

**DAKOTA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #61-8
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2026
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
DAKOTA VALLEY BOARD ROOM**

SPECIAL SESSION – 4:00 PM

*** All motions carried unanimously approved unless otherwise indicated.**

The special meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kistner at 4:00 pm on February 20, 2026. Roll Call indicated the following members present: Hanson (via phone), Kistner, Nilges, Norby, (via phone) and Thompson. Absent: None. Superintendent Schmidt, Business Manager Sponder, and Niki Herzog were in attendance.

No visitors were present.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Nilges to approve the agenda.

No new conflict of disclosures was presented.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Nilges to approve the following resignations and new hires: Roll call vote Ayes: Hanson, Kistner, Nilges, Norby, Thompson. Nays: None

Resignations

1. Crystal Merchant, Alt School Supervisor
2. Kelli Tuttle, ½ EL Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

New Hires

1. Todd Broscha, Sped Paraprofessional, Step 2, \$17.47 hr.
2. Janet McCann, Sped Paraprofessional, Step 1, \$17.27 hr.

Motion by Nilges, seconded by Thompson to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2.1 for personnel. Roll call vote: Ayes: Thompson, Norby, Nilges, Kistner, Hanson. Nays: None. The board went into executive session at 4:02 pm. Superintendent Schmidt, Business Manager Sponder, and Niki Herzog were in attendance. The board declared out of executive session at 4:11 pm.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Nilges to approve the transfer request from Ben Blaeser to High School Dean of Students. Roll call vote Ayes: Kistner, Nilges, Norby, Thompson, Hanson. Nays: None

Motion by Nilges, seconded by Thompson to adjourn at 4:12 pm.

Jill Sponder
Business Manager

Steve Kistner
Chairperson

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