the student handbook. Any changes will be highlighted at a faculty meeting in the future. Next step is consideration of school sponsored activity involvement. Consider a cap for number that will be exempt. Board discussion says that the board policy is upheld. **FFA Week Update:** This will be the week of February 23rd. Variation on the FFA scavenger hunt this year. Trying mini animals to see how that goes. Medallion hunt growing stale. **Crisis Meeting:** There will be a crisis team meeting on February 24th at 3:05. **Upcoming Presentation:** We will be having a speaker on March 4th. Focus will be on overcoming obstacles and developing mental toughness. Will be an adjusted schedule in the morning this day. **Staff Spotlight:** This month's winners are Deb Reinharts and Ashley Maher.

Superintendent: **Compensatory Funding Issue:** The compensatory funds will revert back to the law in the books that only allows direct certification students to count toward compensatory revenues. Last year was a one year hold harmless passed by the legislature and a taskforce was appointed. The taskforce has not finished its work yet so unless they pass another hold harmless majority of school districts will be losing revenues. Sleepy Eye is projected to lose $272,417. **LTFM roof project:** We received 7 bids for our roof project. Brey Architects tallied the bid and is recommending the low bid by Laraway. The next step is to issue building bonds. Aaron Bushbeger from Ehlers is the point person. Bond will be issued and approved by the board later in spring to avoid early repayments. **Meet and Confer**: Concerns about SMS and elementary discipline and communication were brought forward. **2026-27 Calendar**: 2026-27 FLY calendar was shared out to staff and to leadership committees. **Naming Rights Committee**: Naming right committee held its first meeting.

Presentation

FY 2026 revised budget by Todd Netzke we were forecasting a shortfall but now it is less but still a shortfall, based on student numbers. State aid for special ed went up, that is good news. M/C

Action items

Approve resignation of Mary Helget as JH volleyball coach

Approve resignation of Mary Hoffmann as Agricultural Instructor effective the end of the 2025-26 school year. Thank you, Mary, for your years of service and your great work on building a nationally recognized FFA organization.

Approve the hire of Tamara Lopez a elementary SPED paraprofessional 7 hrs a day @$16.52/hr

Approve amended professional services with Bray Associates-Architects Inc.

Approve the 2025-26 spring coaching assignments as presented

Approve revised FY 2026 budget as presented

Review and Approve LTFM roof bid recommendations suggested by Bray Architects, Laraway Roofing is the bid winner at $752, 200.

Approve Joe Hoffmann as Head Football Coach per selection committee recommendation for the 2026-27 school year

Approve open enrollment request: 1 to New Ulm

M Casey Coulson 2nd Adam Barka M/C

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 5:30PM

Adjourn. Time: 6:25 pm M Adam Barka 2nd Casey Coulson M/C

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Wurtzberger/ Clerk