

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL
Regular Meeting
Unofficial Minutes

School board meeting on Monday, February 17, 2025 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, Jacob Meier, Aaron Roberts, Jason Rohr, Steve Veldkamp, Superintendent, Robert Lech and Kristi Grounds, Business Manager. Owen McKenna by phone.

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

Jacob Meier declared a conflict of interest on teacher negotiations because his wife is a teacher.

Aaron Roberts declared a conflict of interest on teacher negotiations because his wife is a teacher.

Mr. Veldkamp moved, seconded by Mrs. Bear to approve the consent agenda which consisted of February 3, 2025 regular board meeting minutes, February 5, 2025 facilities committee meeting minutes, revision of strategic plan progress monitoring annual plan, payment of bills, pledged securities, open enrollment applications for 2025-2026 to Pingree Buchanan Public School for 2-Pre-K, 5th grader and 11th grader; to Kensal Public School for a Pre-k, 3rd grader and 4th grader; to Medina Public school for 2-Pre-K, 2- 6th graders, 8th grader, 2-9 graders and 10th grader; to Montpelier Public School for 12- Pre-k, 2- 1st graders, 3th grader, 2-5th graders, 7th grader, 8th grader, 2-9 graders and 2-10th graders, and open enrollment applications for the 2025-2026 for a Medina Kindergarten student, for Montpelier Kindergarten, 8th grade, 9th grade and 10th grade students and for Barnes County North Kindergarten, 4th grade, 2-6 grader, 8th grade and 10th grade students to Jamestown Public Schools. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Ms. Jenna Wallace, representative of RSP & Associates, did a virtual review of the boundary study report to board members. Ms. Wallace reviewed the enrollment analysis summary report with a projection of a decrease in enrollment by 85 for elementary, 43 for middle school and 4 for high school. Ms. Wallace showed options of boundaries Phase 1, option A having the least student movement impact of 150 students and option B impacting 233 students from Washington, Lincoln and Gussner Elementary. Ms. Wallace reviewed Phase 2 options which would depend on the rebuilding of Washington either as a 2 or 3 section school. Phase 2A – 2 sections would have Lincoln area be the new Washington and close Lincoln. Phase 2B – 3 sections would combine Lincoln and Louis L'Amour areas to new Washington and close both Lincoln and Louis L'Amour elementaries. Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve 1A have English Learner students in Gussner and Roosevelt Elementary. Roll call vote: Gleason, yes; McKenna, no; Bear, no; Larson, no; Rohr, no; Meier, no; Tweten, no; Roberts, no; Veldkamp, no. Failed 1-8. Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to refer to the facilities committee to bring recommendation to March 3, 2025 school board meeting from the questions brought forth in discussion. Roll call vote:

McKenna, yes; Bear, yes; Larson, yes; Rohr, yes; Meier, yes; Tweten, yes; Roberts, yes; Veldkamp, yes; Gleason, yes. Passed 9-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Mark Wegner, ND State Assistant Director of Career and Technology Education, reported on the program in general across the state. Mr. Wegner went through the Jamestown Career and Technology Center review in October 2024. The visits are done on a 5 year rotation and is to review the 12 standards and help the vision of growth. A survey is sent to the instructors and administrators prior to the review. The review consists of commendations, recommendations and violations. Jamestown's program had some violations in core of study, missed opportunity and advisory committee which have all been addressed. Recommendations include improved storage for the programs and CTSO's involvement. James Valley Career and Technology Center received commendations in strong commitment, administration support, strong partnerships in the community, qualified instructors, a leadership environment and strong work based learning coordinator.

Dr. Lech reported there will be a recommendation for a J1 Visa hire at the next meeting. We have worked on a draft onboarding procedure.

Dr. Lech reported Ms. Sydni Larson is a resident teacher and is moving forward with a Memo of Understanding for obtaining a master's degree in special education at University of North Dakota to become a special education teacher for Jamestown Public Schools. This ensures JPS of 3 years of teaching once she completes the program.

Dr. Lech reported on the hire timeline for the Middle School Principal. Mr. Meier is the board member on this hire committee.

Dr. Lech reported on the Washington transition. He individually contacted the teachers and staff of potential placements. The survey is done and a FAQ for Washington parents is forthcoming.

Dr. Lech reported on the recent ND Supreme Court ruling that redefined the NDCC definition of a teacher. Dr. Lech recommends no change to our process due to potential negative impact on negotiations process.

Mr. Tweten stated he believes there is no reason to change our present definition for teachers negotiations.

Dr. Lech reviewed a few legislative assembly bills.

Dr. Lech spotlighted the 16 participants of the Spelling Bee Contest who all did a great job in the contest. Parker Geiszler, 1st place; Carson Geiszler, 2nd place and Harper Wolff, 3rd place are going to the state competition in Bismarck. Congratulations to all.

Mr. Rohr declared a conflict of interest for the Certificate of Deposit renewals because he is employed at Bank Forward. Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the renewal of certificate of deposits for Dacotah Bank CD for 7 months at 4% and Bank Forward CD for 12 months at 3.85%. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Veldkamp moved, seconded by Mr. Meier to approve the resident teacher memorandum of understanding for Sydni Larson. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Tweten moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the petition for recognition of representatives organization negotiation unit for administrators. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Tweten moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the petition for recognition of representatives organization of negotiation unit for teachers. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the resignation of Janel Monson at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

President Larson reminded board members of the superintendent evaluation timeline.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the amended policy ICCB (Disposal of School Equipment and Supplies). Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

No further business, President Larson adjourned.