

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Special Meeting/School Board Organizational Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026

MINUTES

The Special Meeting/School Board Organizational Meeting for the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Center, Rhinelander High School, 665 Coolidge Ave., Rhinelander, WI.

Ronald Counter, Board President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mary Peterson, Mike Roberts, Duane Frey, Merlin Van Buren, Ronald Lueneburg, Patricia Townsend, Kurt Helke, and Ronald Counter

Board Members Absent: Judy Conlin

Others present at this meeting were: Superintendent, Eric Burke; Heather Schaefer of the Northwoods Star Journal, and Ardith Carlton of the Northwoods River News. Two other people were also present.

Declaration of Public Notice

President Counter indicated that the 'Declaration of Public Notice' was printed with the meeting agenda. This notice identifies the public places where the meeting agenda was posted and/or shared.

Citizens/Delegations

- No citizens/delegations wished to address the Board.

Ceremonial Oath of Office

Mary Peterson, School Board Clerk, administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office to the following newly elected school board members: Duane Frey, Merlin Van Buren, and Mike Roberts. All newly elected school board members took their seats as school board members.

Election of School Board Officers

President

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for President.
- Mike Roberts nominated Ron Counter as the Board of Education President.
- Mary Peterson seconded the nomination.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no other nominations.
- A voice vote was taken. Ron Counter received all eight votes.
- The Board President for the 2026-2027 term is Ron Counter.

Vice President

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Vice President.
- Mike Roberts nominated Judy Conlin for Vice President.
- Ron Counter seconded the nomination.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no other nominations.
- Ron Counter confirmed Judy Conlin's acceptance of the position if elected.
- A voice vote was taken. Judy Conlin received all eight votes.
- Vice President for the 2026-2027 term is Judy Conlin.

Clerk

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Clerk.
- Duane Frey nominated Mary Peterson for Clerk.
- Mike Roberts seconded the nomination.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no other nominations.
- A voice vote was taken. Mary Peterson received all eight votes.
- The clerk for the 2026-2027 term is Mary Peterson.

Treasurer

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.
- Ron Counter nominated Mike Roberts for Treasurer.
- Duane Frey seconded the nomination.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no other nominations.
- A voice vote was taken. Mike Roberts received all eight votes.
- Treasurer for the 2026-2027 term is Mike Roberts.

Secretary/Deputy Clerk

- President Counter nominated Shelley Anderson for Secretary/Deputy Clerk.
- Mike Roberts seconded the nomination.
- There were no other nominations.
- A voice vote was conducted. Shelley Anderson received all eight votes.
- Secretary/Clerk for the 2026-2027 term is Shelley Anderson.

Discussion/Selection of Committee Assignments

President Counter confirmed the following Board Members' assignments to the following committees:

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

- Mike Roberts – Chair
- Duane Frey
- Merlin Van Buren

Disciplinary Appeals Committee

- Mary Peterson – Chair
- Kurt Helke
- Ronald Lueneburg
- Merlin Van Buren

Employee Relations Committee

- Duane Frey – Chair
- Judy Conlin
- Kurt Helke

Instruction and Accountability Committee

- Judy Conlin – Chair
- Mary Peterson
- Patricia Townsend

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

- Mike Roberts – Chair
- Ronald Lueneburg
- Merlin Van Buren

Adjournment

MOTION: M. Roberts, seconded by M. Peterson.

Move to adjourn.

Motion passed with a voice vote at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Peterson, Board of Education Clerk