

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL
Regular Meeting
Official Minutes

School board meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 5:30 pm in the Thompson Community room at the Middle School, 203 2 Ave SE, Jamestown, ND.

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

Guests: Shane Ede.

Mrs. Gleason declared a conflict of interest in consent agenda which has an open enrollment application of a relative.

Mrs. Larson reported the March 3, 2025 minutes are amended due to words stating she called the meeting to order was missing and add vote 7-0 to University of Jamestown agreement, add vote 9-0 to facilities committee option 1B and add vote 8-0 to resignations of Mr. Willer and Ms. Kost.

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

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the consent agenda which consisted of March 17, 2025 regular meeting minutes, amended March 3, 2025 Regular meeting minutes, March 31, 2025 facility committee meeting minutes, payment of bills, open enrollment applications: 10th grader to Barnes County North School, 6th grader to Montpelier School, 9-PreK students and 5th grader to Pingree Buchanan School and 5th grader to Yellowstone School for the 2025-2026 school year and amended board meeting schedule. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. 5-0. Motion carried.

The board recognized Carson Muggli and Nevaeh Romfo along with advisor, Shane Ede for the State Champion performances for ND DECA state Conference. Congratulations on a job well done.

Dr. Lech reported on Strategic Focus 5: Resource Management and Planning Goal 1. This goal is covered through the Capital Projects 10 Year Plan. The plan has 7 areas to identify projects annually and in the future. Each building principal provides a list of projects to the district office, the district office committee will meet to review the lists and place according to the capital projects plan. They provide the projects to the facility committee which makes a recommendation to the board for approval. Once board approved, bids are sent out, contractors are contacted and items ordered. The roof contractor reviewed the buildings and this cycle they did not see a roof needing replacement. These savings give us the opportunity to move forward with updates for food service areas. Bleachers for Gussner Elementary is on the plan due to matching funds from the PTO. Gussner Elementary hosts elementary activities and has limited seating for these events. The total projected expenditures is \$1,229,877.00.

Mr. Gehlahr reported Strategic Focus 3: Leadership of Learning Goal 2. This goal is to build capacity for students to take ownership of personalized growth and leadership in learning. Teachers have professional development opportunities from grants to support this process. Personalized leadership in learning has key elements which are divided into 6 areas of learning. This is an important goal to continue working

on training and supporting students and have the students work with the community for leadership growth.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve Resource Management and Planning Goal 1 and Leadership of Learning Goal 2. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Dr. Lech reported on the law on open meetings which is clear for schools, a public entity. Governing bodies of public entities are to discuss public business in a public meeting and required to have a quorum. Members of this governing body need to be careful not to discuss public business by phone, emails, etc. Remember, if you're in doubt, treat the discussion like a meeting. The entity is required to post a detailed agenda of meetings which we post at the district office. There are two kinds of meetings: regular or special. Executive sessions are a special meeting and are held to only discuss 1) confidential information 2) exempt information, 3) attorney consultation, and 4) negotiations strategy. There is specific wording to read for motion on executive sessions. Only that subject can be discussed in the session and no action can be taken.

Dr. Lech reported on public comment on board policy FDF Foreign Exchange Students. The policy is specific to limit the number of students who must be residents of Jamestown Public Schools. It does not allow non residents the ability to host foreign exchange students and place them in our district. The district does not receive funding for foreign exchange students. Board direction is to leave the policy for now and look at again in the future if the limit of students is not met at JPS.

Dr. Lech updated the board on Washington. Letters with FAQ was sent to families, the website now has a resource center to review information on the closure, and the district is formulating a check list of processes for the closure. Emma Mickelson has been working hard with fund raising to plan a Washington open house and history day. The district has recorded 20 videos that will be on social media and on the District website.

Dr. Lech is working on Teacher Leadership Academy. This session will be targeting St. John's Academy to partner with.

Dr. Lech did a legislative review.

Dr. Lech spotlighted Food Service and their national achievements. Our Jamestown Public School food service team is the only ND designated winner. They received Small/Rural Trailblazer Award, Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals and 2 employees who received state awards. Lauri Podoll was named Employee of the Year and Melissa Dockter was named Manager of the Year. Both are at the High School. Congratulations to all on the hard work to achieve such an honor.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mrs. Bear to approve the cooperative agreement with St. John's Academy and Victory Christian School for dance. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the updated Capital Projects Plan. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Meier to approve an audit agreement with Widmer Roel for the 2024-2025 school year. An agreement scope was included for information. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Dr. Lech provided the Cognia Accreditation report for review.

Mr. Rohr moved, seconded by Mrs. Gleason to approve the 2025 summer school course offerings and contracts. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the resignation of Chelsie Gransie at the conclusion of 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 Matthew Stewart, Trevor Wilson, Sydney Soulis, and Bonnie Meikle including a Memorandum of Understanding for Bonnie Meikle for the 2025-2026 school year upon a successful background check and receipt of licensure. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Veldkamp moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve rescinding of DFAA Teacher Evaluation Policy, first reading of DFAA Teacher Evaluation Policy and amended DFAA-AR Teacher Evaluation Procedure. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Rohr moved, seconded by Mrs. Bear to approve a tuition agreement for a Kindergarten Barnes County North student to attend Jamestown Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote.

No further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.