

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Special Meeting/School Board Organizational Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2025

MINUTES

The Special Meeting/School Board Organizational Meeting for the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:00 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: Judy Conlin, Mary Peterson, Kurt Helke, Duane Frey, Patricia Townsend, Ronald Lueneburg, Merlin Van Buren, and Ronald Counter

Board Members Absent: Mike Roberts

Others present at this meeting were: Superintendent, Eric Burke; Director of Business Services, Robert Thom; Director of Human Resources, Michele Cornelius; Director of Learning Support, Richard Gretzinger; Heather Schaefer of the Northwoods Star Journal, and Michael Strasburg of the Northwoods River News. One other person was 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

Merlin Van Buren, Appointed School Board Clerk for this election, administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office to the following newly elected school board members: Judy Conlin, Kurt Helke, Ronald Lueneburg, and Mary Peterson. 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.
- Kurt Helke 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.

- The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Shelley Anderson collected and counted the votes aloud, while Superintendent Eric Burke observed to ensure accuracy. Ron Counter received all eight votes.
- The Board President for the 2025-2026 term is Ron Counter.

Vice President

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Vice President.
- Duane Frey nominated Judy Conlin for Vice President.
- Mary Peterson seconded the nomination.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no further nominations.
- The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Shelley Anderson collected and counted the votes aloud, while Superintendent Eric Burke observed to ensure accuracy. Judy Conlin received all eight votes.
- Vice President for the 2025-2026 term is Judy Conlin.

Clerk

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Clerk.
- Judy Conlin nominated Mary Peterson for Clerk.
- Duane Frey seconded the nomination.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no further nominations.
- The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Shelley Anderson collected and counted the votes aloud, while Superintendent Eric Burke observed to ensure accuracy. Mary Peterson received all eight votes.
- The clerk for the 2025-2025 term is Mary Peterson.

Treasurer

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.
- Ron Counter nominated Mike Roberts for Treasurer.
- Judy Conlin seconded the nomination.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no further nominations.
- The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Shelley Anderson collected and counted the votes aloud, while Superintendent Eric Burke observed to ensure accuracy. Mike Roberts received all eight votes.
- Ron Counter confirmed that Mike Roberts' acceptance of the position.
- Treasurer for the 2025-2026 term is Mike Roberts.

Secretary/Deputy Clerk

- President Counter nominated Shelley Anderson for Secretary/Deputy Clerk.
- Mary Peterson seconded the nomination.
- There were no further nominations.
- A voice vote was conducted. Shelley Anderson received all eight votes.
- Secretary/Clerk for the 2025-2026 term is Shelley Anderson.

Discussion/Selection of Committee Assignments

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

Instruction and Accountability Committee

- Judy Conlin – Chair
- Mary Peterson
- Patricia Townsend

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

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

Employee Relations Committee

- Duane Frey – Chair
- Judy Colin
- Kurt Helke

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

Adjournment

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by D. Frey.

Move to adjourn.

Motion passed with a voice vote at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Peterson, Board of Education Clerk