

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Meeting
Unofficial Minutes

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

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

Guests: Shelby Dunwoody, and Teya Dunwoody.

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

Mr. Rohr moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the January 15, 2024 regular school board meeting minutes, payment of bills and home bound services for an elementary student. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

The Board recognized music achievements.

Mr. Gehlhar, Continuous Improvement Director, reported on the Cognia review process. It is reviewed by 30 standards and 4 key characteristics by a Cognia review group. The biggest change is they have gone to virtual review this next year. Schools can request a school visit. The administration feels an in person school visit is important to the review and have requested one.

Superintendent Lech reported on personnel items on the agenda. The board was informed of the interviews set for the Career and Technology Director position and plans are to bring a recommendation to the February 19th meeting.

Superintendent Lech reported on the process related to the Vital Network survey and how it flows from the building level to the district level to review.

Superintendent Lech reported Dollars for Scholars has increased the number and dollar amount for scholarships significantly over the past 10 years due to the hard work of the foundation board. Donations are being received through February 8th for the Giving Hearts Day 2024.

Superintendent Lech reported on a survey sent out on a potential pay structure change from one pay period to two pay periods. There were a total of 208 responses. There will be discussions on this idea and no changes would happen until the next school year.

Superintendent Lech reported Mrs. Eckart submitted for a mini-grant from FFA Workforce Development for materials to include drones and a classroom set of various aviation books.

Superintendent Lech reported he was appointed to the Retention and Recruitment Task Force. The task force will be looking at 24 strategies over 5 overarching themes.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the agreement with Tecta America Dakotas for the summer roofing projects. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve adding Fitness and Cardio to the high school course options. There was discussion on the need for more courses, if any

courses are taken off and who brings new courses to the administrators. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hanson moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve a leave of absence for Mr. Ben Smith for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the hire of Steve Justice as Special Education Strategist at the Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year upon receipt of appropriate licensure. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Tweten moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the resignations of Natalie Schrader, Instructional Coach at the Middle School and Beth Fritz, elementary teacher at Gussner Elementary. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

The board and Superintendent Lech recognized it is National School Counselors Week. Thank you to all our counselor who support our district.

Mrs. Nelson encourages people to support the Giving Hearts Day program.

No further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.