



# School District of Altoona

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ALTOONA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Special Board Meeting  
District Office  
1903 Bartlett Avenue  
February 16, 2018  
3:00 p.m.

1. The Special Meeting of the Altoona Board of Education was called to order by Board Vice President, Helen Drawbert, at 3:01 p.m. in the District Board Room.
2. Roll call was taken and the following were present:  
Robin E. Elvig, President (present via remote participation)      David A. Rowe, Member  
Helen S. Drawbert, Vice President      Joyce M. Orth, Board Secretary  
Michael J. Hilger, Clerk      Michael Markgren  
Bradley D. Poquette, Treasurer

Attorney Kirk Strang arrived immediately following the Call to Order.

It was verified that the meeting consent form was signed by all board members.

3. The Public Notice was read. All posting requirements were met.
4. Anticipated Closed Session as Per Section 19.85(1) (c), (e), (f), (g) – Wisc. Statutes (the Board remained in the Board Room). Motion by Poquette to adjourn into closed session at 3:03 p.m., seconded by Hilger. Drawbert, yes; Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes. Motion carried 5-0. The Board will entertain a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to s. 19.85(1)(c), (e), (f) and (g), Wis. Stats., as appropriate, to discuss an administrative employment matter, related personal information, and negotiations and possible settlement of related legal disputes. The Board may also discuss oral or written advice from legal counsel concerning imminent or pending litigation. The Board may take action on one or more subjects in closed session.
5. Reconvene into Open Session and Take any Further Action, If Necessary and Appropriate. (Following the closed session, the Board will entertain a motion to convene in open session and will then take further action, if necessary and appropriate. Thereafter, the Board will entertain a motion to adjourn.) Motion by Rowe to reconvene into open session and take no further action at 5:56 p.m., seconded by Hilger. Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Drawbert, yes; Elvig, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting chair, Helen Drawbert read a statement which is incorporated herein by attachment.

6. Adjourn. Motion by Elvig to adjourn at 5:58 p.m., seconded by Rowe. Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Drawbert, yes; Rowe, yes; Elvig, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Joyce M. Orth CAP, Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Altoona Board of Education is pleased to announce that the School District of Altoona and Dr. Connie Biedron have reached a settlement agreement. As a result, Dr. Biedron has resigned from her position as the District's superintendent. The agreement is a complete agreement, so it also resolves all of the remaining issues concerning Dr. Biedron's employment relationship with the District.

The School District of Altoona truly wishes Dr. Biedron well and we are grateful to her for the good things that she did for our District. The Board greatly valued Dr. Biedron's commitment to aligning our programs with research demonstrating that the teacher is the most important factor in a student's achievement, and she had high expectations for the teachers and staff.

The Board is very pleased with the final agreement; it is good for both parties and it is fair to everyone. It gives our Board a welcome opportunity to refresh and refocus on the needs of our District. We can't overstate just how important it is for our staff, our community, and especially the students we serve to have empowering and unifying educational leadership. Our Board pledges that it will make establishing our direction and building our new administration a first priority.

Finding the right person to lead the District as our next superintendent is central to completing that mission, but that process cannot succeed if it is only defined by the School Board. The Board knows that it can count on the support and contributions of all of our District stakeholders to identify and support the very best person to lead our District.

The School Board and administration understand that student achievement is most closely associated with highly effective teachers. We are also aware of the impact that *each* staff member and coach has on the emotional and psychological development of our students. We will continue to have high expectations for ourselves and our professional staff and, going forward, we will encourage questions and healthy, constructive communications. The Board is committed to meeting the needs of our students, staff, and community, as well as the goals identified in the District's strategic plan.

As many in our community know, this has been a challenging process. However that process is over, and we are so very pleased that it now ends with a positive result and a new beginning for all concerned.