

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL  
Regular Meeting  
Official Minutes

School board meeting on Monday, March 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, Jamie Bear, Melissa Gleason, Owen McKenna, Jacob Meier, Aaron Roberts, Jason Rohr, Steve Veldkamp, Superintendent, Robert Lech and Kristi Grounds, Business Manager.

Guests: Amie Oettle, Lucas Schlepuetz, Carson Bayer, Jaden Gudmestad, Ryan Solensky, Shane Martin, Ethan Oettle, Cody Veldkamp, Amanda Schlepuetz and H. McDonald.

Mrs. Larson declared a conflict of interest for the University of Jamestown Agreement due to her employer. Mrs. Gleason declared a conflict of interest for the University of Jamestown Agreement due to her employer and Ben Smith action due to work with him. Jacob Meier declared a conflict of interest for Zeb Willer action due to wife works with Mr. Willer.

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. Rohr to approve the consent agenda which consisted of February 17, 2025 regular board meeting minutes, February 24, 2025 facilities committee meeting minutes, January 16, 2025 health insurance committee meeting minutes, February 20, 2025 district school improvement committee meeting minutes, payment of bills, and open enrollment applications: 4<sup>th</sup> grader and 11<sup>th</sup> grader to Pingree Buchanan Public Schools, 9<sup>th</sup> grader to Montpelier Public School, and 4<sup>th</sup> grader to Medina Public School for the 2025-2026 school year. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

The board recognized the LifeSmarts Team for capturing the ND State LifeSmarts Championship and the ND All -State Academic Team for their honors. Congratulations to all students on their excellent achievement.

Mr. Gehlhar, Continuous Improvement Director, reported on the Strategic Focus 2: Leadership for Learning Goal 2. This goal pertains to non-academic skills per grade levels. All grade levels were getting feedback from stakeholders to see what lifeskills to focus on per level, the process to implement the skills and how to monitor them best.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the strategic Focus 2: Leadership for Learning Goal 2 plan. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Gehlhar reported on the Cognia Accreditation review. Our overall score was 321, over 300 means we will be accredited. Mr. Gehlhar reported a noteworthy practice was students feel safe and cared for and have a culture for learning. Reported areas of improvement, integrating digital tools, implementing other cultures into our curriculum, and increasing student voice and engagement. The analysis rated most of the overall area with a 4, the average is 3.

Dr. Lech reported the hire committee for the Middle School Administrator completed the interviews and is now working on a recommendation for the next board meeting.

Dr. Lech reported the facility committee met and has their recommendation for the board to approve tonight. Dr. Lech will work on a FAQ to send out to families within 0-14 days. He is working on finalizing the last Washington teacher placement. The remaining staff will have assignments by the end of March. The process for transition of staff has gone well.

Dr. Lech reported Title I staff will depend on the states transition of allocations for this program.

Dr. Lech reported a partnership with the University of Jamestown brings forth tuition discount for JPS staff to work on continued education through UJ.

Dr. Lech reported on the survey timeline for a referendum.

Dr. Lech reported the leave of absence policy has a deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> to notify us if the teacher plans on returning. Policy states it would be a voluntary resignation if no communication. The wording for the motion would be a voluntary resignation.

Dr. Lech reported on several legislative bills to watch.

Dr. Lech spotlighted Mrs. Pam Schmiedeberg for her commitment to reinforcing important lifetime activities. She was instrumental in adding archery and recently received external funding to incorporate fishing into the K-5 physical education. Mrs. Schmiedeberg serves as the SBL lead for physical education and on the district wellness committee.

Mr. Roberts reported for the facilities committee that reviewed the options with discussions on waivers, rural students, balancing class sizes, eligibility requirements for Title I services and afterschool program grant. The facilities committee recommendation is option 1B. Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve boundary option 1B. 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. Meier moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the partnership agreement with the University of Jamestown for employee discount on tuition for specific online programs. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Passed 7-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the notice of representative organizations for negotiations for the administrator unit and the teacher unit. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bear moved, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp to approve the hire of Huzzana Juatco for the 2025-2026 school year upon a successful background check and receipt of licensure. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved, seconded by Mr. Tweten to approve the resignations of Zebedee Willer and Kaitlyn Kost at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Passed 8-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Rohr to approve the voluntary resignation and waiver of the right to re-employment for Ben Smith. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Passed 8-0. Motion carried.

President Larson reminded the board members to make a motion of satisfactory or unsatisfactory per section of the superintendent's evaluation. President Larson reviewed her evaluation meeting with Dr. Lech in which they discussed the strategic plan and progress monitoring, scheduling the strategic committee to meet and review

plan, communication and agenda timing with having portions of the agenda ready to review as early as Tuesday prior to the meeting. Dr. Lech will be adding each day as items come in. The email on Friday will be to inform you all items have been completed and attached to the agenda.

Mr. Tweten moved, a satisfactory rating for Section 1 Goals and Vision setting score 3.64, seconded by Mr. McKenna. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Rohr moved, a satisfactory rating for section 2 Board Relations score 3.66, seconded by Mrs. Bear. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved, a satisfactory rating for section 3 Human Resource Management score 3.42, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved, a satisfactory rating for section 4 Curriculum and Student Support Services score 3.48, seconded by Mr. Meier. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. McKenna moved a satisfactory rating for section 5 Community Relations score 3.43, seconded by Mr. Tweten. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bear moved, a satisfactory rating for section 6 Operations and Resource Management score 3.70, seconded by Mrs. Gleason. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Dr. Lech reported Mr. Gehlhar and him will work on dates to have standard base learning work sessions at 4:30 pm prior to board meeting for board members to better understand the process.

No further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.