

**STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
July 22, 2024**

State Board of Public School Education members met via Teams on Monday, July 22, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Sonia Meehl at 3:01 p.m.

State Board Members Present Virtually:

Chair Sonia Meehl
Vice Chairman Mike McHugh
Board Member Eric Nelson
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom
Superintendent Kirsten Baesler
Levi Bachmeier

State Board Member Absent:

Board Member Burdell Johnson

Others Present Virtually: Allyson Hicks (Asst. Atty General), Melissa Hamilton (ND Atty Gen. Office), Brandt Dick (Emmons County Superintendent), Rick Diegel (Superintendent of Linton School District), Justin Purintun (Petitioner), John Barry (Superintendent of Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock School District), Shauna Marchus (NDDPI Admin), Donna Fishbeck (NDDPI)

Chair Meehl called the meeting to order.

Allyson Hicks explained that due to procedural requirements under North Dakota Century Code 28-32-39 (2), findings of fact need to be issued within 30 days or a reasonable timeframe after hearings. Since this board's next meeting was not until September, a special meeting was necessary to approve the findings of fact. She reminded the group that Mike McHugh had disclosed a conflict of interest and recused himself from the cases during the June 24th meeting and that recusal continues through the resolution of these cases.

**1. Final approval of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for:
Annexation of a part of Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock School District No. 6 of Emmons
County to Linton School District No. 36 of Emmons County (Purintun Appeal)**

Allyson Hicks reviewed the Purintun petition and noted that while it was drafted according to the findings read into the record, she had to modify some language. She discussed several amendments stating that she wanted to ensure that the revised language accurately reflected the board's wishes.

- Page 5, section C, related to levies for bonded indebtedness. Allyson Hicks noted that there are no levies for bonded indebtedness for either school district, so no findings of fact was made by the county committee, and the finding was made by the state board that no determination was made. She explained that if there had been levies for bonded indebtedness, they would follow a default century code 15.1-12-08.

- Page 9, section L, related to the transportation of the Purintun children. Allyson Hicks noted that this section includes detailed testimony from Superintendent Diegel. After clarifying discussion from board members, the findings were amended to read “testified that all students who reside in the Linton School district #36 receive access to transportation.”
- Allyson Hicks noted that sub-M had a typographical error where Linton School District #26" should be corrected to "#36", and it will be corrected in the final draft.
- Pages 11-12, contain the main findings of fact and reasoning for the motions. Allyson Hicks explained that she modified a statement to be a finding of fact rather than a conclusion of law, ensuring that it aligns with the requirement that the petitioned property must be a single, contiguous area within the Linton Public School District #36. She stated that she aimed to eliminate redundancy by distinguishing clearly between findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Chair Meehl stated that she reviewed the document, found that it aligned with her notes, and confirmed the accuracy of the findings.

Eric Nelson moved to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order as amended for the Purintun appeal. Superintendent Kirsten Baesler seconded the motion. No discussion.

NAME	VOTE (Yes/ No)
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom	Yes
Superintendent Kirsten Baesler	Yes
Board Member Eric Nelson	Yes
Board Member Levi Bachmeier	Yes
Chair Sonia Meehl	Yes
Vice Chair Mike McHugh	Recused
Board Member Burdell Johnson	Absent – No Vote

Motion passed 5-0.

2. Final approval of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for: Annexation of a part of Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock School District No. 6 of Emmons County to Linton School District No. 36 of Emmons County (Serr Appeal)

Allyson Hicks reviewed the Serr petition and noted sections where she modified the language similar to the Purintun amendments, and she wanted the board to be aware of changes before they were approved.

- Page 5, section C, levies for bonded indebtedness, was amended similarly to the Purintun appeal to include language to follow the default century code.

- Page 9, section L, related to the transportation of the Serr children. It was noted that Linton already provides bus services for the Serr children, and those services would continue.
- Pages 11-13, Allyson Hicks explained that she modified the statement ensuring that it aligns with the requirement that the petitioned property must be a single, contiguous area within the Linton Public School District #36.

Lyndsi Engstrom moved to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order as presented for the Serr Appeal. Eric Nelson seconded the motion.

NAME	VOTE (Yes/ No)
Board Member Eric Nelson	Yes
Superintendent Kirsten Baesler	Yes
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom	Yes
Board Member Levi Bachmeier	Yes
Chair Sonia Meehl	Yes
Vice Chair Mike McHugh	Recused
Board Member Burdell Johnson	Absent – No Vote

Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Sonia Meehl
Chairwoman

Date

Kirsten Baesler
Executive Director & Secretary

Date

Minutes taken and prepared by Shauna Marchus