

**DAKOTA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #61-8
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MARCH 9, 2026
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
DAKOTA VALLEY BOARD ROOM**

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 PM

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

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kistner at 6:00 pm on March 9, 2026. Roll Call indicated the following members present: Hanson, Kistner, Nilges, and Norby (via phone). Absent: Thompson. Administrators, Superintendent Schmidt and Business Manager Sponder were in attendance.

Chairperson Kistner welcomed the visitors. Chief Headid spoke about active shooter training that the North Sioux City Police Department held at the Elementary School on March 7th and 8th, 2026.

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

No new conflict-of-interest disclosures were presented.

Motion by Nilges seconded by Hanson to approve the consent agenda.

Business Manager Sponder shared Donuts with Grownups was held on March 3rd-5th. We had 479 participants at the Elementary School and 199 participants at the Upper Elementary School.

Business Manager Sponder shared the health inspection reports for the food service kitchens in all 3 buildings.

Business Manager Sponder shared those interested in running for the school board that nomination papers are due by March 24th, 2026 at 5:00pm.

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

Resignations

1. Elizabeth Collins, 6th grade ELA teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.
2. Kris O'Neill, MS Asst Track Coach
3. Gail Konopasek, Quiz Bowl Advisor

New Hires

1. Erin Carpenter, Sped Paraprofessional, Step 5, \$18.29 hr.
2. Kaitlin Kuhnert, HS CTE FACS Teacher, FCCLA Advisor, and Concession Stand Advisor
3. Shane LaDage, HS CTE, HS Head Football Coach
4. Morgan McKellup, HS ELA and One-Act Play
5. Diana Densberger, Night Custodian, Step 10, \$20.67 hr.
6. Erin Nilges, NHS Advisor
7. Michael Whittlef, UE/MS Asst Principal, beginning 2026-27 school year, \$80,000

Motion by Norby, seconded by Nilges to approve the purchase of the English-Language Arts curriculum.

Motion by Nilges, seconded by Norby to approve the appointment of board of equalization representatives: Andrew Nilges for Big Sioux Township, Steve Kistner for Jefferson, and Jesica Hansen with Emily Norby as an alternate for City of North Sioux City.

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Norby to approve teacher and coaching/extra-duty contracts for 2026-27.
Ayes: Hanson, Kistner, Norby. Nays: None. Abstain: Nilges

Mr. Schmidt shared a legislative update.

Student ambassador report was received.

Written administrator reports were received.

Motion by Nilges, seconded by Norby to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2.1 for personnel. The board went into executive session at 6:36 pm. Superintendent Schmidt and Business Manager Sponder were in attendance. Sponder left the executive session at 6:46 pm. The board declared out of executive session at 7:12 pm.

No action was taken following the executive session.

Motion by Nilges, seconded by Norby to adjourn at 7:12 pm.

Jill Sponder
Business Manager

Steve Kistner
Chairperson

Publish: *DD - NSC Times*
Courtesy Copy: *Leader-Courier*