

**Independent School District #771
Chokio-Alberta Public School
Official Minutes**

Regular School Board Meeting

**Monday, April 20, 2026
7:00 p.m. Chokio**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Members present at school were: Christina Pederson, Matt Westerman, Heidi Brethorst, and Steve Howe. Members Absent: Mark Gibson and Chandler Erickson. Others present: Tate Jerome, Shaun McNally, Jamie Van Eps and Amber Christians.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Motion by Steve Howe seconded by Heidi Brethorst to approve the agenda.
Motion Carried Unanimously (4-0).

AGENDA

Motion by Matt Westerman seconded by Steve Howe to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 16, 2026.
Motion Carried Unanimously (4-0).

MEETING MINUTES

Financial Report given by Blake Stoltman, Business Mgr. Discussion regarding monthly reconciliation, general ledger and investments reports, scholarship on behalf of school board members, and introduction of Brady Martz

FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion by Steve Howe seconded by Matt Westerman to approve the bills as presented totaling \$169,493.68.
Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).

BILLS

Spring & Summer Projects:

- a) Motion by Heidi Brethorst seconded by Matt Westerman to approve a boiler sensor system to detect unwanted boiler shutdowns.
Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).
- b) Motion by Matt Westerman seconded by Steve Howe to approve the installation of new roofs over the gymnasium and the hallway leading to the gymnasium (aka senior hallway).
Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).
- c) Motion by Heidi Brethorst seconded by Matt Westerman to approve removing flooring containing asbestos in three elementary classrooms.
Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).
- d) Motion by Heidi Brethorst seconded by Matt Westerman to approve installing flooring in three elementary classrooms after asbestos is removed.
Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).

SPRING/SUMMER
PROJECTS

Personnel Items:

- a) Motion by Steve Howe seconded by Matt Westerman to approve the resignation of Melissa Farwell as Part-Time Art Teacher effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).
- b) Motion by Matt Westerman seconded by Heidi Brethorst to approve hiring Kandi Retzlaff as the High School Special Education Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.
Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).

PERSONNEL ITEMS

- c) Motion by Steve Howe seconded by Heidi Brethorst to approve hiring Mackenzie Young as the 5th-12th Grade Band and Music Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).

PERSONNEL ITEMS CONT.

Public Comments:

- a) Amber Christians: High School standards.
- b) Safety Committee: 1) county wide drill with Fire, EMS on June 15, 2026, 2) backpacks in classrooms with vests, and 3) first aid buckets with food & supplies for lockdown.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Other Business

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion by Heidi Brethorst seconded by Matt Westerman to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried Unanimously (4-0).

ADJOURNEMENT

Matt Westerman, Board Vice-Chair