

UPPER VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD MEETING

May 12, 2026 – 10:00 A.M.

Chase Building Conference Room

PRESENT: Aaron Schramm, Darren Albrecht, Steve Swiontek, Matt Ford, Shane Robinson, Jill Olson, Dan Juve. **Members Absent:** Austin Salyer. **Guests Present:** Mitch Jorgenson, Jason Keating, Jessica Pankow

President Olson called the meeting to order.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **MSC:** Swiontek-Schramm to approve minutes of the April meeting as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The April 30th, 2026 report was presented. Discussion followed. **MSC:** Schramm-Albrecht to approve this report. Projected ending figures were discussed.

April Bills: **MSC:** Schramm-Ford to approve payment of all bills presented.

STAFFING UPDATE: Juve presented a teaching contract for Abigail Merseth who will be assigned to the Minto School District. She will replace Kelsey Byron who will be reassigned to fill the vacated position at Emerado School. Discussion followed. **M/S:** Swiontek-Robinson to approve this contract.

LEGAL UPDATE: Juve reported that Pearce-Durick will no longer provide legal services after June 30, 2026 as the two lawyers that work with Special Education will be leaving the firm. Juve is currently seeking an agreement with Ratwik, Rosak, & Malony to continue with special education legal services. Discussion followed.

NDSBA UPDATE: NDSBA requires a signed general counsel agreement in order to get legal advice for policy and negotiated agreement questions. Juve asked for approval to go forward with this agreement. **M/S:** Schramm-Robinson to approve the agreement between NDSBA and UVSE to obtain legal advice as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 ESY BUDGET: The 2026 ESY budget was presented for discussion and approval. **M/S:** Albrecht-Ford to approve this budget. Motion carried unanimously. ESY teaching agreements will now be issued.

BOARD TERMS: It was noted that Board terms for Matt Ford representing Cavalier and Austin Salyer representing Midway, Fordville, and Drayton will expire on June 30th. These districts will need to address this at their upcoming June board meetings to appoint their representative. Discussion followed.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS:

- **Chase Building Lease:** Juve reported that the future of our office space at the Chase Building is unknown at this time, as Walsh County owns the building and Red River Regional Council, who we sublease through, will be moving out in approximately 8 months. This will be reviewed by the County in the near future. Discussion followed.
- **Director Contract:** The Director's 2026-2027 contract will be discussed at the June meeting. Swiontek asked that the Finance Committee/Negotiating Team of Schramm/Robinson provide input on this topic.

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With no other additional agenda items, the meeting was adjourned.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, JUNE 23 2026 AT 8:00 A.M. AT THE CHASE BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Renae Grinde", is written over a horizontal line.

Renae Grinde, Business Manager

Jill Olson, Board President