

**STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 29, 2025**

State Board of Public School Education members met via Teams on Monday, August 29, 2025

State Board Member Present Virtually:

Chair Sonia Meehl
Superintendent Kirsten Baesler
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom
Board Member Eric Nelson
Board Member Jason Rohr
Board Member Levi Bachmeier

Others Present Virtually: Mark Openshaw (Assistant Attorney General), Shauna Marchus (NDDPI Admin), Adam Tescher (NDDPI), Donna Fishbeck (NDDPI Deputy Superintendent), Jodi Johnson (Ramsay County Superintendent of Schools), Zerina Arapovic, Frank Schill, Jeff Frith, Kandy Christopherson, Doug Freige

Chair Meehl called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

1. Review the record, discuss, and take action on the proposed dissolution of the Edmore School District No. 2 to the following school districts: Langdon Public School District No. 23 of Cavalier County, Park River Area Public School District No. 8 of Walsh County, Lakota Public School District No. 66 of Nelson County, Devils Lake Public School District No. 1 of Ramsey County, and Munich Public School District No. 19 of Cavalier County in North Dakota. (Edmore Dissolution)

Chair Meehl and Mark Openshaw read the Edmore Dissolution plan into the record. She noted this information is based on the County Committee meeting held on August 4, 2025.

Lyndsi noted an incorrect effective date of dissolution listed as July 1, 2025 on page 11B. Mark Openshaw clarified that a corrected date of August 4, 2025 is later noted in the packet.

Sonia Meehl noted that the packet listed the transportation services for the 2024-25 school year. She questioned if it also includes the 2025-26 school year or if that was intended to be the non operating year. Mark Openshaw stated that the Board can assume that the school districts that are transporting the students will continue to provide transportation services.

Mark Openshaw noted edits including:

Section D: taxable valuation

- Page 17: There was a rounding error, the new taxable valuation should be \$154,675.
- The total taxable valuation if approved should be \$44,916,265.
- The new student population is 455 + 21 for a per student valuation of \$94,362.
- For Lakota, the taxable evaluation, if approved, is \$15,679,964. The student population, if approved, is 183 + 13. Mark noted that it was just a typo, but a total taxable evaluation if approved would be \$80,000. The total per student valuation, if approved, is \$30,803.
- Box 4 was blank for Edmore in the Munich School district. There will be an increase of \$5,572 per student.
- In the Langdon School district, it should be \$35,137, an increase of \$3,537.
- In the Park River School district, an increase of \$14,142.
- In the Lakota School district, an increase of \$12,824
- In the Devil's Lake School district, an increase of \$689.

The Board held a discussion about the Edmore Dissolution Plan, and key concerns discussed amongst Board members were:

- Mark Openshaw noted the law allowing for donation of funds took effect August 1, 2025. He confirmed all statutory requirements have been met.
- Lyndsi Engstrom pointed out that page 19 references a requirement to list reasons, and the Board specifically requested reasons at the last meeting, however, no reasons were provided. She asked for clarification regarding the reasons for the dissolution. Chair Meehl responded that the Ramsey County Reorganization Board approved the dissolution based on the totality of the testimony and findings. Mark Openshaw added that this dissolution plan should be approved based on reasons noted in the packet that statutorily would allow for a dissolution.
 - 1) The financial inability to provide education to the students.
 - 2) The 12 month requirement to be non-operational to dissolve has been met.
 - 3) The dissolution is in the best interest of the students.

Levi Bachmeier moved to approve the Edmore Dissolution Plan for the following reasons:

- 1) To affirm the recommendation at the county level
- 2) To comply with North Dakota Century Code

Jason Rohr Seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

NAME	VOTE (Yes/ No)
Board Member Levi Bachmeier	Yes
Board Member Jason Rohr	Yes
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom	Yes
Superintendent Kirsten Baesler	Yes
Board Member Eric Nelson	Yes
Chair Sonia Meehl	Yes
Vice Chair Mike McHugh	Absent

Motion passed 6-0. The Edmore Dissolution is approved with effective date of Aug 4, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Sonia Meehl
Chairwoman

Date

Kirsten Baesler
Executive Director & Secretary

Date

Minutes taken and prepared by Shauna Marchus