

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL
Regular Meeting
Official Minutes

School board meeting on Monday, February 3, 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, Jacob Meier, Aaron Roberts, Jason Rohr, Steve Veldkamp, Superintendent, Robert Lech, and Kristi Grounds, Business Manager. Jamie Bear and Owen McKenna were absent.

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

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

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

Mr. Tweten moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the consent agenda which consisted of January 20, 2025 regular board meeting minutes, payment of bills and January 16, 2025 community facilities committee meeting minutes. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Dr. Lech reported on Strategic Focus 5: Resources Management and Planning Goal 4 which focuses on compensation and benefits analysis. The goal is set to have three improvement targets. The focus on support staff compensation last year adjusted competitive wages and a change in pay periods from monthly to bi-monthly. Certified staff under the negotiated agreement can be considered during 2025 negotiations. Compensation and benefits need to be sustainable. The health insurance committee worked hard on design plan changes. The district will implement a benefit portal if it is cost effective. A school-year child care program will begin in the 2025-2026 for employees and will provide savings to families not needing childcare during the summer. Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mrs. Gleason approved the strategic Focus 5: Resources Management and Planning Goal 4. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Dr. Lech and Ms. Heidi Budeau, Special Education Director, reported on the J1 or H1 Teachers Visas. Due to vacancies around the state, some North Dakota schools have gone through this program to hire overseas teachers. A J1 visa is a temporary visa and least expensive process. A H1 visa is a permanent visa and is a more complex and expensive process. Both visas require school support for assistance and adaptability to the community. Their credentials must be a U.S. equivalency. The program has federal, state and cultural requirements. The district is reviewing school needs and budget to decide next step and the support framework for an incoming teacher.

Dr. Lech reported on the Washington transition that has begun. A communication was sent to staff along with a survey to assist with the placement process. Dr. Lech will work on communicating placement once the survey is completed by all staff. Washington parents were informed of the decision and given a survey. The decision on placement of students will be completed once we have reviewed the boundary study. RSP will present the boundary study at the February 17th board meeting.

Dr. Lech reported the parental leave policy is on the agenda. Human Resources personnel suggested 5 paid days is appropriate for non-birthing parents. Discussion with staff was they really appreciated the flexibility in the past policy with no longer requiring consecutive days. Board members would need to include wording in the motion if including non-birthing parent leave change.

Dr. Lech reported there are over 1000 bills into the legislative assembly at present. He recommends waiting until the crossover to take a deeper dive into some bills. He highlighted a few to watch.

Dr. Lech thanked Mr. Gehlhar and Mrs. Eckart for their hard work on receiving donations for the CDL program. The CDL program will be for our students but with the community support the program will grow to include training for adults in the community.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve a 2024-2025 extended contract for Marchel Krieger for semester two. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the leave of absence for 2025-2026 school year for Mindy Skunberg. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the hire of Elizabeth Wilkie and Amber Krapp for the 2025-2026 school year upon a successful background check. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

President Larson reported to the board the Superintendent evaluation timeline.

Mr. Rohr moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the second reading of IAD (Sale of District Real Property) policy. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the amended policy DDAE (Parental Leave) and administrative regulations DDAE-AR (Parental Leave Regulations) for birthing parental leave to 40 paid leave days to begin on July 1, 2025. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve an open enrollment application for a 2nd grade Montpelier student to attend Jamestown Public School for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

No further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.