

Minutes
Regular School Board Meeting
July 14, 2025 6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the School Board of the School District of Bruce was held on July 14th, 2025 in the Bruce High School IMC. School Board President Roxanne Kemnitz read a statement of proper noticing of the meeting. Members present were Craig Chafer (via phone), Roxanne Kemnitz, Brittany Leer, Daniel Robers, Jodi Schweitzer-Hopkins and Andrea Vohs. Also present were Administrators Travis Augustine, Anthony Bosco and James Schlauderaff.

The board meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Board President Roxanne Kemnitz.

A Vohs/Robers motion to approve the meeting agenda carried.

A Robers/Schweitzer-Hopkins motion to approve the June 9th, 2025 Regular Board meeting minutes carried.

A Vohs/Robers motion to approve Vouchers and Payroll carried.

A Vohs/Leer motion to approve Cash Receipts carried.

Administrator Reports:

District Administrator Report

- Building Background Knowledge
 - ☐ I've been spending a lot of time getting to know the people and the community including touring with Bob Lowkorski, spending time in the coffee shop and trying to get a sense of all of the community resources available here in Bruce.
 - ☐ The past couple of weeks have been focused on the referendum, better understanding our insurance policies and meeting with the different providers, building a Salary Schedule so that we can approve an increase for staff and trying to get a handle on our building schedules so that we can understand our staffing challenges and opportunities as well as how students move throughout their school day, etc.
 - ☐ We completed the 2025 - 2026 calendar and ensured that we have our minutes comply with DPI regulations. We will share that calendar with families this week.
- Establish the District Leadership Team
 - ☐ We held our first District Leadership Team meeting and are really building a sense of shared ownership and creating some systems and structures for how we operate as a district. The team is eager to build our vision and help our teachers, families and students really understand where we'd like to go over the next several years.
- Understanding our Staffing needs and create systems for building the annual budget
 - ☐ This goes back to our scheduling timeline and practices here in Bruce which need some attention. Typically the expectation is that scheduling be completed early so that we understand exactly how many sections we have and how many Full Time Equivalencies (FTE) we need. We are working through that process right now to make sure that we are adequately staffed.

Elementary Principal's Report

I am incredibly excited to join the Bruce School District and become part of a community that clearly values its students, staff, and school pride. In just a short time, it's been easy to see how much Bruce cares about creating positive experiences for kids, and I look forward to supporting that tradition while building strong relationships with our students, families, and staff.

By way of introduction, I bring 12 years of experience in education. I began my career teaching at McDonell Area Catholic Schools, where I spent five years teaching 4th–8th grade in science, social studies, PLTW, and 5th-grade core classes. For the past seven years, I have been with the Barron Area School District, teaching 4th grade for two years before serving as Dean of Students for the past five years.

On a personal note, my wife Katie and I are raising four energetic boys: Brady (15), Teddy (11), Finn (9), and Isaac (8). We are excited to be part of the Bruce community and look forward to getting to know more families as the school year begins.

In my first two weeks, I have focused on meeting staff through individual meet-and-greet conversations, which have been a wonderful way to learn about the great things happening at Bruce Elementary. I've also been working on updates to the student handbook, collaborating with our new administrative team to prepare for the 2025–2026 school year, and ensuring a strong start to August programming. This has included sending out an all-call for August Summer School registration and reaching out individually to families of incoming 4K students who haven't yet signed up for 4K Jump Start.

It has been a busy and exciting start, and I am looking forward to continuing to build relationships with staff, students, and families as we get closer to the new school year.

Middle School/High School Principal's Report

As I step into my new role as the Middle/High School Principal at Bruce School, the past two weeks have been a busy and energizing start. My focus has been on building connections, assessing key areas, helping to lay the groundwork for a strong school year, and finding a place to live. A bit about myself, I have been married to my wife for 23 years this September. We have three children. Our oldest is 21 and is a welder in the Wausau area. Virginia (15) will be a Sophomore this year, and our youngest Madelyn (12) will be in 7th grade. We are a very service oriented family spending a large portion of the summer as volunteer Campground Hosts for the US Forest Service at Black Lake Campground. I also have volunteered as a SKYWARN storm spotter and have provided communications for numerous athletic events. Here's a snapshot of what I've been up to:

1. Connecting with Staff:

I've begun meeting one-on-one with MS/HS staff members to better understand their roles, successes, and challenges. I'm using three simple questions to guide these conversations:

- What's going well?
- What could use some improvement?
- How can I support you in your work?

2. Recruitment Efforts:

The search is underway to fill open positions. I've been actively reaching out and

exploring multiple channels to fill these roles with strong candidates including calling in personal connections to licensed teachers who I know personally.

3. **Handbook Revisions:**

I'm reviewing and updating the MS/HS Student Handbook to ensure it aligns with board policies and reflects the culture and expectations of our school.

I'm also working on revising the Co-Curricular Handbook to ensure it aligns with both board and WIAA guidelines.

4. **House Hunting Progress:**

On a personal note, my house hunting efforts are ongoing—and I'm making progress! Hopefully I will have a home and my family moved in before school gets going.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the students, staff, and families of Bruce. I'm excited for what lies ahead.

A Schweitzer-Hopkins/Leer motion to accept the Administration Reports and Discussion Items carried.

A Schweitzer-Hopkins/Leer motion to accept the Salary increases for all Employee Groups as recommended by Administration with consideration for Support Staff longevity carried.

A Vohs/Robers motion to approve the addition of an Administrative Assistant Position carried.

A Robers/Schweitzer-Hopkins motion to adopt the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for 2025 - 2026 carried.

A Vohs/Robers motion to hire WASB as our Strategic Planning Facilitator carried.

A Vohs/Chafer motion to approve the migration to Diligent Solutions for all Board Agenda, Minutes, Posting and Archiving using Diligent Community Essentials Platform carried.

A Vohs/Leer motion to approve the Bruce School District Co-Curricular Code carried.

There were no Visitors to address the Board.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 11th, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the High School IMC.

A Leer/Robers motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm carried.

Submitted by,

Andrea Vohs (Clerk)

Approved August 11th, 2025