

PUBLIC CENSURE OF
BOARD MEMBER JAMES SWANSON

Motion made by _____; seconded by _____.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the School District of the Menomonie Area is committed to the principles of authority, ethics, and responsibility established in Board Policy;

WHEREAS, these principles manifest in the Board of Education's expectation that members will listen to and respect the opinions of others; will recognize that the authority of the Board rests with the Board as a whole taking action at lawfully noticed meetings; will refrain from disparaging other Board members and employees; and will support Board decisions once made;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education values diverse opinions, but expects Board members to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with their oath of office and with decorum;

WHEREAS, the Board believes Board Member James Swanson has been disruptive, uncooperative, disrespectful, and belligerent at School Board meetings by regularly and persistently talking over other Board members without allowing them to speak or finish their statements, raising his voice and becoming combative with other Board members, threatening Board members and the Board as whole, using vulgarity in Board meetings, and accusing or berating Board members without addressing the issues properly under consideration;

WHEREAS, Board Member Swanson has been confrontational, threatening, vulgar, and sarcastic when addressing the Superintendent;

WHEREAS the Board of Education has requested the resignation of Board Member Swanson and, as in the past, he has dismissed the concerns which triggered the request as contrived or as a reflection of personal disputes;

WHEREAS, Board Member Swanson has, by these actions, violated Board Policy 111, 165 and 165-Exhibit;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education for the School District of Menomonie Area hereby publicly censures Board Member Swanson for conduct unbecoming of a School Board member.

In addition, the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent to file a disorderly conduct complaint on its behalf with the Menomonie Police Department arising out of Board Member Swanson conduct at the August 10, 2020, Board meeting.

Finally, the Board of Education gives the Superintendent the authority to take the following actions:

1. If, while attending a school meeting, conference, event or extracurricular function, Board Member Swanson is disruptive and/or fails to act in accordance with the rules of conduct, Board Member Swanson may be designated a trespasser or a disruption to school operations under Section 30-20-13 of the Criminal Code and removed from school property by law enforcement;
2. Further, should Board Member Swanson be disruptive at any school function, Board Member Swanson may be banned for a period of time not to exceed one semester from any and all attendance on school property except for duly-called meetings of the Board of Education (and Committees of the Board).

The Board of Education hereby gives notice to the public that Board Member Swanson, acting individually and outside of duly-called and open meeting of the Board of Education, does not have any legal authority or power to act on behalf of the Board of Education and his opinions or statement are not necessarily that of the Board of Education unless specifically acted upon at a duly-called meeting.

APPROVED by majority vote of the Board of Education of the School District of the Menomonie Area:

David Styer, Board President Date

Clint Moses, Board Clerk Date