

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL  
Regular Meeting  
Unofficial Minutes

School board meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the Thompson Community room at the Middle School, 203 2 Ave SE, Jamestown, ND.

Present: Heidi Larson, President, Dan Tweten, Vice President, Jamie Bear, Owen McKenna, Jacob Meier, Aaron Roberts, Jason Rohr, Steve Veldkamp, Superintendent, Robert Lech and Kristi Grounds, Business Manager. Melissa Gleason by phone.

Guests: Cody Mickelson

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

Mr. Veldkamp moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the consent agenda which consisted of November 4, 2024 regular board meeting minutes, November 12, 2024 finance committee meeting minutes, payment of bills, pledged securities, student travel study program to Germany in June 2025 and 2023-2024 superintendent's annual report. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Tweten and Mr. Roberts reported on the Finance committee meeting. The key operational issues are transportation cost and availability. The committee is looking at the beginning of cost to purchase, maintenance, staff, insurance, etc. for this plan to be feasible.

Mr. Gehlhar reported on Strategic Competency: Standards Based Learning overview. Our curriculum committee was encouraged by our 2017 accreditation team to move towards standard base learning. Several teachers have been working on this transition. The present system did not inform parents and students how to improve. Standards based Learning grading is 1-4 on a proficiency scale and gives more specific results for the student. Empower program is for the elementary standards based learning. Empower will track the student's learning over time.

Dr. Lech reported on Strategic Focus 2: Leadership for Learning Goal 3. The district recognizes the importance of mentoring and leadership empowerment to the advancement of a positive school culture and professional growth. We have existing leadership opportunities for staff categorized into 6 key areas: building advisory, district advisory, community/state advisory, student services advisory, opportunities for professional sharing and professional advancement. The district revised the onboarding process for new teachers this year to give additional time with their mentors. The state mentoring is for first- and second-year teachers new to the profession. New administrators are required to participate in a mentoring program through NDCEL. Three primary improvement strategies will be targeted for 2024-2025 school year: 1) committee charters for district committees, 2) Teacher Leadership Academy, 3) flexible professional learning. Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve Strategic Focus 2: Leadership for Learning Goal 3. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Dr. Lech reported we had our Cognia site review today. The leadership team did a great job today with the review. We will receive the final report from Cognia in the near future.

Dr. Lech reported a revision to DDAE (parental leave policy). A task force reviewed the policy and started with 20 days at the creation of the policy. Dr. Lech met with members of the staff who have used the parental leave policy in October for feedback. The policy has been reviewed again with a recommendation to expand to 40 days for the birthing parent and be effective in July of 2025. Discussion brought concerns if discussion has been done for the non-birthing parent and their role in the family home during this time period.

Dr. Lech reported food service department is in the process of engaging in a focus group of families to gain insight to serving diverse menu items for families cultural dietary limitations.

Dr. Lech reported the administrators and committee for the Childcare program at the JVCTC have been working on job descriptions, a handbook, guidelines for operations, fee structure, application procedure, communications/promotion and licensing requirements for the opening in fall of 2025.

Dr. Lech spotlighted teacher, Kim Carpenter for her impactful contributions to education at the school, district and state level. Thank you for your commitment and the excellence you bring to our school.

Mr. Rohr moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the AIA agreement with ICON Architectural Group for Jamestown Elementary School. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Tweten moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve Anthropology and Introduction to Exceptional Children courses added to the high school. Mr. Roberts and Mr. Rohr stated they interpret that the Anthropology course violates GGBA policy. Mr. Tweten amended his motion to only approve the Introduction to Exception Children course, Mr. Rohr seconded the motion. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried. Anthropology course is tabled until 12/16/2024 meeting.

Mrs. Grounds provided the general fund balance and monthly financials reports for board members to review.

President Larson asked for a motion for setting a date for the school board retreat for January 6, 2025. A doodle will be done to set the date due to conflicts.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the James Valley Career and Technology Center job descriptions for FACS Teacher/Child Care Supervisor, FACS Teacher/Child Care Coordinator, and Child Care Worker. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the resignation of Larry Eslick. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Tweten moved, seconded by Mr. McKenna to approve amended HEAC (Management of Student Activities Funds) policy, HBAA (Federal Fiscal Compliance) policy, HBAA-AR1 (Federal Fund Expenditures & Inventory) regulation, rescind of HBAA-E (Title I Fiscal & Inventory Requirements) exhibit, amend HBAA-AR2 (District Personnel Time and Effort) regulations, and HBAA-E (District Personnel Time and Effort Form) exhibit.

No further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.