

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2026 7:15 PM
Central Office Board Room
401 South Pine Street
Valley, NE 68064-0378

1. Call to Order	
2. Public Communications and Correspondence	3
3. Approval of Agenda	
4. Administrative Reports	5
4.1. Superintendent's Report	34
4.2. Financial Report	35
5. Consent Agenda	
5.1. Approve Minutes	42
5.2. Approve Claims for Payment	
5.3. Approve Financial Report	
5.4. Approve Classified Staff	
6. Old Business	
6.1. Review, Discuss, and Consider Architectural Master Planning Proposals	
7. New Business	
7.1. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action with regard to possible approval and authorization to sell and transfer an approximately 1 acre tract of real estate generally near 25808 Bennington Road and located in Section 8, Township 16 North, Range 10 East of the 6th P.M., Douglas County, Nebraska	46
7.2. Informational Update of the Food Service Management Company RFP Process and Timeline	50

7.3. Informational Update of a Proposed House Build Collaborative

7.4. DC West Middle School Continuous Improvement Presentation

7.5. Resignation of Certificated Staff

51

8. **Adjournment**

Board of Education

Cole Groteluschen

Dr. Kelly Hinrichs

Luke Janke

Jamie Jorgensen

Elizabeth Mayer

Jim Tomanek

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

This pamphlet has been developed to help the general public attending a meeting of the Board of Education to understand the internal operation of the Board. It is hoped that this pamphlet will foster improved relations between the Board and the citizens it serves.

Meetings of the Board

When

- The Board of Education convenes once each month on the second Monday except in the months that have five Mondays. In months with five Mondays, the Board convenes on the third Monday of the month. Holidays and unexpected conflicts may create exceptions to this practice.
- The Board of Education will convene in special session whenever it is deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the school district.
- Board of Education meetings are called to order at 7:00 p.m. unless another time is stipulated.

Where

- Regular and special meetings of the Board of Education will be held in the Board Room on the Valley Campus at 401 S. Pine St., in Valley, unless another location is specifically identified.
- Whenever public participation dictates the need for a larger meeting room, the Board will convene in the High School library.

Notice of Meetings

- Official notice of the time and place of the regular board meetings are posted on the doors of the schools, banks in Valley and Waterloo and the Valley City Hall.
- Notice of special meetings will be posted at least 24 hours in advance. Hearings will be published in The Omaha Daily Record.

Business of the Board

Agendas

- Agendas for the regular meeting on the second Monday of the month will be prepared in advance and kept current and available in the superintendent's office. Business items of an emergency nature may be placed on the agenda by a majority vote of the Board of Education.
- Parents, employees and patrons may request items placed before the Board of Education for consideration by contacting the Superintendent at least three business days in advance of a regular meeting.

Public Participation

- The Board of Education invites you to offer comments during the Public Communication and Correspondence portion of the meeting. Public requesting to offer comments during the Public Communication portion of the meeting shall make a request to speak or complete the sign-in information sheet at the meeting. The individual is asked to state the purpose and general nature of his or her appearance before the Board. The Board President shall indicate to the individual how much time the Board will allot the individual. Speakers normally will be given five minutes with a maximum of 20 minutes set aside for such communications.
- Members of the public requesting to speak to an item considered New or Old Business on the Agenda will request time during the Public Communications portion of the meeting. Unless the comments are related to an agenda item no action will be taken by the Board. Questions or requests of the Board by the public will be taken under consideration. The Board will direct the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, to respond in writing to any public

question or request brought before the Board. Equal time shall be allotted to individuals speaking for and against a proposal when opposing points of view are represented at the board meeting.

- The Board invites you to share any information you may have or address any question to any Board member or the Superintendent regarding new business in the week prior to the next meeting.
- If, at any Board meeting, any person shall conduct himself or herself in a disorderly manner and after notice of the president or the person presiding shall persist therein, the president or person presiding may ask the person to leave and if the person refuses, the president or presiding officer may order any law enforcement officer or any other person or persons to take him or her into custody until the meeting is adjourned.
- Meetings may be recorded. Recording must be done so as not to disrupt the meeting.
- Meetings of the Board of Education shall be conducted in compliance with appropriate policy, state statutes and open meeting laws.

Mission Statement

DC West Community Schools engages, prepares, and empowers all of our students for the future.



The Douglas County West Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Superintendent of Schools, 401 S. Pine St., Valley, Nebraska 68064 (402-359-2583).

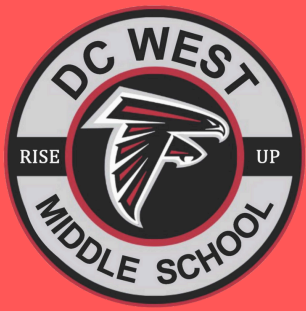
Employees and Others: Superintendent of Schools, 401 S. Pine St., Valley, Nebraska 68064 (402-359-2583).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Dept. of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at 8930 Ward Pkwy, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, (816) 268-0550 (voice) or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf) or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

Board Meeting Procedures

“Engage, Prepare, and Empower”

**Douglas County West
Community Schools
P.O. Box 378
401 S. Pine St.
Valley, Nebraska 68064**



DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns

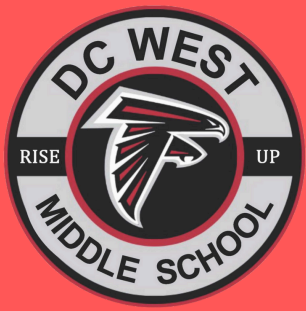
MS January Students of the Month

The DC West Middle School Students of the Month Program is based on qualities such as good character, leadership, and citizenship, and effort in the classroom.

The student of the month must be a diligent student, complete his/her assignments on time; show a strong effort to learn subjects to the best of their ability; prepare for class; and, have good classroom participation. The student of the month demonstrates excellent behavior in and out of the classroom, is well mannered, and respectful to both peers and teachers.

The student of the month displays excellent citizenship by working together with classmates in a cooperative attitude, and exhibiting good behavior. Many such students display leadership qualities and serve as role models for their peers. Lastly, the student of the month demonstrates exemplary character by modeling the Falcon Way expectations.





DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns

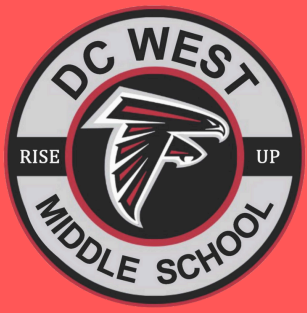
DC West Falcons vs Blair Bears in the Unified Basketball Game



Future Cities Competition 2026: Using the Engineering Design Process and project management skills, students showcase their solutions to a citywide sustainability issue.

This year's challenge asks students to design a city that eliminates food waste from farm to table and keeps your citizens healthy and safe.



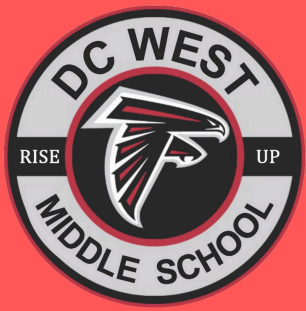


DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns

Propellers, gears, and a whole lot of problem-solving! Our 8th grade STEM class designed and built their own cars testing how different gear ratios and propeller designs affect speed and power. So much creativity and teamwork in one room!



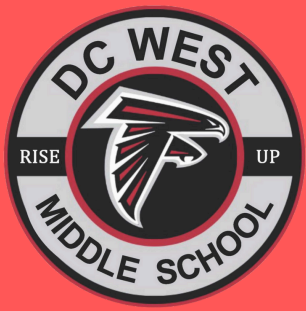


DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns



Congratulations to 8th graders Elliana Rose and Abi Greve on making The Singing Youth of Nebraska Honor Choir. The girls will sing with 120 of the best musicians from the state in Hastings on January 31st.



DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

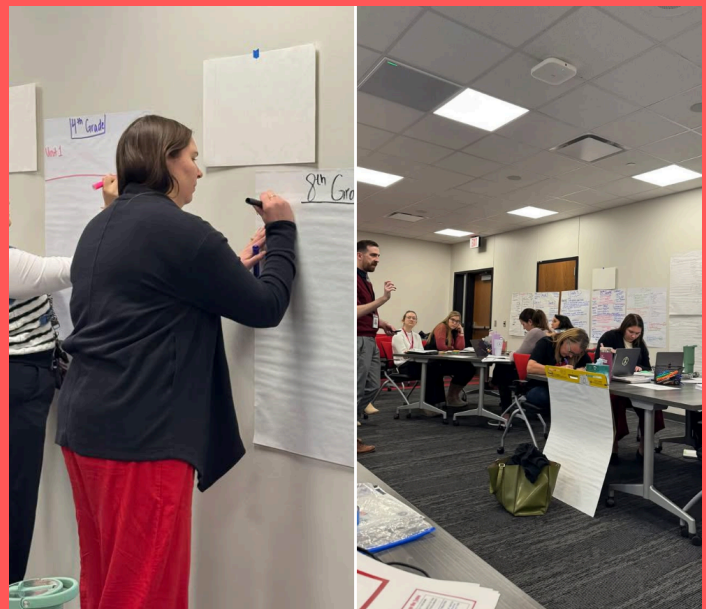
2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns



IPA Cohort 1: Nicki Pechous, Kristi Eggen, Cindy Hayden, Sonya Lutze, Kim Loofe, Molly Dembinski, Kim Bottorff, Mattie Subbert, Justin Presler, Michelle Anderson
(Not pictured: Sherry Dill, Amber Goddard, Jake Subbert)

Congrats to our Cohort 1, Year 2 Inclusive Practices Academy participants! This fabulous team of six co-teaching partners have completed eight days of training over the past two years and have become experts in co-teaching and implementing Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to ensure all students can learn at high levels. They are making a huge difference in closing the achievement gap for kids with disabilities!

The K-8 science curriculum pilot committee spent the morning exploring state standards, collaborating, and learning. DC West students are lucky to have such committed educators leading the way in science!





February 2026, Board of Education Report Dr. Dawn Marten, Director of Learning

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Secondary CCRS Committee

This month, the Middle School and High School will launch the Secondary College & Career Readiness Skills (CCRS) Pilot, an initiative designed to help students shift their focus from solely tracking letter grades to actively reflecting on essential academic behaviors. The pilot will include 7th Grade and 9th Grade students. Students will self-assess their skills using a frequency-based scale ranging from "Almost Always" to "Almost Never." These self-reflections will serve as the foundation for one-on-one data conferences between students and pilot teachers Mrs. Ady Marshall and Mr. Mike Troy to discuss growth and specific skill development.

To ensure a successful rollout, the committee has completed all necessary resources, including student reflection sheets, data collection protocols, and guidance scripts for 9th-grade Keystone teachers to facilitate the process. We are currently confirming the specific pilot dates with our lead teachers and finalizing communication for principals to share with families. Once the pilot concludes, we will review the resulting data and feedback to refine these tools, with the goal of expanding the reflection process across multiple classes in the school year 2026-2027.

Library Catalog System Review

We are currently evaluating the potential transition from our current library catalog system, Alexandria Library, to Destiny Discover. Adopting a modern catalog platform would streamline procedures for our teacher-librarians and enhance the student checkout experience. A key advantage of Destiny Discover is its capability to provide families with timely, automated communication regarding the resources their children borrow. This feature directly aligns with the requirements of Nebraska's newly passed LB 390; effective for the 2026-27 school year, this legislation mandates that public school districts adopt policies to notify parents via email, app, or website whenever a student checks out a school library book.

K-12 Health Curriculum Review

We have initiated a comprehensive review of Health curriculum resources across grades K-12. A committee is currently evaluating our existing materials to determine if updates are necessary. Should this review indicate a requirement for new materials, a formal recommendation for purchase will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Science Curriculum Pilot

The elementary and middle school Science Curriculum Committee members recently completed formal training with *Amplify Science* to familiarize themselves with the pilot curriculum and resources. Teachers are currently dedicating the next few weeks to planning their pilot units. Throughout the implementation, they will provide weekly feedback regarding the program's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Concurrently, high school science teachers will participate in professional learning facilitated by *Activate Learning: Open SciEd* during the February professional learning day. Following this training, they will conduct pilot lessons to assess the utility of the materials and the level of student engagement. The committee aims to present a final adoption recommendation for K-12 science curriculum at the April Board of Education meeting.

ASSESSMENT

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

On January 27, 48 eighth-grade students participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in Reading and Mathematics. Often referred to as "The Nation's Report Card," this assessment measures student achievement on a national scale to track broader educational trends. Since NAEP is a representative survey, individual student scores and school-specific results are not provided to the district.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

District Continuous Improvement Team

On January 29, district and building leadership teams convened to continue the District Continuous Improvement (CIP) process, focusing on connecting root cause analysis to strategic action. The session was designed to model district-level work for building-level implementation, emphasizing the importance of selecting research-based strategies to address specific school needs. A key component of the meeting was the "High Leverage Instructional Practices" activity, where teams collaborated to develop concrete "look-fors" for classroom walkthroughs and observations, ensuring that instructional goals are clearly defined and observable.

Teams also dedicated significant time to reviewing and updating their respective School Continuous Improvement Plans. This involved analyzing current data, revisiting the "Plan-Do-Study-Act" (PDSA) cycle, and ensuring that proposed interventions are directly aligned with identified root causes. The next step in this journey will be the March 30 meeting, which will focus on planning for the full implementation of these refined strategies.

Visible Instructional Leadership Workshop

On January 28, district Directors and Principals attended the "Visible Instructional Leadership" workshop at ESU 3 as a unified team. Participating in this session allowed our administrative leadership to learn with and from one another, strengthening our shared vision for the district. The workshop, centered on the text *How Leadership Works*, focused on identifying specific strategies to impact daily classroom instruction and designing sustainable systems for ongoing improvement. This collaborative professional learning opportunity was a vital step in aligning our leadership practices to better support teachers and students alike.

Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant Update

To align with Nebraska's recent literacy statutes (LB 1284) and DC West's Strategic Plan Goal 1.2, the district has finalized a comprehensive professional learning plan focused on the Science of Reading. Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, teachers across all grade levels will engage in specialized training designed to increase student proficiency: K-3 staff will participate in the UNO Early Literacy Workshop, while grades 4-12 will attend targeted sessions facilitated by ESU 3. This distinct, tiered approach ensures that every educator is equipped with evidence-based instructional strategies tailored to their specific grade band.

Parallel to teacher training, district and building administrators are participating in a "Leader Community of Practice" to support this instructional shift. This leadership strand focuses on utilizing the Instructional Practice Guide (IPG) to conduct data-driven classroom visits twice annually.

These focused observations will allow our leadership team to monitor the quality of implementation, ensuring that our literacy instruction remains rigorous, aligned, and effective for students from early childhood through graduation.

Instructional Coaching Update

Mrs. Kelsey Nabity, DC West Instructional Coach, recently recognized staff for their engagement and growth during the first semester. The graphic below provides a snapshot of the impactful learning, collaboration, and instructional support that has taken place to date. We are excited to see this work continue to expand and strengthen teaching practices across the district.

DC West Instructional Coaching
Celebrations
 Better Together

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Innovative School Summit - July 2025
- Impact Partnership - June 2025
- Jim Knight Coaching Institute - October 2025
- ESUS Coaching Cadre - ongoing
- Visible Instructional Leadership - Winter 2026
- Learning Forward Conference - Dec 2025

TEACHER SUPPORT & COACHING

- Supporting formative assessments in the Elementary
- Assist in Administration of K-1 Fastbridge Assessment
- Support & collaborate with teachers around Small Group Instruction

Current Future:

- Two Classroom Teachers beginning coaching cycles

CURRICULUM & RESOURCE SUPPORT

- Planning and preparation of our ELA Curriculum Framework
- Supporting the pilot and adoption of a new K-8 Science Curriculum
- Participation in IXL Innovative Leaders to share IXL updates & resources

DATA - DRIVEN DECISIONS

- Serve on District Continuous Improvement Team
- Support the implementation of Standards Based Grading in the Elementary
- Data Digs surrounding assessment data in Elementary & Middle School
- Support and work alongside administration and teachers to support MTSS

COLLABORATION & LEADERSHIP

- Elementary Metro Area School Visit focusing on small-group instruction
- Update and rewrite of DCW HAL Handbook and Qualifications
- Member of Teacher Leadership Network through Buffett Early Childhood Institute

Family & Community Partnership

AASA Early Childhood Cohort Selection

DC West Elementary School has been honored with a selection as a School of Exploration for the AASA Early Childhood Cohort. As a designated host site, we will welcome educational leaders from the cohort to visit our district, observe our programming, and share in our best practices. We are currently collaborating with AASA representatives and Buffett Institute Administration to finalize the event date (October 2026) and coordinate the site visit logistics. This opportunity serves as a significant recognition of our commitment to early learning and allows us to showcase the innovative work being done by our staff and students on a national stage. Once details are finalized, they will be shared with the Board of Education.



Douglas County West High School and Middle School Director of Athletics & Activities Board Report February 2026 Mr. Jeremy Travis

We are nearing the end of the regular season for our Winter Activities. It has been extremely successful for them and we are looking forward to post-season play and hopefully some state level opportunities for our Falcons! Spring is right around the corner.....

Girls Wrestling Update: We currently have approximately 7 girls on our boys wrestling team here at DC West for the Jan/Feb/March of 2026 season. The goal is for them to have their own middle school girls wrestling team that competes in Nov/Dec of 2026 season and then add high school girls wrestling to DC West in the 2027-2028 school year as those participants move up from middle school to high school. We will need to begin to start forming a coaching staff as well as an upcoming schedule for them to compete in. We're excited to get this started!



We had six student athletes participate in **College Signing Day at DC West**. Nolan Asher (Football) at Colorado School of the Mines, Trey Olsen (Football) at Midland University, Abby Rayer (Volleyball) at Morningside University, Addison Strong (Basketball) at Peru State College, Jasmine West (Powerlifting) at Friends University, and Bella Zach (Softball) at Augustana University. We are extremely proud of our Falcons!



Our **HS Competitive Cheer Team** is on fire this season! They have started the season taking 1st place at both Lincoln Standing Bear and Crete with also earning the highest score of the entire day. We are looking forward to their upcoming competitions in Bennington and Louisville as they gear up for State in Grand Island. The Cheer Coaches are Alyssa Lindahl, Molly Dembinski, and Megan Hardisty.



Brayton Holding and Hunter Holding both earned their 100th careers wins in wrestling as juniors for the Falcons. We are excited to watch many more to come for them in the future for us! The Falcons are gearing up for Districts in the near future at Wahoo.



Thank you to **Valley Lakes for donating a trailer to our Falcon Pride Booster Club** for events at DC West. Our Athletic Teams enjoyed all of their time visiting with the residents on this day and are looking for more community engagements to get involved in for our athletic teams!



Our **HS Girls Basketball** Team continues to compete and represent the Falcons. They are currently (7-13) on the season and are looking to finish the regular season strong as we head into district play. The team is coached by Russ Ninemire, Stan Shaw, and Noah Buchholtz.



The **HS Boys Basketball** Team is currently (16-4) on the season and rated #6 in Class C-1. The team ended up finishing Nebraska Capitol Conference Tournament Runner-Ups. The team is coached by Chip Daehling, Ben Knobbe, Erik Hanke, Cam Wiese, Vance Janssen, and Alex Knobbe.



Our **Unified Basketball Team** had another fantastic game vs Omaha Bryan at DC West. Great sportsmanship throughout and a lot of great times on the court for the Falcons. The Falcons are led by Lisa Masters!



Our **Middle School Girls Basketball Team** has gotten off to a good start on their season. We have good numbers in our program and are a competitive team. The team is coached by Mattie Subbert, James Eddy, and Mandi Mace.



Our **Middle School Wrestling Team** currently has approximately 35 wrestlers out for the team this season. We have everything from experienced and skilled wrestlers to new beginners to the sport. It will be fun to watch them learn, grow, and compete throughout the season. The team is coached by Jacob Gagner, Jake Marshall, and Ady Marshall.



Our **Middle School Band** most recently played at one of our home girls and boys basketball games and did a fantastic job. We have great numbers in our program that made it an electric night for our Falcon Game Environment. The Band is led by Director's Liz Guinn and Morgan Thompson.

To view upcoming **Team Schedules or Events**, please take the following steps:

- Go to www.dcwest.org
- Click on the Activities Calendar
- Click on View Schedules
- Select Team
- Click View

There are a lot of moving parts in athletics and activities but everyone is working together towards the same common goal. I want to Thank everyone that has helped work at an event, supported our school and programs, and that have cheered on our Falcons. We are Better Together and I'm a really proud Falcon!

Mr. Travis



JEREMY TRAVIS
Director of Athletics & Activities (7-12)

DC WEST Community Schools
Engage, Prepare, and Empower

📍 401 S. Pine Street
Valley, NE 68064
402.359.2583
✉ jtravis@dcwest.org
✕ @DCWestFalcons

Board Report
February 9th, 2026

Shawna Younghans- Administrative Facilitator

High School Attendance Improvement Institute

In January, Kristen Phillips, Katie Richards, Nicki Pechous, and I attended the High School Attendance Improvement Institute. This professional development provided valuable opportunities to analyze our attendance data and identify actionable strategies to improve student attendance rates.

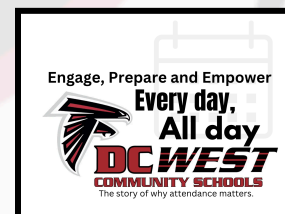
As an immediate next step, we will launch an intervention group that will operate through the remainder of the current school year. Additionally, we will establish an attendance team by year-end to develop a comprehensive attendance improvement plan for the 2026-27 school year.

Scheduling Processes Assessment

A scheduling assessment team has been formed to evaluate and improve our current scheduling processes. The Nebraska Department of Education has partnered with Education Resource Strategies (ERS) to conduct a comprehensive pilot program focused on the following objectives:

- Clarify the vision, purpose, and scope of this year's scheduling improvement work.
- Evaluate current scheduling processes and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Align scheduling practices with our shared vision for optimal student and teacher experiences.
- Identify school strengths, challenges, and areas where scheduling impacts student success and experience.
- Establish specific design priorities that will enhance student experiences and academic success.

Mrs. Shawna Younghans



Board Report
Jim Knott –High School Principal

DC West
February 4, 2026

January and February are usually prime hiring months for school districts looking to add or hire teachers. Generally, contracts haven't been signed, allowing teachers looking for new jobs to explore options. We currently do not have any teaching openings for next year at the high school. However, I know jobs can come open very quickly for a variety of reasons. Because of this, and the pending teacher shortage, we continue to prioritize attendance at college job fairs. On January 16, I participated in the Midland Job fair, along with Dr. Kerns and Mr. Sarka. We all interviewed a variety of candidates throughout the morning and made several connections should a position come open. On Friday, February 6, I will be attending the Wayne State Education Fair. This will be the first time I have attended the Wayne job fair so I am looking forward to what it has to offer.

February 3 was our 3rd annual Teacher Appreciation Night. Eighteen Senior DC West basketball players, cheerleaders, and dance team members, along with nine Syracuse senior basketball players participated in the event. These athletes from both schools selected their most influential teacher and honored them at half time of the varsity games by accompanying them to center court for recognition. High School teacher, Ms. Heather Cox said, "Teacher Appreciation Night was very well done. What a great way to showcase teachers and staff. I loved the participation from both schools and to hear the numerous ways teachers and staff have had a positive impact on students." DC West Superintendent Dr. Melissa Poloncic stated, "I love teacher appreciation night because our staff members make DC West the BEST, and our students are their daily motivation. The night is a perfect pairing of that recognition, and it is heartwarming."

The following are some important upcoming dates for the high school:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| *February 16 | No School – Teacher Professional Development |
| *March 11 & 12 | Parent Teacher Conferences |
| *March 13-20 | Spring Break |
| *April 1 | Junior ACT, 9 th & 10 th Grade PreACT |
| *April 11 | Junior / Senior Prom |

February 2026 Student Services Report

Early Development Network Update:

Our Birth-3 caseload has been growing substantially this year. Children with disabilities or developmental concerns from birth until age 3 can be referred for in-home services using a parent coaching model. The referrals come from the Nebraska Early Development Network, and our district is part of ESU 3's Planning Region 3, which pools resources across several districts to provide comprehensive support and services to families of infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Our primary service providers for infants and toddlers are Leigh Groth, DC, West Early Childhood Special Educator; Gabby Catterson, ESU 3 Services Coordinator; and some of our contracted service providers, including occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists. Our team uses routine-based early intervention in children's natural environment (i.e., the home). The mission of Routines-Based Early Intervention in Nebraska is to promote the growth and development of toddlers with disabilities, ages birth to three years, by helping families build upon activities they do every day to meet their own needs and support their child's learning. We started this school year with only 4 students on our B-3 caseload, and we currently have 18 children on caseload and 3 more being evaluated. We are grateful to Leigh and team for their dedicated service in making a difference in the lives of our youngest learners and their families!

Midland & NDE Grow Your Own & Three-to-Teach Program:

We continue to partner with NDE and Midland University to support para-to-teacher pathways for our special education paras. Currently, Lindsay Schurman, preschool para, is participating in our first cohort of Grow Your Own candidates. Lindsay works full-time as a preschool paraeducator while taking a full course load of education courses. Through this program, Lindsay takes online courses and earns academic credit for her work as a para. The program is fully funded and provided at no cost to the participants or the district, with the goal of the participants graduating with their K-6 teaching endorsement within two years. On the district's side, we provide Lindsay with release time to complete her practicum hours as needed and an in-district mentor to support her throughout her practicum. Lindsay's mentor is Brandi Price. Lindsay is expected to graduate in May 2027 with a degree in elementary education and endorsements in K-6 and early childhood education. We are excited to support Lindsay on her journey to becoming a teacher.

Midland is launching a new program for paraprofessionals who want to become teachers but lack the prerequisite general education credits needed to complete their Bachelor's degree within two years. This program, called "Three to Teach," will support participants in earning a Bachelor's degree with a teaching certificate in three years while they continue working as paraeducators. If the program is awarded grant funding, participants will take courses at no cost, and the district will continue to support them in much the same fashion as in the Grow Your Own program. We

currently have two paras who have expressed interest and completed their Midland applications. We hope to learn about funding soon, as the program is scheduled to start this summer.

Strategic Goal 2.2: MTSS Tier 2 Targeted Intervention for Behavior

In alignment with Strategic Plan 2.2, a team of administrators, special educators, and counselors attended a training at ESU 3 in January focused on developing a strong Tier 2 system to provide targeted supports for students struggling with behavior, executive functioning, or social skills. Representatives from each building learned about Check-In, Check-Out, and other evidence-based strategies to support students promptly when behavior interferes with learning or socialization. Our building leadership teams and the District Mental Health team will continue collaborating to design an effective Tier 2 system that helps students develop the skills they need to succeed in school.

MOEC Attendance Improvement Institute

Kristen Phillips, Katie Richards, Shawna Youngmans, and I attended the MOEC Attendance Improvement Institute at UNO last week, on January 27 and 28. The purpose of the institute was to help teams analyze their attendance data and develop an action plan to improve attendance among students in subgroups with high rates of chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student missing more than 10% of days in session at any point of the school year. We spent two days at the Institute learning to disaggregate data and develop an effective plan. We left the institute with a plan targeting at-risk students, focused on building a sense of belonging to the school by fostering positive relationships. Our goal is to improve this group of students' attendance to at least 90% of days by the end of the year.

The middle and elementary schools will also participate in an Attendance Improvement Institute for middle and elementary schools later this month. We look forward to hearing more about their plans then. We want all of our students in school every day to maximize their learning and school connections!

Special Education Transition Night

Special thanks to Linsey Bellinger, Elementary Speech-Language Pathologist, for spearheading our first-ever Special Education Transition Night. We plan to host a one-hour information session for parents of students with disabilities during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, March 11, from 5:30-6:30 in the Board Room. We will primarily focus on preparing for adulthood, but all parents of students with disabilities are welcome. Our first presenter will be Turner Goa, our Nebraska VR representative, who will share information about the services that VR can provide to help students with disabilities gain work experience and prepare for post-secondary education opportunities. Next, we are hoping to have a representative from PTI Nebraska share information about helping students with complex needs navigate the world of Social Security, Guardianship, Developmental Disabilities, etc. We look forward to learning more and supporting our families as they prepare for these important milestones.

February 4, 2026

Board Report

Elementary School (Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem)

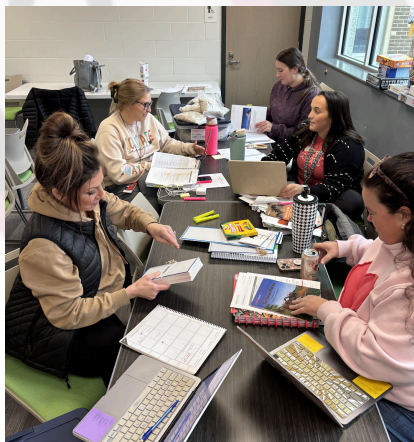
DC West Community Schools

Contents:

1. **AMPLIFY Science Curriculum Pilot Team Preparation**
2. **IXL usage data- targeted skill based practice**
3. **2nd grade and preschool performances**
4. **Monkey Business in preschool**
5. **SOWAH -African cultural drumming performance**

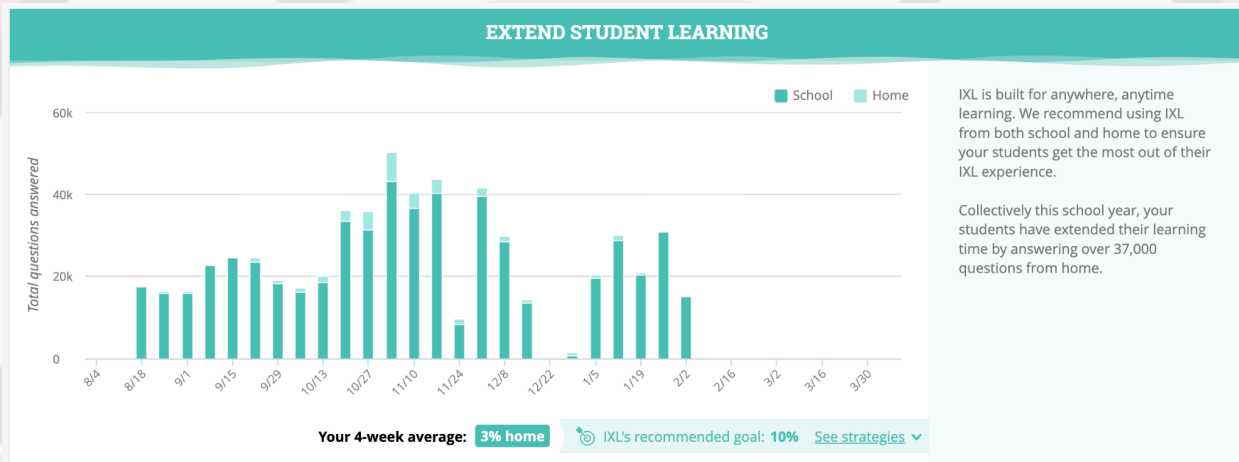
1. New Science Curriculum: AMPLIFY

Our new Elementary Science curriculum pilot group of teachers are kicking off with a full day of collaborative planning, following a dedicated professional development day focused on Amplify Science. During this time, teams dove into the curriculum, explored how Amplify supports student learning and engagement, and used backwards planning to strengthen implementation moving forward. This intentional start is designed to help teachers feel confident and prepared to maximize the impact of this exciting new curriculum in their classrooms.



2. IXL Usage

IXL is an online learning program our students use to practice math and reading skills in a personalized way. It adapts to each child's level, providing targeted, skill-based practice and immediate feedback. Teachers have updated students' Winter MAP scores into the system to regenerate individualized learning paths and differentiate instruction based on each student's current level. IXL usage data reflects this targeted approach, and teachers are continuing to do amazing things in their classrooms by thoughtfully using IXL to support all learners and drive their small group instruction.



3. Preschool & 2nd Grade Performances

Preschool collaborated with Ms. Beck the music teacher to provide an “informance” experience for preschool families where they were able to engage with their students in interactive rotations where students explored different types of music, rhythm, instruments, and hands-on dancing and play. Families joined in the fun, making it a joyful experience filled with learning, laughter, and strong community involvement.



The 2nd grade “informance” is an opportunity for families and friends to experience what typical music look, feels, and sounds like. Students taught their chosen partners how to sing a simple song, play a game, and then explor learning to play the xylophone or ukulele for a final performance. We loved seeing students being the teacher and smiling with joy as their partners engaged in music making!



4. Monkey Business in Mrs. Schurman's Preschool Class

A DC West family who owns an animal rescue clinic visited our preschool to share a special learning experience by introducing their Capuchin monkey. Students learned about what he eats, how he behaves, and the differences between life in the wild and being cared for in captivity. It was a unique, engaging visit that sparked curiosity and lots of great questions from our preschoolers.



5. SoWaH Performance with Miss Beck

The SoWaH (Songs of the World and Handbells) music performance showcased students' exploration of music from around the world through rhythm, handbells, and collaborative performance. It was a joyful celebration of cultural awareness, teamwork, and musical growth.



EST

2005

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

February 4, 2026

Board Report

Elementary School (Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem)

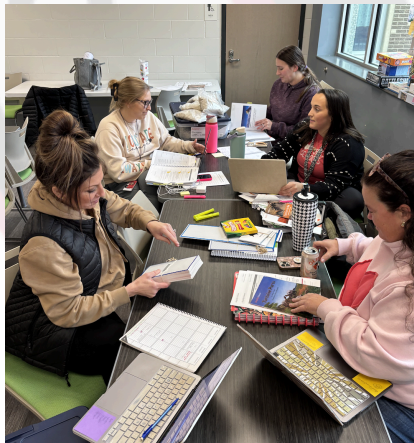
DC West Community Schools

Contents:

1. **AMPLIFY Science Curriculum Pilot Team Preparation**
2. **IXL usage data- targeted skill based practice**
3. **2nd grade and preschool performances**
4. **Monkey Business in preschool**
5. **SOWAH -African cultural drumming performance**

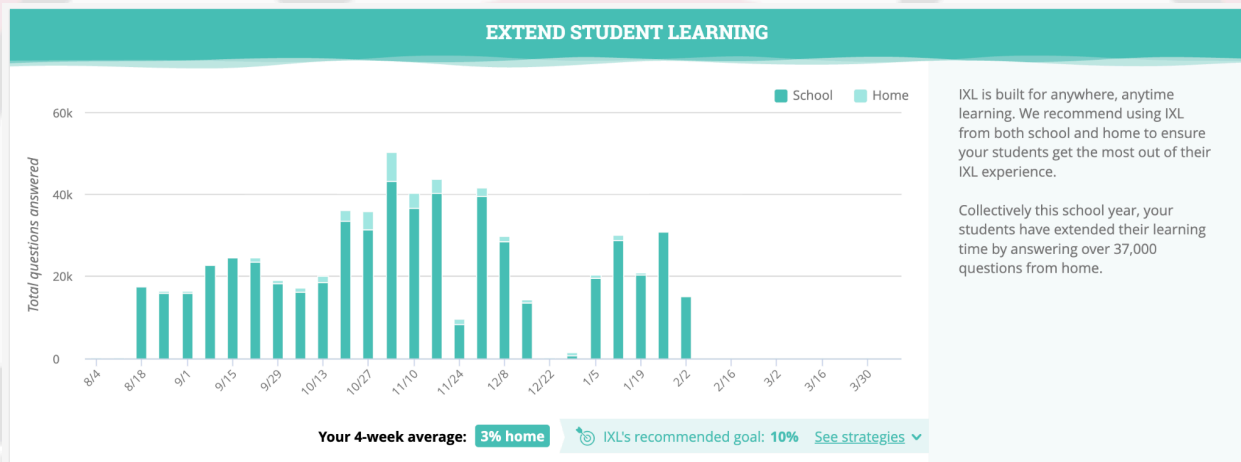
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2005

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



DC WEST Community Schools

Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Superintendent's Report February 9, 2026

2026 Summer Projects

I continue to coordinate with OPPD, BCDM Architects, Nebraska Department of Energy, and First Nebraska Bank on application for the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy Dollar and Energy Saving Loans for our summer HVAC project with Fluid Mechanical, LLC. In addition, I am analyzing the budget available and needs for buildings and grounds maintenance projects for the summer months. I plan to have more information for the Board in both of these areas at the March meeting.

Staff Positions

As we begin planning for the 2026-27 school year and reflecting on job duties and responsibilities of employees, we do have some needs in classified staff positions. Preliminary information for the 2026-27 year budgeting will be coming in the next month. At that time, I will determine and propose some possible additions in classified staff.

March Option Enrollment Capacity

We currently have 26 applications for option enrollment for the 2026-27 school year. The statewide deadline for applications is March 15th and the district is required to respond to families by April 1st of their acceptance or denial. At the March 9th Board meeting, we will review the updated capacity numbers before making that determination to ensure we have the most updated enrollment information available in making decisions. We anticipate that we will continue to have full capacity in next year's third, sixth, and eighth grades as well as some special education programming.

Superintendent Goals 2026

- Facilitate the Master Planning process to approach Strategic Plan 5.1 & 5.3: creation of a comprehensive facilities plan to address both short term and long term goals including, but not limited to, new construction, renovation, and maintenance of facilities, and acquiring property to meet the future growth needs of the district and align district resources to support a quality education system and high-level learning environment by ensuring necessary staffing levels, space allocation, and resource expenditures
- Implement Strategic Plan Strategy 4.2 to increase communication to maintain perceptions of DC West by engaging students, families, employees, and the DC West community to promote and enrich the brand of DC West Community Schools.
- Lead the vision and support needed to implement strategic plan priorities in 2026. Specifically increase overall proficiency and/or growth in core areas of student achievement district-wide.
- Continue to unify, coach and lead the entire administrative team to excellence.
- Begin to develop a leadership succession plan within the district and a transition process to proactively identify and transition new leadership within the district (Strategy 3.4).

Upcoming Dates:

[2025-2026 District Calendar](#)

[District Activities Calendar](#)

March 9~ Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Financial Recap January 2026

	1/1/2026	Receipts	Expenditures	1/31/2026
General Fund	\$4,625,029.87	\$ 1,363,274.63	\$ 1,342,080.37	\$4,646,224.13
Depreciation Fund	\$1,780,759.87	\$ 1,511.19	\$ 5,661.57	\$1,776,609.49
Food Service Fund	\$58,262.44	\$ 55,702.90	\$ 47,130.19	\$66,835.15
Qualified Capital Fund	\$198,069.71	\$ 22,367.42	\$ 63,195.54	\$157,241.59
Bond Fund	\$1,566,618.60	\$ 72,656.02	\$ -	\$1,639,274.62
Special Building Fund	\$215,187.98	\$ 79,288.25	\$ -	\$294,476.23
	\$8,443,928.47	\$1,594,800.41	\$1,458,067.67	\$8,580,661.21

General Fund Detail

<u>Expenditures</u>	January	YTD	Budgeted
All Instructional Program	\$ 665,913.91	\$ 3,314,824.22	\$ 8,519,107.00
SPED Instructional Program	\$ 184,340.49	\$ 1,037,946.45	\$ 2,534,928.00
Support Services SPED Related	\$ 37,953.48	\$ 222,050.79	\$ 551,856.00
Support Services Non-SPED Related	\$ 41,047.50	\$ 229,221.90	\$ 522,058.00
Support Instructional	\$ 45,542.54	\$ 314,620.49	\$ 785,282.00
Board of Education	\$ 5,808.33	\$ 47,620.87	\$ 111,624.00
Executive Administration Services	\$ 28,685.60	\$ 151,821.29	\$ 384,046.00
District Legal Services	\$ 5,935.00	\$ 6,182.00	\$ 40,000.00
Office of the Principal	\$ 75,910.90	\$ 402,711.04	\$ 971,578.00
General Admin - Business Services	\$ 18,936.01	\$ 110,720.92	\$ 390,055.00
Maint & Operation of Building & Sit	\$ 82,887.54	\$ 762,278.26	\$ 1,935,494.00
Vehicle Acquisition & Maint	\$ -	\$ 5,030.35	\$ 9,746.00
Regular Pupil Transportation	\$ 70,731.15	\$ 317,833.45	\$ 658,246.00
SPED Pupil Transportation	\$ 19,053.32	\$ 68,931.15	\$ 172,757.00
Categorical Grant from Coporation	\$ 20,998.71	\$ 109,281.16	\$ 322,001.00
State Categorical Programs	\$ 778.44	\$ 10,798.20	\$ 16,376.00
Federal Programs	\$ 37,557.45	\$ 168,599.87	\$ 412,275.00
Transfer Out	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ 1,342,080.37	\$ 7,280,472.41	\$ 18,337,429.00

<u>Revenues</u>	January	YTD
Personal and Prop Taxes	\$ 409,897.66	\$ 874,650.95
Carline Tax	\$ -	\$ 1,258.05
Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$ 150,836.77	\$ 670,956.39
Facility Rental	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,850.00
Tuition Received from Individuals	\$ 4,912.75	\$ 43,541.75
Interest	\$ 2,700.41	\$ 18,494.76
Local License Fees	\$ -	\$ 1,480.00
Grants from Corporations/Private	\$ -	\$ 40,370.31
Other Local Receipts	\$ 113.86	\$ 385.19
County Fines and License Fees	\$ 2,010.90	\$ 10,988.23
ESU Receipts	\$ -	\$ -
State Aid	\$ 269,963.00	\$ 1,349,815.00
Special Education Programs	\$ 260,108.00	\$ 519,019.00
Special Education Transportation	\$ -	
Homestead Exemption	\$ -	\$ -
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle	\$ 4,170.71	\$ 5,696.05
High Ability Learners	\$ -	\$ 9,515.00
Early Childhood Grant	\$ -	\$ -
State Apportionment	\$ 254,040.29	\$ 254,040.29
Other State Receipts	\$ -	\$ 68,007.00
Prop & Personal Property Tax Credit	\$ (14.51)	\$ (14.51)
Title ESSA Programs	\$ -	\$ 149,703.00
IDEA Programs	\$ -	\$ 301,532.00
Medicaid	\$ 4,184.79	\$ 19,384.72
ESSER II & ESSER III	\$ -	\$ -
Other Federal Categorical Receipts	\$ -	\$ -
Sale of Property	\$ -	\$ 51,421.83
Insurance Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 1,363,274.63	\$ 4,392,095.01

January 2026 Payroll

Net Payroll	\$ 675,054.85
Payroll Taxes (District)	\$ 70,635.25
Payroll Withholding (Employees)	\$ 166,831.18
Retirement (District)	\$ 72,620.10
Retirement Withholding (Employees)	\$ 71,901.16

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances

01/2026 - 01/2026

Regular; Beginning Month 01/2026; Processing Month 01/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund Number 05, 12

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05 704	INTEREST	4,521.60	0.00	135.00	0.00	4,656.60
05 704 1001	ACTIVITY PASSES	31,377.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,377.64
05 704 1002	CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS	7,331.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,331.53
05 704 1003	INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	1,627.95	20.00	100.00	0.00	1,707.95
05 704 1005	STAFF LOUNGE	3,405.70	0.00	254.70	0.00	3,660.40
05 704 1007	VALLEY WAY	9,133.80	335.16	0.00	0.00	8,798.64
05 704 1011	PTSA DONATION	4,117.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,117.70
05 704 1023	PROM	2,558.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,558.56
05 704 1102	ARTS & HUMANITIES	550.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.62
05 704 1104	ATHLETICS HS	6,773.43	8,900.00	8,980.00	0.00	6,853.43
05 704 1106	BASEBALL TEAM	1,199.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,199.55
05 704 1107	BAND	2,951.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,951.25
05 704 1108	CHEER	3,118.95	0.00	281.00	0.00	3,399.95
05 704 1110	SPRING PLAY	1,727.16	500.35	0.00	0.00	1,226.81
05 704 1111	BBB TEAM	334.18	386.13	295.60	0.00	243.65
05 704 1112	CONCESSIONS	37,437.38	3,441.72	9,048.20	0.00	43,043.86
05 704 1113	CONSTRUCTION TECH	7,106.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,106.79
05 704 1114	DANCE TEAM	2,069.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,069.41
05 704 1115	HS MUSICAL	5,857.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,857.55
05 704 1116	ONE ACT	3,607.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,607.71
05 704 1117	FBLA	3,023.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,023.22
05 704 1118	HIGH SCHOOL	917.51	0.00	396.40	0.00	1,313.91
05 704 1119	DC TECH 1:1	7,584.73	0.00	120.00	0.00	7,704.73
05 704 1120	GBB TEAM	4,267.14	735.00	525.00	0.00	4,057.14
05 704 1123	HOSA	2,908.57	29.40	0.00	0.00	2,879.17
05 704 1124	STUCO HS	3,835.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,835.07
05 704 1128	NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	1,509.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,509.37
05 704 1131	FOOTBALL TEAM	9,841.08	0.00	3,488.00	0.00	13,329.08
05 704 1132	SCIENCE CLUB	446.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	446.69
05 704 1133	SPEECH TEAM	2,897.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,897.17
05 704 1134	VOCAL MUSIC	4,070.81	0.00	16.00	0.00	4,086.81
05 704 1136	WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB	655.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	655.52
05 704 1137	ROBOTICS TEAM	4,354.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,354.52
05 704 1141	GOLF TEAM	349.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	349.88
05 704 1142	YEARBOOK HS	5,480.41	420.98	0.00	0.00	5,059.43
05 704 1151	CROSS COUNTRY TEAM	1,975.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,975.43

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances

01/2026 - 01/2026

Regular; Beginning Month 01/2026; Processing Month 01/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund Number 05, 12

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05 704 1161	SOFTBALL TEAM	8,099.43	0.00	48.00	0.00	8,147.43
05 704 1166	BOYS TRACK TEAM	185.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	185.52
05 704 1167	GIRLS TRACK TEAM	57.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.50
05 704 1176	VOLLEYBALL TEAM	7,181.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,181.90
05 704 1186	WRESTLING TEAM	3,428.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,428.67
05 704 1198	SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS	598.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	598.12
05 704 1224	STUCO MS	15,217.40	448.25	179.81	0.00	14,948.96
05 704 1225	COFFEE CART - EL SPED	1,576.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,576.40
05 704 1319	DISNEY MUSICAL	15,699.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,699.90
05 704 1320	PRESCHOOL	9,916.51	626.38	0.00	0.00	9,290.13
05 704 2112	MS CONCESSIONS	2,783.46	217.00	175.24	0.00	2,741.70
05 704 2121	MS BBB TEAM	211.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	211.05
05 704 2136	MS FOOTBALL TEAM	368.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	368.47
05 704 2201	ART CLUB MS	157.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	157.88
05 704 2204	ATHLETICS MS	3,160.81	270.00	190.00	0.00	3,080.81
05 704 2205	UNIFIED SPORTS	2,519.94	120.00	0.00	0.00	2,399.94
05 704 2216	MS DRAMA	109.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	109.67
05 704 2218	MIDDLE SCHOOL	1,111.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,111.29
05 704 2242	MS YEARBOOK	3,394.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,394.48
05 704 3220	ELEM FIELD TRIP	4,035.75	810.00	0.00	0.00	3,225.75
05 704 3221	PBIS/FALCOIN	4,685.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,685.15
05 704 3222	BATTLE OF THE BOOKS	26.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.65
05 704 3318	ELEMENTARY	9,958.14	1,859.95	1,189.70	0.00	9,287.89
Fund Total: 05		<u>285,409.67</u>	<u>19,120.32</u>	<u>25,422.65</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>291,712.00</u>

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances

01/2026 - 01/2026

Regular; Beginning Month 01/2026; Processing Month 01/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund Number 05, 12

Fund: 12 STUDENT FEES

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
12 704	STUDENT PARTICIPATION FEE	32,130.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,130.07
Fund Total: 12		32,130.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,130.07

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FEBRUARY 9, 2026 BOARD BILLS

User ID: CQ

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
ADVENTURE ENTERPRISES, LLC		1,976.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, LLC		1,527.65
APPLE COMPUTER INC		255,659.69
BEST CARE EMPLOYEE ASSIST PROGRAM		4,440.80
BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES INC		85.20
BSN SPORTS LLC		7,174.77
CAPPEL NAPA AUTO SUPPLY - VALLEY		17.99
CITY WIDE FACILITY SOLUTIONS		13,136.37
CMC NEPTUNE, LLC		2,700.00
COMPLETE COMMUNICATION, LLC		240.00
DAILY RECORD, THE		479.99
DC WEST FOOD SERVICE		1,403.15
DIETZE MUSIC HOUSE		461.62
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #3		75.00
EGAN SUPPLY CO		2,519.37
ELECTRONIC SOUND INC		992.50
ELKHORN AUTOMOTIVE, INC		4,862.10
FIBER PLATFORM, LLC		1,117.24
FIRST STUDENT		9,524.66
HELM SERVICE		598.00
HOMETOWN LEASING		2,522.27
JUST FOR KIDS THERAPY INC		4,881.25
JW PEPPER & SONS		18.00
MATHESON TRI-GAS INC		257.62
MAX I. WALKER		230.95
MENARDS - ELKHORN		485.88
METRO COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOOKSTORE		974.74
NASB ALICAP		1,600.00
NEBR ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS		5,912.00
NEBR STATE FIRE MARSHAL AGENCY		360.00
NEBR STATE FIRE MARSHAL AGENCY		120.00
NEBRASKA RURAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION		100.00
ONE SOURCE		509.00
PAPER 101		4,318.80
PRAIRIE MECHANICAL CORP		4,800.00
SCHOOL PSYCH AI		164.89
SPEECH SQUAD, LLC		16,220.25
STANZEL'S MOW & SNOW LLC		10,951.01
SUBURBAN SCHOOLS PROGRAM		4,738.54
UNIVERSITY OF NEBR OMAHA - CEHHS		100.00
VALLEY ACE HARDWARE		67.76
WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBR, INC		1,593.87
WATER ENGINEERING INC		317.62
Fund Number 01		<u>370,236.55</u>
Checking Account ID 2	Fund Number 02 DEPRECIATION	
BLAZER ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT		194.69
MATHESON TRI-GAS INC		28.64
Fund Number 02		<u>223.33</u>
Checking Account ID 6	Fund Number 06 NUTRITION FUND	
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, LLC		47.48
BULLER FIXTURE COMPANY	39	3,895.00
CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING		16,261.61

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FEBRUARY 9, 2026 BOARD BILLS

User ID: CQ

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
CHESTERMAN CO		572.42
HILAND DAIRY		4,117.60
MAX I. WALKER		204.60
ROTELLA'S ITALIAN BAKERY INC		299.77
SYSCO LINCOLN		11,988.70
US FOOD INC		13,355.70
Fund Number 06		<hr/> 50,742.88

Checking Account ID 8	Fund Number 08	SPECIAL BUILIDING FUND	
BOYD JONES CONSTRUCTION CO			15,000.00
Fund Number 08			<hr/> 15,000.00

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MID MONTH BILLS - JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

User ID: CQ

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01	GENERAL FUND
ACH BANK FEE		64.75
ARROW STAGE LINES		6,430.00
AWARDS UNLIMITED INC		2,759.99
BOYS TOWN		4,500.00
CASEY'S BUSINESS MASTERCARD		8.75
CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE SCHOOLS, INC		11.00
CITY OF VALLEY		845.75
CLEVER		1,685.79
COX BUSINESS		198.08
DAILY RECORD, THE		309.33
ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS		45.00
FIREGUARD LLC		4,290.55
FREMONT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL		96.00
GILES, DARBY		80.00
HY-VEE INC		80.00
JW PEPPER & SONS		46.25
LOUISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL		150.00
LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORE		568.05
MACKIN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES		277.36
MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO IN		3,026.79
MAGIC WRIGHTER, INC.		245.75
NEBR STATE BANDMASTERS ASSOC		197.00
NEBRASKA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION		70.00
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT		21,737.32
PECHOUS, NICOLE		976.65
PETTY CASH		60.00
PITNEY BOWES BANK, INC PURCHASE POWER		1,016.00
PRIME HOME DEVELOPMENTAL		1,998.68
RAYMOND CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL		71.00
REMM, KYLIE		80.00
SECURITY EQUIPMENT INC.		3,213.70
STANZEL'S MOW & SNOW LLC		7,492.51
SULLIVAN, MITCHELL		320.00
UNO BOCH FESTIVAL / UNVERSIRY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA		200.00
WAYNE STATE COLLEGE		90.00
WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC		11,412.79
ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION, INC.		3.50
Fund Number 01		<u>74,658.34</u>
Checking Account ID 2	Fund Number 02	DEPRECIATION
MATHESON TRI-GAS INC		616.00
Fund Number 02		<u>616.00</u>
Checking Account ID 9	Fund Number 09	QCPUF
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY		1,992.01
Fund Number 09		<u>1,992.01</u>

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 28-0015,
a/k/a, DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Monday, January 12, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, District #15, in the County of Douglas, in the State of Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on Monday, January 12, 2026 at the Central Office Board Room, 401 South Pine Street, Valley, NE 68064-0378.

Following public notification procedures approved by the Board of Education, February 14, 2011, in adherence to 84-1411, notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting such Notice on the exterior front door of the high school, elementary school, middle school, Valley City Hall, First Nebraska Bank, Foundation One Bank and in the Daily Record. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously given to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the Board of Education of the meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

Cole Groteluschen: Present
Kelly Hinrichs: Present
Luke Janke: Present
Jamie Jorgensen: Present
Elizabeth Mayer: Present
Jim Tomanek: Present

Present: 6.

1. Call to Order

The agenda, listing items for consideration by the Board, is on file in the Superintendent's office. Other matters may come before the Board and the Board has the right to modify the agenda before the meeting.

President – “As I call the meeting to order I wish to inform everyone present that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the back wall of the Board Room for your review at any time.”

2. Public Communications and Correspondence

Comments from the audience will be accepted at this time. No Correspondence addressed to the Board.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Cole Groteluschen.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. Administrative Reports

- 4.1. Superintendent's Report
- 4.2. Financial Report

5. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

- 5.1. Approve Minutes
Regular Meeting Date:
Special Meeting Date:
- 5.2. Approve Claims for Payment
- 5.3. Approve Financial Report
- 5.4. Approve Classified Staff
Amber Woodlee - exit custodial
Kim Humphrey - exit elem para
Veronica Huggins - exit elem para

6. Old Business

- 6.1. Review, Discuss, and Consider Architectural Master Planning Proposals

The Board reviewed planning proposals submitted over the past three months by BCDM, BVH, and APMA. After narrowing the

focus to BCDM and APMA, the Board asked that both firms be invited back to the February meeting to continue discussions regarding Master Planning Services.

7. New Business

7.1. Board Election of Officers

Election Procedures per Board Policy 8130:

Upon call for nominations for each office by the Chair, nominations shall be made by written or oral ballot. Voting will be by oral or written ballot on all members nominated and repeated until a majority is achieved for a nominee. If no member receives a majority of votes after 5 ballots or 1 hour, the Board member who was the President of the Board during the immediately preceding term shall continue as President. In the event that the previous Board President is no longer a Board member, then the Vice President from the immediately preceding term shall become the President. In the event that both the prior President and Vice President are no longer members of the Board, then the longest tenured Board member shall serve as President. The vote may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Dr. Melissa Polonic, Superintendent, conducted the Presidential election and then the new President conducted the remainder of the elections and the meeting.

Dr. Polonic opened nominations for Board President. Jorgensen nominated Hinrichs.

Motion to approve Kelly Hinrichs as Board President to serve a term of one year, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Luke Janke.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

President Dr. Kelly Hinrichs opened nomination for Board Vice President. Janke nominated Jorgensen

Motion to approve Jamie Jorgensen as Board Vice President to serve a term of one year, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jim Tomanek.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

President Dr. Kelly Hinrichs opened nominations for Board Treasurer. Janke nominated Tomanek/Mayer nominated Groteluschen

One round of ballot voting was conducted resulting in Jim Tomanek's election as Board Treasurer with a vote of 4-2.

Motion to approve Jim Tomanek as Board Treasurer to serve a term of one year, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jamie Jorgensen.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.2. Approval of Committees, Positions, and Designations

- a. Consider, discuss and take action to elect Recording Secretary of the BOE
- b. Consider, discuss and take action to select Legal counsel
- c. Consider, discuss and take action to elect Committees as determined by the BOE

Buildings and Grounds: as a whole

American Civics: Mayer, Groteluschen, Janke

Negotiations: Hinrichs, Jorgensen, Tomanek

Finance: Tomanek, Mayer, Groteluschen

DC West Schools Foundation Board Representative: Hinrichs

MABE Representative: Groteluschen

- d. Consider, discuss and take action to select Depository bank(s)
- e. Consider, discuss and take action to select District newspaper(s) of record

Motion to approve Kristi Trost be appointed as Board Secretary to serve a term of one year, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Motion to appoint Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, P.C., L.L.O. as Legal Counsel Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Motion to appoint Board members to committees as determined by the Board of Education Passed with a motion by Jim Tomanek and a second by Luke Janke.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Motion to select First Nebraska, Foundation One, and First Citizens Bank as the depository banks and the officers of President, Vice President, and Treasurer as approved signers of accounts Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Jamie Jorgensen.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Motion to select The Daily Record as the newspaper of record Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jim Tomanek.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.3. Approval of Interlocal Agreement and Cooperative

NJUMP is an interlocal pool created for public agencies to purchase natural gas and related services. This joint energy purchasing consortium is sponsored by the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB). The district has saved by participating in the NJUMP program. I recommend we continue participating in the interlocal agreement.

The District participates in a cooperative with other districts around the state for PowerSchool, which is our student information system we use for student records, lunch, grades, attendance, etc. As a part of the cooperative, we have buying power, access to professional development for our staff and real-time support by local personnel of the cooperative. It was recommended the Board approve continuation of the cooperative.

Motion to approve DC West's continued participation in the Southeast Nebraska PowerSchool Cooperative Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Jim Tomanek.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Motion to approve DC West's continued participation in the NJUMP Interlocal Agreement Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Jamie Jorgensen.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.4. Approval of Current Board Policies and Regulations

Per policy 8130, the Board will annually approve the current Board policies and regulations. Board policies may be found publicly on our website.

Motion to approve the current Board policies and regulations Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.5. Designate Annual Review of Board of Education Policies

According to Board policy 8130, the Board will annually designate a date for annual review of the Board of Education policies. The administration recommends the Summer of 2026 as the designated timeframe for an annual review as new legislation changes and updated policies from legal services will arrive at that time.

Motion to appoint an annual review of Board policies in the Summer of 2026 Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.6. Annual Review of the HVAC Equipment Evaluation

The Board of Education requested an annual review of the HVAC Equipment Life Expectancy report provided by Morrissey Engineering in 2022. This report allows the Board to anticipate upcoming replacement or maintenance needs in the district.

7.7. Elementary Continuous Improvement Presentation

Each administrator was asked to prepare a short presentation for the Board on their continuous improvement efforts during the school year. Mr. Alan Sarka, Elementary Principal, presented the information from DC West Elementary to the Board this month.

7.8. Approve Certified Staff Retirement

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Rhonda Jonas has submitted a letter of retirement from her elementary teaching position at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The administration recommends the Board approve the request for retirement.

Motion to approve the retirement of Mrs. Rhonda Jonas, elementary teacher, at the end of the 2025-2026 school year Passed with a

motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Elizabeth Mayer.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.9. Approve Certified Extra Duty Positions for Girls Golf

Jeremy Travis has requested that Girls Golf be added in the Fall of 2026 DC West High School Athletic offerings. Mr. Travis has recommended the addition of a Head Girls Golf Coach and Assistant Coach if the numbers hold at the amount that attended the interest meeting. The percentage paid will be the same as the boys golf positions.

Motion to approve the addition of Head and Assistant Girls Golf extra duty positions beginning the 2026-2027 school year Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jamie Jorgensen.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.10. Approve Annual Technology Equipment Replacement on Four Year Cycle

Sandi Kerkhoff, Director of Technology, has presented a purchase of our annual technology replacement within a four-year cycle to maintain updated technology devices for our staff and students and our one-to-one program. It was recommended the Board approve this already budgeted expense, so our technology staff can work on transitioning devices this spring.

Motion to approve the technology purchase of devices and cases in the amount of \$262,197.89 Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.11. Approved Proposed Changes to the Negotiated Agreement for the 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 School Years

The Board received documents outlining the recommendation of the negotiations' committee, administration, and DCWEA for proposed changes to the negotiated agreement for the 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 school years.

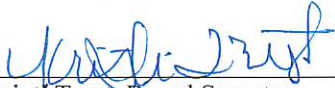
Motion to approve changes to the negotiated agreement as presented for the 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 school years Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Jim Tomanek.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

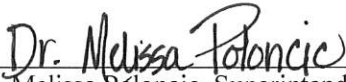
8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:25pm Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Luke Janke.

Cole Groteluschen: **Yea**, Kelly Hinrichs: **Yea**, Luke Janke: **Yea**, Jamie Jorgensen: **Yea**, Elizabeth Mayer: **Yea**, Jim Tomanek: **Yea**
Yea: 6, Nay: 0



Kristi Trost, Board Secretary



Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

6 Isabella Aye ^{2d} husband
to
School District No thirty five

Know all men th these presents
that we Isabella Aye and
George Aye wife ^{2d} husband
of Douglas County ^{2d} State

of Nebraska in consideration of the sum of ten dollars
in hand paid by School District No thirty five (35) of
Douglas County and State of Nebraska do hereby sell ^{2d}
County unto the said School District No (35) thirty five the
following described premises situated in the County of Douglas
and State of Nebraska to wit:

One Acre of Land and to be described as follows to wit:
Commencing at a point twenty feet west of the south
east corner of the east half of the south west quarter of
section (8) eight township no (16) sixteen of Range 10 East
and running thence north along the east line of said East
half the S ¹/₄ a distance of (16) sixteen rods thence West
(10) ¹⁰ Rods thence south (16) sixteen Rods thence East ten (10)
Rods to place of beginning.

And we hereby Covenant unto said School District No
thirty five that we hold said premises by good and
perfect title that we have good right and lawful authority
to sell and convey the same that they are not ^{2d} (not)
clear of all liens and incumbrances. And we covenant
to warrant and defend the said premises against the lawful
claims of all persons whomsoever.

And the said Isabella Aye hereby relinquishes her right of
dower in and to the above described premises.

Signed this thirtieth day of September A.D. 1884
In presence of } Isabella Aye
G. A. Bryant } George Aye

State of Nebraska }
Douglas County } On this thirtieth day of September A.D.
1884 before me George A Bryant within
and for said County personally came
Isabella Aye ^{2d} George Aye wife and husband personally
to me known to be the identical persons whose names are
affixed to the above instrument as grantors and severally
acknowledged the execution of the same to be their voluntary
act and deed for the purposes therein expressed to deed
to School District No thirty five of Douglas Co. Neb
In Witness Whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name ^{2d}

affixed my official seal at my office on the date last
above written.

G. H. Bryant
Notary Public

G. H. Bryant
Notary seal
Douglas County
Nebraska

Entered in numerical Index }
and recorded August 14th A.D. } O. P. Needham
1886 at 9²⁰ o'clock A.M. } County Clerk

7 Robert D. Garlich }
to } Know all men by these presents
Frank B. Johnson } that I have made constituted and
appointed and by these presents do
make constitute and appoint Frank
B. Johnson as true and lawful attorney for me and in my
name place and stead to release and discharge mortgages
of real estate given to Robert D. Garlich in the State of
Nebraska

Giving and granting unto the said attorney my full power
and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing
whatsoever requisite and necessary to be done in and about the
premises as fully to all intents and purposes as he might
or could do if personally present with full power of
substitution and revocation hereby ratifying and confirming
all that the said attorney or my substitute shall lawfully
do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and
seal the 9th day of August in the year one thousand
eight hundred and eighty six.

Sealed and Delivered

Robert D. Garlich

In presence of
Francello G. Jellens

State of Rhode Island }
County of Providence } Be it known that on the ninth
day of August Anno Domini One
Thousand eight hundred and eighty
six before me Francello G. Jellens a Notary Public in and
for the State aforesaid duly commissioned and sworn
dwelling in Woonsocket in said County and State personally
appeared Robert D. Garlich to me personally known to be

AGENDA

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action with regard to possible approval and authorization to sell and transfer an approximately 1 acre tract of real estate generally near 25808 Bennington Road and located in Section 8, Township 16 North, Range 10 East of the 6th P.M., Douglas County, Nebraska.

MOTION

MOTION by _____ that the Board of Education of this School District approves the sale and quitclaim transfer to Rawhide Creek Reserve, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company ("Buyer"), of the approximately 1.0 acres of real property originally acquired by School District No. 35, predecessor in interest to this School District, generally near 25808 Bennington Road and generally located in Section 8, Township 16 North, Range 10 East of the 6th P.M., Douglas County, Nebraska, the purchase price payable by the Buyer, and approving any recommended or necessary real estate purchase, sale and transfer documents for the sale and quitclaim transfer of such real property to the Buyer, and further delegates authority to the Board President or Superintendent of Schools to negotiate any sale and quitclaim transfer documents as determined in the best interest of the School District, and to sign, execute and deliver such finally negotiated documents and to cause to be delivered a quitclaim deed and other closing documents to the Buyer, all on behalf of the School District.

Board member _____ seconded the MOTION. After discussion and on roll call vote, the following Board members voted in favor of passage and adoption of the above Motion and Resolution:

_____.

The following Board members voted against the same: _____.

The following Board members were absent or not voting: _____.

The above Motion having been consented to by a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority of the members of the School Board of this School District, was declared as passed and adopted by the Board President at a duly held and lawfully convened meeting in full compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

DATED this 9th day of February, 2026.

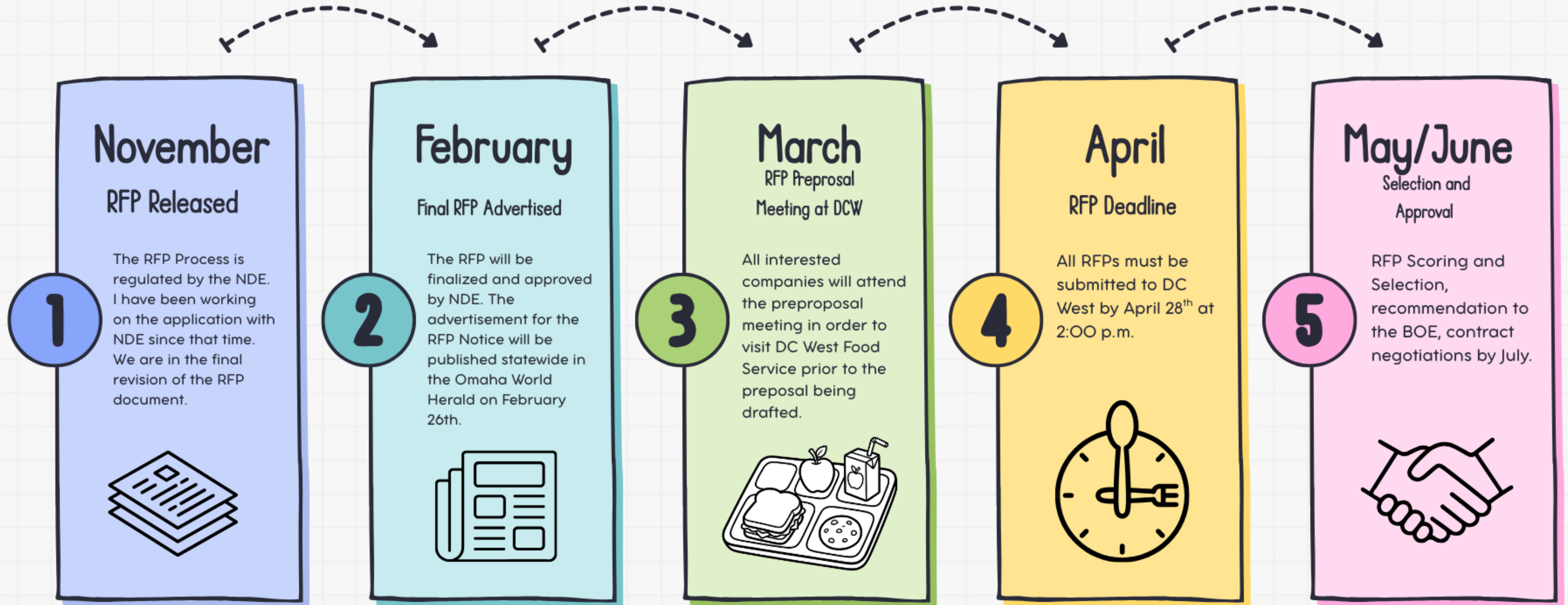
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 28-0015, A/K/A DC WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BY: _____
President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

Secretary

TIMELINE



Dear Dr. Melissa Poloncic and Members of the School Board of Education,

I am writing to formally resign from my teaching position at Douglas County West Community Schools.

This is a very difficult letter for me to write because DC West has meant so much to me. I have truly loved my time in this district and will deeply miss the students, staff, and community that have made each day so rewarding. The relationships I have built here and the support I have received have made DC West feel like home.

I am especially grateful for the opportunities I have had not only in the classroom, but also coaching volleyball and track. Being able to work with students in those settings has been an incredibly meaningful part of my experience, and I will always cherish the memories and growth we shared together.

After my husband and I welcomed our first child last July, we felt a strong calling to return home to small-town Nebraska to be closer to our families. While this decision is right for our growing family, it comes with very mixed emotions as I say goodbye to a place that has been such an important part of my life and career.

Thank you for your leadership and for making my time at DC West such a positive, fulfilling, and memorable experience. I will always look back on my years here with great appreciation and gratitude.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs. Amber Axline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Amber Axline