

JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Meeting
Unofficial Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jamestown Public School board was held on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Thompson Community Room.

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: Denise Koble, Cindy Wall, Juanita Hertz, Alyssa Hertz, Brett Hertz, Chandler Holte, Jeff Meissner, Rob Hertz, Jada Anderson, Rachel Kastet, Michel Dietz, Amanda Schaffer, Belle Sjostrom and Tyler Bucton.

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

Mrs. Bear moved to approve the consent agenda which consisted of May 4, 2026 regular school board minutes, May 4, 2026 Professional Development Committee meeting minutes, May 12, 2026 teachers negotiations minutes, payment of bills, pledged securities, 2026-2027 Title I Handbook and review of Title I District Family Involvement policy, and submission of year end reports to the Department of Public Instructions. Second by Mrs. Gleason. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

The board recognized Mrs. Hertz as Elementary Support Staff of the Year, Mrs. Erickson as Secondary Support Staff of the Year. Students were recognized for their many music achievements. The students who received awards at Skills USA were recognized by the board. Food service employees recognized were Cindy Wall, Jennifer Erickson and Liz Zink, who received awards at the state and national level. The board members congratulated everyone for their respective achievements.

The school board received a thank you for the retirement gift from Mrs. Carpenter and the remembrance of Larry Hoff from Lorie Hoff.

Belle Sjostrom, Student Council President, reported the Jamestown Student Council continued to work to represent students and support school activities. This year student involvement was lower than hoped, but student council still showed up, showed their leadership, and worked on new ways to improve our school. Ms. Sjostrom introduced Miles Curtis, who was elected for Student Council President for next school year. Miles Curtis reported on some of his present involvement in Jamestown Public Schools and looking forward to the future.

Mrs. Rachel Kastet reported on her role in the Dean of Students process this past year at Louis L'Amour Elementary. Mrs. Kastet said the experience was what was needed to understand the role of the principal and gave her much growth and knowledge. She believes the program is great for someone who is thinking about a leadership position but not sure.

Mr. Gehlhar introduced Amanda Schaffer, 1st Grade teacher at Roosevelt and Chantel Harr, English teacher at the High School, to share their experience on the professional development and curriculum committee. Mr. Gehlhar reported the committee meets quarterly and looks at long range PD planning trends. Surveys are sent out after professional development to get feedback and input on the format and the type of PD.

Dr. Lech reported on the federal tax credit, the K12 tax credit that was part of the big beautiful bill that begins January 1st. This is going to significantly impactful legislation in the next 5 years. Education leaders need to speak out more about this impact.

Dr. Lech reported that Mr. Roaldson came to the last meeting and gave an informative presentation on our athletics. He was asked to come back on June 1st and talk about our non-athletic activities.

Dr. Lech reported on discussions regarding the high volume of athletic cooperatives. Dr. Lech shared a spreadsheet of the different schools in cooperatives and the number of students who participate. Discussion will be needed to reset cost of cooperative agreements and plan for notifying schools of changes.

Mr. Tweten moved to approve the cooperative agreement for boys and girls swim and diving with Pingree Buchanan Public Schools. Seconded by Mr. Robets. Roll call: Gleason, yes; McKenna, no; Bear, yes; Larson, yes; Rohr, yes; Meier, yes; Tweten, yes; Roberts, yes; Veldkamp, yes. Vote 8-1. Motion carried. The finance committee will review.

Mrs. Bear moved to approve the Jamestown Gymnastics Club rental agreement. Seconded by Mr. Rohr. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Grounds shared general fund balance and the monthly financials for board members to review.

Mr. McKenna moved, to approve the resignations of Sadie Lech, Dr. Robert Lech, Kevin Kubat and Paul Monson at the conclusion of the 2025 to 2026 school year. Seconded by Mr. Gleason. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried. President Larson thanked all of them for their years of service to Jamestown Public Schools.

President Larson discussed that with the approved resignation of our superintendent, some transition planning will need to happen. President Larson outlined three different options for board discussion. Board discussion concluded with a decision to hold a

special meeting. Central office will provide information on the financials for the positions and options to fill the Continuous Improvement Director Position.

Mr. Veldkamp moved to approve the amendment of HBAA(Federal Fiscal Compliance), HBA- AR1 (Federal Fund Expenditures and Inventory Requirements), HCAA (Purchasing),ICCB (Disposal School Equipment and Supplies) and review of HBCC-E (Fundraising Request Form). Seconded by Mr. Roberts. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved to approve the tuition agreement for a kindergartner, 1st grade, 5th grade and 7th grade students to attend Yellowstone School for the 26-27 school year. Seconded by Mr. Tweten. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Grounds read the positions open for the school board election and the people running for those openings. Election will be held on June 9, 2026.

I, Mr. Owen McKenna believe that discussion with our negotiators and developing a strategy relative to the School Board’s position in this matter in open session would have an adverse fiscal effect on the negotiations position of the Board. Therefore, I move: That the Board enter into executive session, That the following members and negotiators be identified as being present: Jamie Bear, Melissa Gleason, Heidi Larson, Owen McKenna, Dan Tweten, Jason Rohr, Steve Veldkamp, Dr. Robert Lech, Adam Gehlhar, and Kristi Grounds. On May 18, 2026 at 7:16 pm that only the following topic will be considered in executive session: NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES. That the legal authority for the executive session is: SECTION 44-04-19.1 OF THE NORTH DAKOTA CENTURY CODE. That the executive session be recorded. Seconded by Mr. Rohr.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:43. No further business, President Larson adjourned the meeting.