Jamestown Public Schools
Regular Meeting
Official Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Jamestown Public School Boards was held Monday, March 16, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the Thompson Community Room at Jamestown Middle School

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 Nesutel, Administrative Assistant. President Larson noted the JPS Teacher of the Year celebration held at 5:00 p.m.

Guests: Kayla Thoele, Konnor Stordalen, Teresa Olson, Palmer Holden, Daniel Nyland, Cindi Psychos, Mary Eagleson, Joseph Kraehenbuehl, Timothy Olson, Jaime Kreahenbuehl, Joan Kramlich, Kim Korstens, Annetta Tweten, Ethan Erickson, Jacob Sherfy, John Clodfelter, Katie Hemmer, Jenny Korynta, Lawrence Korynta, Bernadette Kilzer, Brina Kilzer, Lillian Reinarts, Zachary Lunde, Lilly Miller, Barb Schlecht, Jaxen Schlecht, Jamie Gegelman, Rick Walentire, Max Post Vander Burg, Katrina Christiansen, Heather Aune, Tyler Piehl, Lynne Tally, Taylor Barnes, Amanda Schaffer, Mark Sherfy, Rebecca D'Amour, Gerry D'Amour, Eden Ellingsen, Westing Walker, Isaac Hasberger, Ian Weis, Ella Lien, Ian Lien, pam Burkhardt, Ken Aune, Sunny Sundeen, Carrie Orn, Anne Gassmann, Colin Conway, Dalittzy Acosta, Alyssa Farthing, Zachary Jangen, Bob Brjur, Matthias Bercier, Brittany Schwingler, Zachary Gruba, Jennifer Michalinko, Atlas Hasburger, Kimber Hasburger, Grinanne Huber, Carl Meyer, Alivia Hoke, Jackie Barnes, Cindy McDaniel Lureen, Evan Lureen, Mike Dietz, Belle Sjostrom, Mary Olson, Tom Olson, Leah Brooks, Cheryl McIntyre, Laura Weis, Emily Trurth.

President Larson inquired about any conflicts of interest from the Board members beyond those previously declared. No additional conflicts were declared.

The following individuals addressed the Board regarding the middle school band director position and music education: Jacob Sherfy, Ethan Erickson, Annetta Tweten, Lawrence Korynta, Katrina Christiansen, Matthias Bercier, Kim Korstjens, Zachary Lunde, Carrie Orn, Jaime Kraehenbuehl, Mark Sherfy, Kayla Thoele, Pamela Burkhardt, Eden Ellingson, Sunny Sundeen, and Olivia Stoppleworth was called but not present.

Mrs. Gleason moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Veldkamp. The consent agenda consisted of March 2, 2026 regular board meeting minutes, February 16, 2026 professional development-Curriculum Committee meeting minutes, February 17, 2026 teacher negotiations meeting minutes, February 24, 2026 administrators negotiations meeting minutes , February 10, 2026 health insurance committee meeting minutes, March 9, 2026 facilities committee meeting minutes, payment of bills, pledged securities, open enrollment application for a 10th grader to attend Pingree Buchanan School for the 25-26 school year, revised capital project plan. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

The Board recognized Kelly Bauer as 2026 JPS Elementary Teacher of the Year and Teresa Olson as 2026 JPS Secondary Teacher of the Year. Congratulations and thanks for all your work with students and staff.

Belle Stojstrom, Honor Society Board President, presented the student council report. She noted active work on student involvement initiatives, updating bylaws to add class representatives, and organizing preparations for prom, scheduled for the upcoming Saturday. The prom theme is "poker night or game night."

Mrs. Amanda Schaefer, a first-grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary, presented on Roosevelt's process with Vital Network. She explained the use of surveys to identify celebrations (e.g., staff collaboration, leadership seeking feedback) and areas for improvement (e.g., welcoming new employees, ensuring sufficient time for work). Roosevelt set goals around improving the welcome process for new employees, creating a staff directory, and considering a mentor program for paraprofessionals. She reported consistent improvement in scores each year. President Larson clarified Ms. Schaefer is also on the professional development committee.

Dr. Robert Lech presented the progress monitoring for Strategic Plan Goal 1.3, focusing on a culture of learning and utilizing Vital Network surveys as a primary metric. He reported that three of four areas met the 5.0 goal, with one slightly below. He also discussed Cogna survey results for student engagement, noting a current status of 40% for emotionally committed students against a 45% goal, and cautioned about changes in the survey instrument impacting historical comparisons. He noted that elementary levels generally show higher engagement than middle and high school. Future plans include assessing family engagement strategies closer to year-end and having individual buildings and the District School Improvement Team (DSIC) develop strategies. Mrs. Gleason moved to approve the Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring as on track, seconded by Mr. Tweten. Roll call with unanimous “yes” vote. Motion carried.

Dr. Lech provided updates on guiding coalition committee. The group continues to meet to identify schedule models that do not fit due to capacity limitations, aiming for the right recommendation rather than the fastest. Communication with staff is a priority.

Dr. Lech reported on Celebration of Learning (Personalized Professional Learning Pilot). He described the robust pilot program where staff engaged in mini-action research projects. Participants earned a day off, while others received a shortened version of the experience.

Dr. Lech congratulated Kelly Bower and Teresa Olsen as JPS Teachers of the Year and recognized other semi-finalists and nominees.

Dr. Lech is recommending a Meeting Schedule Change for the next board meeting from Easter Monday to Tuesday, April 7th, 2026.

Dr. Lech reported on the MIT Day of AI and Education Leadership Fellowship and the selection process for two students to attend with him.

Dr. Lech then presented a detailed report addressing concerns raised during public communication regarding music education. He clarified misconceptions, stating that music courses are not being eliminated and student access will remain unchanged. He presented data on elementary, middle, and high school music program enrollments and FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) staffing over the past few years, emphasizing that programmatic changes, particularly at the elementary level, were due to the closure of Washington Elementary and a decrease in student enrollment. He highlighted the proposed FTE for 26-27 is a slight increase at 6.68. He

acknowledged the middle school band pilot year (2025-2026) was initiated due to a late resignation and a compressed search timeline, forcing a contingency plan. He discussed potential staffing models, including his preference for sharing at adjacent levels (e.g., high school down to 8th grade) versus jumping two levels (e.g., elementary to middle school). He presented a chart of staff commitment and FTE, reiterating that a dedicated middle school band director position (as proposed in personnel transfer forms) is achievable, though it might make scheduling harder. He also discussed peer district comparisons, noting JPS's favorable student-to-teacher ratio in music. He concluded by emphasizing that no music opportunities are planned for reduction, staff sharing is necessary due to declining enrollment, and music participation remains consistent as a percentage of overall enrollment.

The board discussion reflected a shared concern about the recent struggles in the middle school band program, alongside a broader desire to strengthen music education moving forward. Several members emphasized that this year's shortcomings—such as missed performance opportunities and limited engagement—should not be accepted as a baseline for future decisions. Instead, they highlighted the need for clearer expectations, better communication, and more consistent opportunities for students.

There was general agreement that the issues experienced were not necessarily structural, but rather the result of decisions that can be corrected. This led to cautious support for a staffing model that includes a dedicated middle school band director, with the understanding that improved outcomes must follow. At the same time, members stressed that restoring program quality requires more than financial efficiency; it demands a strategic, long-term commitment to music education.

Board members also raised concerns about the potential unintended consequences of staffing and scheduling decisions. These included the risk of teacher burnout from split assignments, the importance of avoiding competition between new and existing electives, and the need to evaluate all elective offerings holistically. Additionally, they called for stronger use of historical data and clearer success criteria when evaluating pilot programs.

Questions about stakeholder input and community involvement underscored the importance of transparency and collaboration. While some high-level consultation has occurred, there is interest in deeper engagement with music staff and families. It was also clarified that participation in events like festivals was a choice this year and should be fully achievable going forward.

Overall, the consensus points toward a balanced approach: maintaining fiscal responsibility while prioritizing program quality, staff sustainability, and student opportunity. Board members signaled a desire for clearer strategic direction, more comprehensive planning, and accountability to ensure that the music program not only stabilizes but grows stronger.

Mrs. Bear moved to approve the 2026 Summer School Fee Schedule and Staffing, seconded by Mr. Rohr. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Grounds provided the General Fund Balance sheet and Monthly Financial Reports for the board members to review.

Mr. Tweten moved to approve the revision of the school board meeting schedule to Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Gleason. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved to accept the letters of resignation for 2025-2026 extended contracts for Semester Two for Kim Carpenter, Cody Mickelson, Denise Wood, Cassandra Reidburn, Lynn Kosel, Tim Ranum, Karla Rosario, Morgan Haerer, Steve Heyd, Brad Hohnadel, Amy Igl, Debbie Krebs, Phil Kroeber, Chantel Harr, and Jared Bartels, seconded by Mr. Tweten. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gleason moved to approve the tuition agreement for Pingree Buchanan School, seconded by Mr. Rohr. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried

Mrs. Grounds provided the election information for any person who wants to participate on the school board.

Mr. Rohr moved that the board enter into executive session to discuss negotiation strategies, believing that discussion in open session would have an adverse fiscal effect on the Board's negotiation position. The following individuals were identified as being present: School Board Members Jamie Bear, Melissa Gleason, Heidi Larson, Owen McKenna, Jason Rohr, Daniel Tweten, and Steve Veldkamp; Superintendent Dr. Robert Lech; District Improvement Director Adam Gayler; and Business Manager Kristi Grounds. The date and time were stated as March 16th at 8:15 p.m. The legal authority cited for the executive session was N.D.C.C. § 44-04-19.1, and it was moved that the session be recorded. Mr. McKenna seconded the motion. Roll call with unanimous "yes" vote. Motion carried.

Reconvened at 9:04 and President Larson adjourned the meeting.

GENERAL FUND

95 PERCENT GROUP	3,076.70	LECH, ROBERT	30.00
AMAZON.COM	2,670.11	LIFESTYLE APPLIANCE	275.00
ANDERSON, JADA	30.00	LORIG, JANE	1.31
ANDERSON, LISA	240.00	MAC'S INC	97.51
ANNE CARLSEN CENTER	116,826.40	MACK, ALLISON	240.00
ARMITAGE, MICHAEL	66.87	MAHONEY, HALSEY	240.00
BATA, BRANDON	30.00	MARCO TECHNOLOGIES	3,973.00
BCHEX	94.00	MASTER TEACHER INC	213.85
CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT	8,600.00	MEISSNER, JEFF	30.00
CHAT GPT	80.00	MENARDS OF JAMESTOWN	189.35
CITY OF JAMESTOWN	5,970.17	MICKELSON, CODY	152.52
CLAUSON, JACOB	238.20	MINNESOTA KINDERGARTEN	600.00
COLE PAPERS INC	5,511.44	MINNESOTA VALLEY TESTING LABS	170.00
CONNECT TELETHERAPY	24,777.00	MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	14,128.82
CONNELL, JUSTIN	30.00	NAPA AUTO PARTS OF JAMESTOWN INC	46.54
COUNTRY GARDENS	102.95	ND ATTORNEY GENERAL	125.00
DACOTAH PAPER CO	1,772.91	ND BOARD OF NURSING	70.00
DAKOTA BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH	20,444.70	ND CENTER FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION	848.00
DAKOTA CENTRAL	1,844.49	ND COUNCIL EDUC LEADERS	904.00
DAKOTA TROPHY	30.00	NELSON, TAMMY	2.04
DELTA AIRLINES,INC	944.39	OSLUND, ANDREW	67.96
DELTA BY MARRIOTT	2,549.28	OTTERTAIL POWER CO	31,933.48
DELZER, EDDY	30.00	PEARCE DURICK PLLC	285.00

DUCKS UNLIMITED INC.	72.81	PERIPOLE MUSIC	143.99
ECKROTH MUSIC COMPANY	40.00	PETTYS, QUENTIN	57.01
ELKEN, TARA	129.54	PITNEY BOWES BANK INC	465.16
ET SYSTEMS	160.00	PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL	210.30
EXPLORELEARNING,	1,585.50	POPPLERS MUSIC INC	177.00
FARMERS UNION COOP OIL CO	114.75	QBS	899.00
FARSTAD OIL	10,147.45	RAINBOW GAS COMPANY	5,211.34
GEGELMAN, JAMIE	39.66	RAMADA BISMARCK HOTEL	90.00
GEHLHAR, ADAM	176.00	RECORD KEEPERS	52.88
GIESLER, DANIELLE	303.00	RECSUPPLY	760.00
GOOGLE	44.32	ROCHELEAU-ECKART, HEIDI	140.00
GROUNDS, KRISTI	581.10	ROHR, JASON	156.00
HAAKENSON, ANGELA	38.84	RUNNINGS	40.37
HAMPTON INN & SUITES - BISMARCK	770.00	SCHERBENSKE INC	7,750.00
HARLOW'S SCHOOL BUS SERVICE INC	93,945.91	SCHMIDT, SHERRY	30.00
HAWKINS INC	3,964.93	SCOTTS ELECTRIC	343.00
HEINERT, DARBY	30.00	SCREENPAL	360.00
HEMMER, TANYA	490.56	SIVERHUS-DINGER, DANIELLE	113.88
HOUSE OF GLASS INC	166.90	STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE	10.00
HR COLLABORATIVE	150.00	STUTSMAN COUNTY SOIL	306.15
HUGO'S FAMILY MARKETPLACE	1,116.14	SUN, XIN	363.44
HW WILSON PRODUCT LINE	149.25	SUNDSTROM, TEATHER	71.83
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	882.00	SUPERIOR GARAGE DOOR	6,864.50
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	26.77	T-MOBILE USA INC	158.05
JAMES RIVER SPECIAL EDUCATION	101,833.35	TEACHERSPAYTEACHERS.COM	182.58
JAMES RIVER TRANSIT	165.00	TEAM LABORATORY CHEMICAL CO	950.50
JAMESTOWN PLUMBING HEATING AC	5,891.05	TENGESDAL, JIMMIE	251.00
JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL	1,352.42	THOMAS C MURRAY,	10,000.00
JAMTGAARD, CODY	33.73	THOMAS, BRITTANY	75.00
JAMTGAARD, STACY	30.00	UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN	250.00
JONES, TERRY	30.00	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA	881.94
JONNY B'S BRICKHOUSE	223.72	VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY	122.20
JOSTENS INC	513.85	VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER	5,417.00
JOURNEYWORKS PUBLISHING	0.00	WALCH, TIMOTHY	103.15
KAPP, DANIEL	30.00	WALMART	1,726.43
KIECKER, LINDSEY	79.90	WAYSIDE PUBLISHING	72.80
KNOX, ROBERT	30.00	WEX HEALTH INC	146.16
KUDRNA, JULIE	240.00	WHITE, DOROTHY	240.00
LEAF	2,745.00	WORKFORCE SAFETY & INS	250.00
LEARNWELL	3,180.15		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	**527,529.25**		
BUILDING FUND			
ET SYSTEMS	4,710.00	SUMMIT COMPANIES	1,200.00
HOUSE OF GLASS INC	1,045.00	TRANE US INC	430.00
JAMES VALLEY MULTI DIST	651.20		
TOTAL BUILDING FUND	**8036.20**		
STUDENT ACTIVITY			
A & B PIZZA INC	367.23	HARVEY HIGH SCHOOL	475.00
ALLARD TROPHY CO	87.00	HUGO'S FAMILY MARKETPLACE	18.56
AMAZON.COM	280.42	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	27.98
ASTORIA HOTEL & EVENT CENTER	693.00	JAMESTOWN CIVIC CENTER	471.25
BAST, TYLER	388.25	JAMESTOWN HOCKEY BOOSTERS	45.00
BISMARCK PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST 1	852.00	JAMESTOWN PARKS & RECREATION	160.00
BLADA, DEVIN	435.75	JAMESTOWN PUB SCH FOUNDATION	500.00
BRUNO'S PIZZA	462.58	JIMMY JOHNS	601.57
BSN SPORTS	2,160.33	JW PEPPER & SON INC	387.47
CARTON, ANDREW	199.50	LENTZ, JARED	115.75
CASEY'S GENERAL STORE #3355	4.82	MANDAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	125.00
COBBLESTONE INN & SUITES -	1,540.00	MICKELSON, CODY	675.00
COCA COLA BOTTLING COMPANY HIGH	398.00	MOTSCHENBACHER, MATTHEW	75.00
COFFEE CUP TRAVEL PLAZA	46.27	MYRICH, ERIC	130.00

COMFORT SUITES FARGO	3,354.00	ND ALL STATE MUSIC	257.17
CONCORD THEATRICALS	298.10	NEIS SERVICES INC	22,074.60
COUNTRY GARDENS	43.50	OLIVE GARDEN	588.29
COUNTRY INN & SUITES BISMARCK	6,990.00	OLSON, PAUL	75.00
COUNTRY INN/SUITES-GRAND FORKS	716.00	PAPA JOHNS	182.92
CROWN TROPHY	339.15	PARADISO OF JAMESTOWN	374.70
DAKOTA CENTRAL	184.90	PIZZA HUT - DICKINSON	281.30
DEAVER, BRIAN	246.50	POPPLERS MUSIC INC	210.67
DENNYS PIZZA INN	318.45	RIIVET	19.99
DICKINSON STATE HERITAGE	324.00	ROALDSON, JAMES	30.00
DOCKTER, HANNAH	300.00	ROGUE FITNESS	179.84
ECKROTH MUSIC COMPANY	519.68	SKUNBERG, ERIC	130.00
EDE, SHANE	56.00	SLIM CHICKENS	289.26
ELI-REIDBURN, CASSANDRA	230.00	SUNSHINE TRAVEL COMPANY INC	24,750.00
EXPRESSWAY SUITES	3,120.00	SWEETWATER SOUND	2,083.96
FABIAN, JESSICA	55.00	THIELGES, BRETT	65.00
FITZGERALD, ANDREW	240.00	TOKMAN, NICHOLAS	4,500.00
FLUTTERBEE EDUCATION GROUP	251.64	TRAINING ROOM INC	145.21
FM HOCKEY OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION	1,666.50	TYR SPORT, INC	3,052.41
FORUM	19.99	VOIGT PHOTOGRAPHY	71.00
FRESH ALTERNATIVE FUNDRAISING	3,305.25	WALMART	1,391.04
FRITZ, BETH	70.00	WEAREONE	1,165.95
GERRELLS SPORTS CENTER INC	1,444.95	WEIS, IAN	230.00
GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK	21.52	WEIS, LAURA	230.00
HARLOW'S SCHOOL BUS SERVICE INC	16,130.82	ZIMMER, GABRIELA	155.00
TOTAL STUDENT ACTIVITY	**114,501.99**		
HEALTH INSURANCE			
HAYS COMPANIES	2,796.00		
TOTAL HEALTH INSURANCE	**2,796.00**		
JAMESTOWN DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS			
ASSETMARK TRUST COMPANY	87,079.44	NEWMAN SIGNS INC	60.00
TOTAL JAMESTOWN DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS	87,139.44		
SCHOOL LUNCH		JAMESTOWN PLUMBING HEATING INC	270.00
AMAZON.COM	1,058.25	JIM COLEMAN LTD	181.04
BADLANDS DISTRIBUTION INC	187.88	KROPP, AMANDA	61.55
CINTAS CORPORATION NO 2	1266.86	ND ATTORNEY GENERAL	25.00
CITY OF JAMESTOWN	2,030.13	ND DEPT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION	887.03
COCA COLA BOTTLING COMPANY HIGH	5,212.50	PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL INC	512.72
CULINEX	3,343.50	SALBAR, MELISSA	30.00
DACOTAH PAPER CO	3,789.61	SNA EMPORIUM LLC	57.25
DAKOTA CENTRAL	274.10	SYSCO NORHT DAKOTA INC	65,196.13
FRESHPOINT BIX PRODUCE COMPANY	10,625.43	WALL, CINDY	30.00
GETZ, KATHY	33.75	WALMART	8.35
TOTAL SCHOOL LUNCH	**95,078.08**		
JAMES VALLEY CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER			
ACT INC	229.50	JETSTREAM CAR WASH INC	65.51
ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS, INC	219.55	MENARDS OF JAMESTOWN	2,082.41
CITY OF JAMESTOWN	778.22	MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	2,485.94
CITY OF JAMESTOWN	40.00	NAPA AUTO PARTS OF JAMESTOWN INC	172.56
COLE PAPERS INC	457.71	ND DECA	3,216.25
D&J EQUIPMENT SALES SERVICE ,	1,368.32	OREILLY AUTO PARTS	581.91
DAKOTA ENGINE BUILDERS INC	126.60	OTTERTAIL POWER CO	3,108.41
DAN POLAND MACHINE INC	56.64	RADISSON HOTEL BISMARCK	1,512.00
DECA INC	700.00	ROCHELEAU-ECKART, HEIDI	30.00
DIRECT ELECTRIC INC	509.16	SAFTEY KLEEN SYSTEMS INC	295.63

HILLERUD CONSTRUCTION INC	64,897.78	SKILLS USA ND	1,090.00
HUGO'S FAMILY MARKETPLACE	149.89	VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY	1,450.62
JAMESTOWN PLUMBING HEATING AC	1,281.20	WAAGEN, JERRY	39.13
JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL	124,779.27	WALMART	715.21
JAMESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL	1,773.29	WW GRAINGER INC	1,733.61
TOTAL JAMES VALLEY CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER	**215,946.32**		