

Jamestown Public Schools
Regular Meeting
Official Minutes

A regular meeting of the Jamestown School Board was held Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, 5:30 p.m. in the Thompson Community Room at the Jamestown Middle School.

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

Guests: Christeen Walz, Angela Wanzek, Kristy Landenberg, Heidi Flitton, Lisa Anderson, Melissa Carmack, Stephanie Wall, Medora Pringle, Sadie Lech, Jennifer Hoffer, Rachel Kastet, Juanita Hertz, Kristi Hanson, Frederica Nicholson.

President Larson called the meeting of the Jamestown Public School Board to order and welcomed those in the audience, Jason Linz, Jamestown Video and Amy Neustel, Administrative Assistant.

Dr. Lech received a request from Steve Veldkamp to declare a conflict of interest on approval of the support staff wage schedule because his spouse is a para professional.

Mrs. Bear moved to approve the consent agenda which consisted of March 3, 2026 administrator negotiations meeting minutes, March 4, 2026 teacher negotiations meeting minutes, March 10, 2026 Career and Technology Center advisory committee minutes, March 16, 2026 regular board meeting minutes, March 17, 2026 finance committee meeting, March 17, 2026 Administrator Negotiations meeting minutes, March 18, 2026 teacher negotiations meeting minutes, March 25, 2026 teacher negotiations meeting minutes, March 26, 2026 district school improvement committee meeting minutes, March 31, 2026 special school board meeting minutes, payment of bills, submission of Arts in Education Grant, review 2026-2027 open enrollment applications to Medina School: 1-7th grader, 1-6th grader, 1-Kindergartner, 1-11th grader; Pingree Buchanan School: 7- Pre-K students; Yellowstone Virtual Academy: 1- 6th grader, and revised 2026-2027 fee schedule, seconded by Mr. Tweten. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

The District recognized several staff members for their years of service. Congratulations to your dedication to Jamestown Public Schools and our students.

Mr. Roberts reported the Finance committee had discussions on the priorities and strategies for the 2026-2027 budget and future years. The committee looked over the input from the guiding coalition which worked on reviewing 15 different budget items for alignment and budget reduction. The committee tasked the administration to put together some categorizations on the budget to assist with working through the details, general guidelines were given to know the essentials to the district operations. 3 expenditures categories: 1) strategically aligned, 2) enhance education and 3) Supplement the value and scalable.

Stephanie Wall, Middle School Instructional Coach and Medora Pringle reported on student engagement strategies. They had the school board members participate in an engagement exercise to understand how teachers work with engaging students in the classroom. Mr. McKenna said this exercise was the most engaging board education we've had in a while. Mr. Roberts asked if this same model can be used with student in

special education or English learners. Teachers would have English learners use ipads to help translate and with special education students may use visual or one-on-one handover model that is comfortable for that student.

Dr. Lech spotlighted Kristi Hanson, who was selected to serve on a standards writing committee at the state level. Creating standards takes a significant amount of work and takes time away from the classroom.

Dr. Lech reported on the spring enrollment as of April 1. We are just under 1900 students. About 12/13 years ago we were at 2165 so you can see the decline in enrollment. You follow the cohort model through you see we are very top heavy in terms of our enrollment. Kindergarten enrollment is around 115 which will impact long term planning.

Dr. Lech reported teacher of the year committee is also doing support staff of the year with the same process. Nominations were through April 1. The committee will work through the process to bring forth support staff of the year in a future board meeting.

Dr. Lech reported on a path forward initiative to partner in the community. Other initiatives we partnered with were the availability for students and community to have safe walkability and rideability to school and areas in the community. There are still safety concerns for students crossing in certain areas of Jamestown. One area that is being reviewed is at Roosevelt Elementary.

Dr. Lech presented along with Dick Brandt to the North Dakota Association of School Business Managers on planning for uncertainty and budgeting.

Dr. Lech was asked to serve as a presenter at the Hunt Institute in Durham, North Carolina on May 15th. They have a mayor's leadership fellowship which consists of mayors from across the country. He will present on the challenges and opportunities with teacher compensation.

Dr. Lech reported MIT day of AI is July 17th -19th and the selection of two high school students to accompany him to this event. Layna Hoffer and Owen Sorlie, both juniors were selected to attend this event

Dr. Lech reported he had conversations with other districts and the concerns with budgets realignments. He wants to have conversation on some simulations for reduction inforce non-renewals with the communications committee. Jamestown is not preparing for non-renewal it is a conversation to answer questions and stress test policy through the simulations..

Mr. Rohr moved to approve the summer school course, seconded by Mrs. Bear. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved to approve the audit agreement with Widmer Roel Business Advisors, seconded by Mrs. Gleason. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved to approve the 2026 summer school contracts, seconded by Mr. McKenna. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bear moved to approve the 2026-2027 support staff wage schedule, seconded by Mr. Tweten. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved to approve of the resignation of Medora Perleberg at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year, seconded by Mr. Tweten. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Rohr moved to approve the hire of Paul Wanzek for the 2026-2027 school year upon a successful background check and receipt of licensure, seconded by Mrs. Bear. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Roberts moved to approve amended DDBC (Bereavement Leave) and ACCA (Sexual Offenders on School Property) and the first reading of ACCA-BR (Criteria for Granting Parent Offenders Privileges to enter school property), seconded by Mr. Rohr. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

No executive session to discuss negotiation strategies.

There being no further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.