Dawson-Boyd Independent School District No. 378

Regular October Board Meeting

October 12, 2026

The regular October meeting of the Board of Education was held on October 12, 2026, in the Dawson-Boyd board room. Members present were Zollner, Lynch, Nelson, Marotzke and Kelly as well as administrative staff. Schindler and Jurgenson were absent as well as Principals Stotesbery and Hiedeman. Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were no public comments. Superintendent Ward led a moment of silence in recognition of the losses experienced throughout the community over the weekend. The agenda was amended for approval and was adopted (Marotzke/Nelson).

Regular claims and accounts totaling $425,927.30, $510.00 for student activities, and $11,923.80 for the building project were approved as presented. The Board reviewed electronic transfers and state tax payments made in September. Minutes from the September 14, 2026 Regular Board meeting were approved (Zollner/Nelson).

RESOLUTION #R1-103 - NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DAWSON-BOYD SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DAWSON, MINNESOTA, that the gift of $250.00 from the Celtic Insurance-Carli Bothun, be accepted by the district. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the gift will be used to offer 250 free bags of popcorn at the 9/18/2026 Homecoming Football game. Members voting in favor of the resolution were Marotzke, Lynch, Nelson, Zollner and Kelly. There were no dissenting or abstaining votes. RESOLUTION #R1-103A - NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DAWSON-BOYD SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DAWSON, MINNESOTA, that the gift of $500, from the Dawson Area Men's Bible Study Group, be accepted by the district. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the gift will be used to offer $500 worth of beverages at the 9/18/2026 Homecoming Football game in the concessions stand. Members voting in favor of the resolution were Marotzke, Lynch, Nelson, Zollner and Kelly. There were no dissenting or abstaining votes. RESOLUTION #R1-103B - NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DAWSON-BOYD SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DAWSON, MINNESOTA, that the gift of a demo car (value of $250) from Shane Buer, be accepted by the district. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the gift will be used by the FFA students as a smash car fundraiser during the Homecoming Football game. Members voting in favor of the resolution were Marotzke, Lynch, Nelson, Zollner and Kelly. There were no dissenting or abstaining votes. RESOLUTION #R1-103C - NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DAWSON-BOYD SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DAWSON, MINNESOTA, that the gift of $2,000.00 from Kevin & Kim Lindblad, be accepted by the district. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the gift will be used for food for the Backpack for Jacks program. Members voting in favor of the resolution were Marotzke, Lynch, Nelson, Zollner and Kelly. There were no dissenting or abstaining votes.

In staffing matters, the board approved the resignation of Samuel Roth, food service, effective 10/9/2026.

In information items, Dan Hovland, from MRVED presented the results of the community survey. The results indicated that the district has strong safety and security within the building and that the message “Small School, Big Opportunities” resonates well with the community. Areas of tension identified in the survey included post-graduation preparedness, academic rigor, and communication between the school and community. The district and school board will review the data and determine appropriate next steps. A district achievement report was also presented and reviewed. The data showed that district assessment scores are increasing and exceeding statewide averages. The district will continue working to improve student achievement and establish new goals for continued growth. Two public data requests were also reported. For board member reports, Kelly provided an update on the superintendent evaluation conducted following the previous month’s meeting. She expressed her appreciation for Superintendent Holly Ward and thanked her for her continued commitment to the district. Next, Kleven provided her report as Director of Activities, Transportation, and Community Education Coordinator. She shared that youth sports through Community Education are underway, the leased bus is being returned, and a new bus is currently being lettered. She provided insight on the district’s application for an MSHSL grant, including Forms A and B, which were brought forward for board approval. She also provided an update on girls' basketball, noting that participation numbers may not be sufficient to support all teams. Additionally, Knowledge Bowl is seeking a coach. There were no principal reports. During the Superintendent report, Ward reported that community planning efforts are underway. Referendum postcards have been created and will be mailed to the community. She also shared that an Ag Reality Fair is in the planning stages.

In action items, the Truth in Taxation meeting date and time was set for December 14, 2026, at 6:00pm (Marotzke/Zollner). The resolution for district donations was approved (Marotzke/Zollner). Approval was granted for the Blackjacks Childcare bake sale at the vendor fair and Project Respect’s Blackjacks spirit sale during conferences (Lynch/Marotzke). The Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) PSEO contract was approved (Zollner/Lynch). The board discussed the Youth Skills Training Grant Program. The board and district are exploring options to determine how the available funds can be allocated most effectively. No action was taken on this item. The strategic plan recommendation was approved, with revisions to be made to the vision statement (Marotzke/Zollner). The State Accountability Assessment Report was approved (Marotzke/Zollner). The draft agreement between the City of Dawson, Dawson-Boyd Public School, Dawson-Boyd Baseball Association and Gnomegrown Softball Association for the sports fields well was approved (Marotzke/Zollner). Lastly, Forms A and B, referenced by Kleven in her report regarding the grant, were approved (Zollner/Lynch).

With no other matters, Chair Kelly adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm (Marotzke/Zollner).

Clint Schindler, School Board Clerk