

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Meeting
Unofficial Minutes

5:15 pm on Monday, February 19, 2024, in the Thompson Community room in the Middle School, 203 2 AVE SE, Jamestown, ND.

Present: Heidi Larson, President, Dan Tweten, Vice President, Jamie Bear, Diane Hanson, Aaron Roberts, Steve Veldkamp, Robert Lech, Superintendent and Business Manager, Kristi Grounds. Melissa Gleason attended by phone. Gayle Nelson and Jason Rohr were absent.

Guests: Jada Anderson and Mari Stilwell.

President Larson called the meeting to order and welcomed the audience, Jason Linz, Bluejay Channel and Amy Neustel, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Veldkamp moved, seconded by Mrs. Bear to approve the consent agenda which consisted of February 5, 2024 regular board meeting minutes, payment of bills, pledged securities, open enrollment applications for 2024-2025 school year: reviewed Jamestown students: 7- Kindergarten, 1 – 1st grader, 1-6th grader, 1-7th grader and 1-10th grader to attend Pingree Buchanan Public School; 2-7th graders, 1-10th grader to attend Medina Public School; 10- 1st graders, 1-3rd grader, 2-5 graders, 1-7th grader, 1-8th grader and 1-11th grader to attend Montpelier Public School; 1-Kindergartner to attend Kensal Public School; 2-5th graders to attend Yellowstone Public School; 1-11th grader to attend Barnes County North Public School and approve open enrollment applications for 2024-2025 school year for the following students to attend Jamestown Public Schools: 2- Kindergarteners, 1-3 grader, 1-4 grader, 1-7 grader, 2-8 graders, 1-10 grader, and 1-11 grader from Barnes County North Public Schools; 1-7 grader from Montpelier Public Schools; 1-3 grader and 1-11 grader from Pingree Buchanan Public Schools; 1-9 grader from Gackle Streeter Public Schools; and 1-8th grader from West Fargo Public Schools; service agreement with St. John's Academy for Title services in the amount of \$3,350.00 and revised annual board education plan. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Collin Conway, Student Council Member, reported on events. The student council helped with 8th grade orientation and had a fund raiser for Ethan Igl which raised \$800.00. Snow week events went well. Junior prom committee is working on the prom event scheduled for March 16th. Graduation ceremony preparation has begun. DECA has organized running the Jays Nest to be open during lunch hour for students.

Mrs. Grounds reviewed the cost of printing the minutes in the Jamestown Sun for the last 3 years and estimated cost for this year's printing. This goes on the ballot of election coming in June. Mrs. Grounds would like better understanding of what they are voting for and would like to add wording to help the community. Yes, to have minutes posted in Jamestown Sun and No, to post on the Jamestown Public School website.

Mrs. Jada Anderson, Mrs. Mari Stilwell and Mrs. Rachel Kastet reported on the Elementary assessment results. They went through the overview of the data analysis. The data is from NDSA testing in math and English for students in 3-8 and 10th graders and FASTbreak testing in math and English for students kindergarten -2nd grade. The data is broken into district level, building level, grade level, and student level. The data helps to

see adequate growth from winter to spring and also district wide compared to state level. Instructional coaches do an outstanding job on collecting the data and working with teachers to assist student goals.

Dr. Lech reported on his recommendation of the James Valley Career and Technology Center Assistant Director Position that is on the board agenda.

Dr. Lech reported teachers from the BlueJay Academy, Alternative program asked for review of policies of graduation requirements for their program. Policies GDB and GDAA have been updated to accommodate non-traditional students.

Dr. Lech reported Dollars for Scholars was looking for support of donations on Giving Hearts Day goal for their scholarship was \$10,000. The community supported this program with \$15,000 of matching funds. Thank you to all that came out to support Dollars for Scholars.

Dr. Lech reported the board assessment policy requires members to do a survey which will close tomorrow. Dr. Lech will review the data and report back to the board at a future meeting.

Dr. Lech reported we received 1 transportation bid and will have the finance committee meeting next week to review the bid.

Dr. Lech thanked the board for supporting him attending the American Association of School Administrators National Conference.

Dr. Lech reported that Mrs. Anderson did a recorded mini presentation on McKinney/Vento and our responsibilities to these students. This presentation was shared with staff in each building and with you.

Dr. Lech reported on James Valley Career and Technology childcare discussion. In June 2023 a potential option for recruitment and retention of certified and non-certified staff was providing childcare for staff through Career and Technology program. October 2023 Dr. Lech, Mr. Gehlhar, Mrs. Eckart and teachers toured the Lake Region Career and Technical Center, Devils Lake for a similar childcare program. The district did a survey to staff to gauge interest. 23 staff members were in strong support of this concept. The proposal is Jamestown Public School childcare program would be able to serve existing staff during the school year for regular childcare services along with drop-in childcare. The program is scaled to the number of children, maximum capacity would provide space for 8 infants, 15 toddlers, and 20 pre-k students. The program would have 2 professional staff and 3 classified staff at max. The goal would be to begin an expanded Family and Consumer Science program to provide childcare and pre-k components beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. The Career and Technology Center would need renovation to 5 classrooms spaces to create this childcare environment. Grants would cover most of the \$715,000 cost for this program. A Regional Workforce Incentive Program grant in the amount of \$500,000 which required a 25% match would cover much of the cost. The Career and Technology Center would make some cuts or reallocate funds to assist with the 25% and need \$40,000 from Jamestown Public School budget or reimbursement from tuition. This concept aligns with the Strategic Plan Goals.

A General Fund balance sheet and monthly financial reports were provided for the board to review.

Mr. Veldkamp moved, seconded by Mrs. Bear to approve the resignation of Anni Stier at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mrs. Hanson to approve the resignation of Heidi Eckart as English teacher and Dean of Students on the condition to hire as JVCTC Assistant Director to begin February 20, 2024. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Tweten moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the hire of Alivia Hoke as music teacher for the 2024-2025 school year pending background check and receipt of licensure. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

President Larson reminded the board of the superintendent’s evaluation timeline.

President Larson reminded the board members to complete the self- assessment survey prior to it closing tomorrow.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the amended policies GACB Patriotic Exercises, GDAA Early Graduation, GDB Graduation Exercises and FGBB Student Prayer During Non-Instructional Time and reviewed GDAA-E1 Application for Early Graduation and DGAA-E2 Application for early graduation of the Alternative Education Program. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Grounds reported on the open board seats for election. The timeline for the election and filing your statement of interest. Statement of interest forms can be found on our website or contact Mrs. Grounds at the District office.

No further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.