

St. Francis Community Schools, USD 297

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2026

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Adjournment Time: 7:23 a.m.

Board President Troy Hilt called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m., with all members of the Board of Education in attendance. Members of the district administration present included Superintendent Mark Penka, Grade School Principal Susan Dinkel, and District Clerk Jackie Butler.

A motion was introduced by Chris Hingst and seconded by Traci Neitzel to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6–0.

Turning to matters of personnel, the Board reviewed a recommendation from the Hiring Committee regarding the Grade School Secretary vacancy. Chris Hingst moved to approve the committee's recommendation to hire Ashley Buffington for the position, with a second provided by ShayLinn Zwegardt. Following discussion, the motion was carried by unanimous vote (6–0).

Under new business, the Board addressed the selection of a candidate to fill the unexpired term on the governing body. ShayLinn Zwegardt introduced a motion, seconded by Traci Neitzel, to appoint Blake Krien to the open board position. Upon a roll call vote, the appointment was confirmed by a margin of 5–1.

With all scheduled business concluded, ShayLinn Zwegardt moved to adjourn the special session at 7:23 a.m., seconded by Chris Hingst. The Board voted unanimously (6–0) in favor, and President Hilt declared the meeting adjourned.