

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL
Regular Meeting
Official Minutes

New School Board Member Orientation at 4:30 pm in the District Office Conference room, 207 2 AVE SE, Jamestown, ND.

School board meeting on Monday, October 7, 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, Melissa Gleason, Owen McKenna, Jacob Meier, Aaron Roberts, Jason Rohr, Superintendent Robert Lech, and Kristi Grounds, Business Manager. Steve Veldkamp was absent.

Guests: Jane Roscoe, Jenny Peet, Chasta Mansavage, Natalie Schrader, Sherry Schmidt, and Anthony McIntyre.

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

Mrs. Gleason declared a conflict of interest on the leave of absence due to close family friends.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. McKenna to approve the consent agenda which consisted of September 16, 2024 regular board meeting minutes, payment of bills, non-resident report, open enrollment report, initial 4 week enrollment report, horizontal advancement report, submission of NDCTE, Innovation, ND SAND, Perkins Innovation, Grow Childcare and Daycare expansion assistance grants, September 17, 2024 communication committee meeting minutes, and September 18, 2024 James Valley Career and Technology Center Administrative Advisory Meeting. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

The school board recognized employees for 10 and 25 years of service to Jamestown Public Schools. Thank you to all for your dedication to Jamestown Public Schools.

Mr. Gehlhar reported on the Cognia review. The review has required criteria for the accreditation process. There are 30 standards in 4 key characteristics the Cognia committee will review. The district surveys stakeholders -students, teachers, staff and parents- to get data feedback to analyze. The Eleot Tool is used by teachers who are trained to review 30 items across 7 environments to help analyze students' engagement, knowledge, attitudes and dispositions. It focuses on student experiences and is done twice annually. The report to Cognia will show results of data, JPS goals and how we plan to achieve the goals set for students and staff.

Dr. Lech reported on strategic focus 3: Engagement of Learning Goal 3. Goal 1 of this section is maintaining chronic absenteeism rate at 12% or below. The district follows the North Dakota definition of chronically absent. This goal affects the student's engagement of learning. The district is currently at 15% chronic absenteeism. Reviewing the trends at a district level: highest rate of absents over the last three years has been homeless students, next group is English Learners, Native American and Hispanic populations, followed by low income and students with disabilities. High School shows a decrease in absentee rates in all sub-groups. The Middle School has had the most deviation between 13%-20% in the sub-groups. Elementary schools

have a decrease in sub group English Learners, Native American and Hispanic students. The sub-group of low income and students with disabilities represent a consistent increase. The district counselors work with families to create a relationship and find the barriers to attendance. One barrier is transportation. There is a process for families to complete to get assistance. Administrators and counselors meet monthly to review data. Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mrs. Bear to approve the Engagement of Learning Goal 3. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Dr. Lech had a meeting with the communications committee to discuss leave of absence and liquidated damages. Dr. Lech did some research on how the Education Standards and Practices Board acts on breach of contract. From the information gathered, along with the discussion with the communications committee, the district is recommending a DKBB Policy (Contracted Staff Resignations and Request for Release of Contract) with board regulation DKBB-BR (Granting a Release from Contract) with no liquidated damages. The committee also looked at other districts’ procedures of this policy. An advisory committee to review the resignation request prior to taking to the board for approval was recommended.

Dr. Lech reported that Kristi has worked on a Total Compensation Statement to provide in June to employees for staff awareness.

Dr. Lech reported the Vital Network survey was deployed to non-teachers to get all perspective heard. The results will be reviewed and analyzed at the district level.

Dr. Lech reported the district is looking into digital tickets for activities for the future.

Dr. Lech thanked Mrs. Eckart and Mr. Gehlhar for their work on 6 different grants related to the Career and Technology Center activities and programs.

Dr. Lech reported on facts for Measure 4. He wants the public informed to vote on this measure and how it would effect the community and state.

Dr. Lech reported the district is working on employing an advisor for the Robotics program. If the position can not be filled, he will work on a Memo of Understanding with James Valley Robotics Association so the District can keep the program.

Dr. Lech asked the board to give guidance on what direction to move forward with the Enrollment and Boundary Study. Dr. Lech visited with RSP & Associates who conducted the last enrollment study. The cost is approximately \$29,000. Dr. Lech stated that he felt the district could work on the enrollment and boundary study at a lesser cost. Discussion from several board members came to direct Dr. Lech to contact RSP to get an actual proposal for the board.

Dr. Lech reported the leave of absence request from Amy Igl. She would be on leave September 11, 2024-November 1, 2024 if approved.

Dr. Lech reported there will be a legislative meeting to discuss a variety of educational issues.

Dr. Lech reported on a resolution for the 457 plan. This plan will help employees get the most of this benefit with ND PERS.

Dr. Lech spotlighted Lisa Hoffer, SIM director. She is a valuable member of our school district, working on managing all the programs the school has. Thank you for your hard work, professionalism, and relentless commitment to students and staff to succeed.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mrs. Bear to approve to affirm NDPERS defined contribution plan. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the final 2024-2025 budget. Executive summary was provided for information. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mrs. Bear to approve the submission of resolution for the 2024-2025 tax levies. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the leave of absence for Amy Igl. Mrs. Gleason declared conflict of interest. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

President Larson reported the superintendent’s evaluation timeline for board members to complete.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the first reading of Policy DKBB (Contracted Staff Resignations and Request for Release from Contract) with board regulation DKBB-BR (Granting a Release from Contract). Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Meier to approve tuition agreements for 6th and 10th grade Barnes County students to attend Jamestown Public schools and Pre-K, 3rd and 4th grade Jamestown students to attend Kensal Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

No further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.