Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2026 7:00 PM
Central Office Board Room
401 South Pine Street
Valley, NE 68064-0378

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Communications and Correspondence** **2**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Administrative Reports** **4**
   - 4.1. Superintendent's Report 30
   - 4.2. Financial Report 32
5. **Consent Agenda**
   - 5.1. Approve Minutes 39
   - 5.2. Approve Claims for Payment
   - 5.3. Approve Financial Report
   - 5.4. Approve Classified Staff
6. **New Business**
   - 6.1. High School Continuous Improvement Presentation
   - 6.2. 2026-2027 School Year Capacity Resolution 44
   - 6.3. Approve Representative for the Board of Nebraska Educational Building Association (NEBA) 46
   - 6.4. Approve the Resignations (Retirements) of Certificated Staff Members 47
   - 6.5. Authorize the Superintendent to Sell, Recycle, or Dispose of Materials
7. **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

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

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Music Curriculum Disposal

The 6–12 music department is seeking approval to dispose of outdated and no-longer-used print music that is no longer aligned to the current curriculum or performance needs. These materials have been reviewed by staff, removed from active inventory, and identified as obsolete instructional resources in accordance with district procedures for surplus materials. With the Board's approval, the department will follow established surplus and recycling processes.

Library Catalog System

We have made the decision to transition to Follett Destiny for our library catalog system, starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Adopting a modern catalog platform will streamline procedures for our teacher-librarians and enhance the student checkout experience. A key advantage of Destiny is its capability to provide families with timely, automated communication regarding the resources their children borrow.

Secondary College & Career Readiness Skills Pilot

7th- and 9th-grade students have now completed their self-reflections and participated in one-on-one data conferences with their teachers as part of the College & Career Readiness Skills Pilot. Both teachers and students have indicated that the process was highly valuable for increasing self-awareness, clarifying expectations, and identifying concrete next steps for growth. The same reflection and conference structure will be implemented again at the end of the unit to monitor progress and continue supporting students' development of key academic behaviors. Data will be shared with the Bard at the end of the pilot.

High School ELA Course Trajectory

High School ELA teachers, building administration, the school counselor, and district directors recently collaborated to identify key student performance data points to ensure all students are placed in the appropriate grade-level ELA course and, when needed, an additional support class. This support class is designed to provide a "double dose" of instruction focused on grade-level standards so that students who require extra help receive targeted, timely support. This work represents a strategic and proactive step toward strengthening literacy outcomes and aligning course placement with student needs in a thoughtful, data-informed manner.

ASSESSMENT

PreACT and ACT: Testing Format and Date Change
Due to recent unforeseen technology challenges, we are making adjustments to our upcoming ACT and PreACT testing schedule. Both assessments will now be administered on Tuesday, April 7 and will be given in paper format. This change ensures the smoothest possible testing experience for our students.

Early Literacy Screener Chang: From FastBridge to DIBELS in 27-28
The Nebraska Commissioner of Education has announced the selection of a state-required early literacy screener, and the state committee has chosen DIBELS as the official tool. As a result, we will no longer administer FastBridge, and students in Grades K–3 will be required to take DIBELS. As a district, we will also determine whether students in Grades 2–3 will continue to take MAP in addition to this new screener.

Because this decision is being communicated so late in the school year, we will delay implementation until the 2027–2028 school year. This timeline will allow us to provide thorough staff training, develop a thoughtful implementation plan, take advantage of any resources the state may provide, and clarify whether the screener will be funded at the state or district level. For the 2026–2027 school year, we will continue with the same assessment plan we followed this year.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

President's Day District Professional Learning Day
On February 16, during the district Professional Learning Day, ELA teachers engaged in focused work aligned to the DC West Philosophy of ELA Instruction. They reflected on how this philosophy shows up in their daily instructional practices and considered ways to strengthen that alignment. Teachers examined the current ELA landscape to develop a shared understanding of program strengths, areas of need, and priorities moving forward. They also identified key skills and concepts by engaging with relevant standards and guidelines, and deepened their understanding of the DC West Curriculum Framework components and how these elements are designed to support high-quality teaching and learning in their classrooms.

Special Education staff participated in a morning SPED training. All other staff members used the day to complete required curriculum updates, including revising the district curriculum log and shared-drive curriculum maps, and engaging in collaborative PLC work and advancing their individual professional goals.

Family & Community Partnership

Legislative Advocacy

On February 19, Mrs. Nicki Pechous and I met with Nebraska Senators Wordekemper and Sorrentino as part of the NASES Legislative Conference. During these conversations, I specifically shared concerns regarding Legislative Bill 1050. While I fully support the intent of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act to ensure that every child is a proficient reader, we urged reconsideration of provisions that mandate the retention of third-grade students based on a "persistent reading deficiency.

Rather than mandatory retention, I advocated for the expansion of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and other evidence-based practices already referenced in LB1050. Research shows that targeted intensive tutoring, expanded learning time, and high-quality preschool programs are more effective and less costly options for supporting all students in their development of literacy skills.

I urged the Nebraska Legislature to amend LB1050 to allow local school districts and parents to make promotion decisions based on a comprehensive view of the child's needs, rather than a mandatory retention gate. Asking for us to focus our resources on the science of reading and intensive remediation rather than a policy that research suggests will lead to higher dropout rates and long-term academic stagnation.

Gretna Public Schools Accreditation Team

On March 3-5, I served on the Gretna Public Schools External Visit Team as part of their state accreditation process. This work involved reviewing evidence of district practices, engaging in school and classroom visits, and collaborating with Gretna leaders to provide feedback aligned to Nebraska's accreditation expectations. Participating on this team is an opportunity to share my leadership and expertise on behalf of DC West, just as fellow Nebraska educational leaders have done for our district during our own external visits. This experience also brings back valuable insights and perspectives to inform our ongoing improvement efforts.

Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan Convening

On March 3, a team of district administrators, elementary principals, and our teacher leadership representative, Kelsy Nabity, attended the annual Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan Convening at The Salvation Army Kroc Center. The event featured family engagement expert Ernesto Mejia, updates on the Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan, and a moderated panel discussion with local school and district representatives. The team returned inspired and energized to continue advancing our work in early childhood education.

DC WEST
Community Schools

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Board Report
Jim Knott –High School Principal
Douglas County West High School
March 9, 2026

We are almost halfway through March and that means we are halfway through the second semester. The following are some important upcoming dates at the high school.

*March 9 & 11 - High School Parent-Teacher Conferences (3:45-7:45)
*March 12-14 – Class C-1 Boys State Basketball Tournament – GO FALCONS!
*March 13-22 – Spring Break
*April 7 – State Junior NeSA-ACT, Freshman/Sophomore PreACT, Seniors Off
*April 11 – Junior/Senior Prom, Countryside Venue 7:00-10:00
*April 27– Fine Arts Awards Concert 6:30
*April 29 – Leadership Dinner / NHS 6:30
*May 1 – Senior Scholarship Breakfast 7:00AM
*May 4 & 5 – Senior Final Exams
*May 6 – Senior Last Day / Graduation Practice
*May 10 – Graduation 2:00
*May 19, 20, & 21– Final Exams / Student Last Days (Tentative Due to Snow Days)

Due to recent technology issues, the Junior NeSA-ACT & 9-10 PreACT will be taken on paper rather than on school iPads. The testing date has also been moved from April 1st to April 7th to fit the required paper testing date. Freshmen and sophomores will be taking the PreACT while juniors will be taking the State NeSA-ACT test. Seniors will not have school on April 7th. The DC West NeSA-ACT composite score average last year was 19.5 while the state average was 18.2. In January and February, all juniors met individually with their math, science, and ELA teachers to set personal ACT goals for each subject area of the test. Five, two-hour sessions of John Baylor ACT test prep were also offered in January and February to help students prepare. Juniors will receive the results of the test at the beginning of May.

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower



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

We are currently finishing up the Winter Season of Athletics and Activities with a lot of celebrations and things to be proud of as well as excited to be kicking off our Spring Season.

Winning is hard……So, there are some accomplishments that I am really proud of that just don't happen without a lot of hard work, commitment, preparation, and to be honest a little bit of luck at times. Some highlights in the winter are:

- *HS Speech-3 Individual NCC Champions*
- *MS Wrestling-NCC Champions*
- *HS Wrestling-3 Individual District Champions, 4 Class B State Qualifiers, and 2 State Placers*
- *HS Boys Basketball-NCC Regular Season Co-Champions, NCC Tournament Runner-ups, Subdistrict Champions, District Champions, and Class C-1 State Qualifier.*
- *HS Competitive Cheer-Class C-1 State Game Day 3rd Place*
- *HS Girls Basketball Subdistrict Runner-Ups*

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Our **HS Competitive Cheer Team** finished their season in 3rd place in their Class C-1 Game Day performance at State in Grand Island. We are extremely proud of their efforts as they took another step forward in year two of their program. The Cheer Coaches are Alyssa Lindahl, Molly Dembinski, and Megan Hardisty.

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DC West Wrestling had four Class B State Qualifiers in Juniors, Josue Lopez (120), Hudson Harlow (132), Brayton Holding (150), and hunter Holding (157). Hudson Harlow finished in 4th place and Josue Lopez finished in 5th place. It was the most exciting season to date for the Falcons as they continue to raise the bar for both team and individual goals in their program. The Coaches are Ryan Braun, Cole Hothan, JD Gagner, Jake Marshall, Pat Wilson, and Charlie Wood.

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Our **HS Girls Basketball** Team finished their season on a high note with a close loss in the Subdistrict Finals vs Wahoo. They were (10-15) on the season and playing some of their basketball of the year when it counted the most. We wish the very best to our three seniors, Jadie Vieth, Bella Zach, and Addie Strong for their years of commitment to our program. The team is coached by Russ Ninemire, Stan Shaw, and Noah Buchholtz.

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The **HS Boys Basketball** Team is currently (21-6) on the season and just earned their 3rd consecutive trip to the Class C-1 State Tournament in Lincoln as District Champions vs Winnebago 61-36. They are currently rated the NSAA #4 team in the state and will face #5 Grand Island Central Catholic in the opening round of the tournament on Thursday, March 12th at 10:45am. We also recently celebrated our 8 seniors on their senior night for all of their time and commitment to our program over the years. We're looking to make some noise at State and we hope you are able to show up and support us. The team is coached by Chip Daehling, Ben Knobbe, Erik Hanke, Cam Wiese, Vance Janssen, and Alex Knobbe.

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Our **HS Speech Team** most recently finished in 4th place overall as a team in the NCC at Raymond Central. There were three Nebraska Capitol Conference Champions Jaxon Swierczek (DI), Tess Henrichs (Extemporaneous), and Nylee Hayner/Joslyn Giles (Duet). The speech team has a lot of talent this year and we are excited for their opportunities as they near districts and potentially state.

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Our **Middle School Wrestling Team** just earned a NCC Championship in Logan View, which is the first time in program history. We have 30 wrestlers on this year's team of both boys and girls that have created some competition and excitement for our program, which is fantastic. The team is coached by Jacob Gagner, Jake Marshall, and Ady Marshall.

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Our **High School Band** most recently played in one of our subdistrict basketball games and did a fantastic job. We love it when our Band is in attendance as it makes it such and electric Falcon Game Environment. The Band is led by Director's Liz Guinn and Morgan Thompson.

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Our **HS Dance Team** most recently performed at our final home basketball game. They are a team of four members that have recently been battling some injuries with already small numbers. We were able to celebrate our two seniors, Molly Moehling and Lillian Kosiske at our final home game for their senior night. We appreciate all of their efforts with us over the years and we wish them the very best.

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SALT in the month of February featured three Midland University Men's Basketball (Brody Travis, Butch Lordeus, and Anthony Simon) that spoke with our students on working hard, being a great teammate, and playing your role to the best of your ability. We continue to take positive steps towards our goal of player led teams.

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Our **MS/HS Choir's** concert performance was a great event and the students and staff made it a beautiful night for all families in attendance!

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Our **Student Section** has been awesome this season!

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



DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns

Happy Retirement Coach Ninemire,

While the record books will focus on the wins and multiple state championships, and his Hall of Fame inductions. I would like to recognize Russ Ninemire for the impact he has made beyond the scoreboard. Since joining DC West, Russ has brought a team culture to our staff and a can do mindset to our halls. Whether he is in the gym, teaching Physical Education/Health, or instructing Driver's Education, his dedication to the "real world" success of our students is evident.

As Russ himself noted after a record-breaking win, the greatest part of his career has been the "kids and coaches" he has been blessed to work with. We at DC West feel equally blessed to have a professional of his caliber leading our student-athletes.

Enjoy your retirement coach

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey Kerns



DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns

Spring NSCAS Testing Schedule & Details

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move into the spring semester, we want to share the upcoming NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) testing schedule. These assessments provide valuable insights into your child's academic progress and help us better support their learning journey.

To minimize disruption and maximize student focus, we have coordinated specific "Block Period" testing for ELA and Math.

🗒️ At-A-Glance Schedule
Please mark these dates on your calendar to help ensure your student is present and prepared.

Assessment	Grades	Dates	Testing Window
Science	**8th Grade Only**	**April 8 & 9**	Regular Class Periods
ELA	**6th, 7th, 8th**	**April 14, 15, & 16**	Block 2nd - 3rd Periods
Math	**6th, 7th, 8th**	**April 21 & 23**	Block 2nd - 3rd Periods

- **Make-Up Window: Any students who miss their scheduled sessions will complete their assessments the week of April 27th.**

DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns

⚙️ Technology Requirements

All assessments will be completed using school-issued iPads. To ensure a smooth testing experience, we ask for your help with the following:

- Charge Every Night: Please ensure your student's iPad is plugged in and reaches 100% charge before each testing day.
- Bring to School: Students must have their iPads with them every day of the testing window.

🌟 How You Can Help

Standardized testing can sometimes feel overwhelming. You can help your student feel "test-ready" by:

- Ensuring they get a full night's sleep (8–10 hours).
- Providing a breakfast to maintain energy levels through the block periods.
- Encouraging a positive mindset, remind them that this is simply a chance to show what they know!

We appreciate your partnership in making this a successful testing experience for our students.

Best regards,
Dr. Jeffrey Kerns

DC WEST
Community Schools

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Board Report
March 9th, 2026

Shawna Younghans- Administrative Facilitator

High School Attendance Improvement

The third quarter is underway, and progress continues on the High School Attendance Improvement Plan. The first intervention has been implemented, and early results show measurable growth in student attendance within the first month.

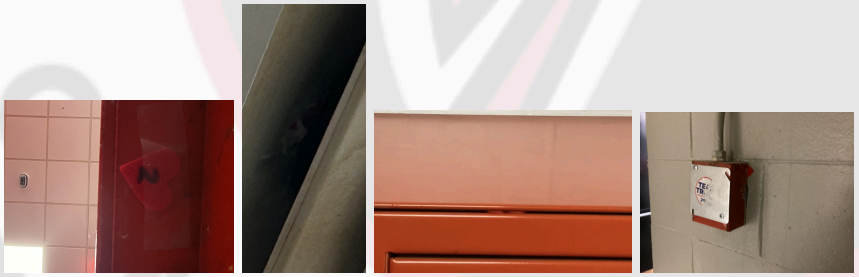
The second stage of the intervention will launch shortly, with a continued focus on building meaningful relationships with students. As part of this effort, the district will purchase personalized magnets and DC West branded items to distribute to students, reinforcing a sense of belonging and school connectedness.

School Culture: "Stealin' Hearts" Hide & Seek

High school staff and students continued strengthening school culture through the "Stealin' Hearts" hide-and-seek activity, led by the senior class. Seniors were responsible for strategically hiding hearts throughout common areas of the building — a fun exercise that also encouraged critical thinking and planning.

The engagement level was high, with several students hiding their hearts so effectively that they remained undiscovered until early March, requiring hints before being located. The activity has had a positive impact on culture for both students and staff alike.

Can you spot where the last four hearts were hidden?



Mrs. Shawna Younghans

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March 2026 Special Education Report

Staffing Updates

A legend is leaving us! Cindy Hayden, resident historian and friend and neighbor to everyone she meets, has announced her retirement after 35 years in Valley. We have all shed some tears and hugs but know this is the right decision for Cindy, and we wish her all the best! In Cindy's wake, we were fortunate to have an excellent pool of candidates for the position, and we recommend Kylie Phillips as her replacement. Kylie comes to us from Fremont, and she will graduate from Midland University this spring with degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education. We are excited to welcome Kylie to our team!

Behavior Advantage

In an effort to continue our support for students with significant behavioral challenges, we have subscribed to a service for our school psychologists to utilize to produce comprehensive functional behavioral assessments and behavior intervention plans. The system includes options for staff professional development around behaviors, data collection and graphing systems to better inform our practices, implementation fidelity checklists, and systems to support schoolwide Tier 1 and Tier 2 efforts, such as Check-In/Check-Out to help build strong staff-student relationships and implement evidence-based practices to support behavior. We are excited to have this resource available to us!

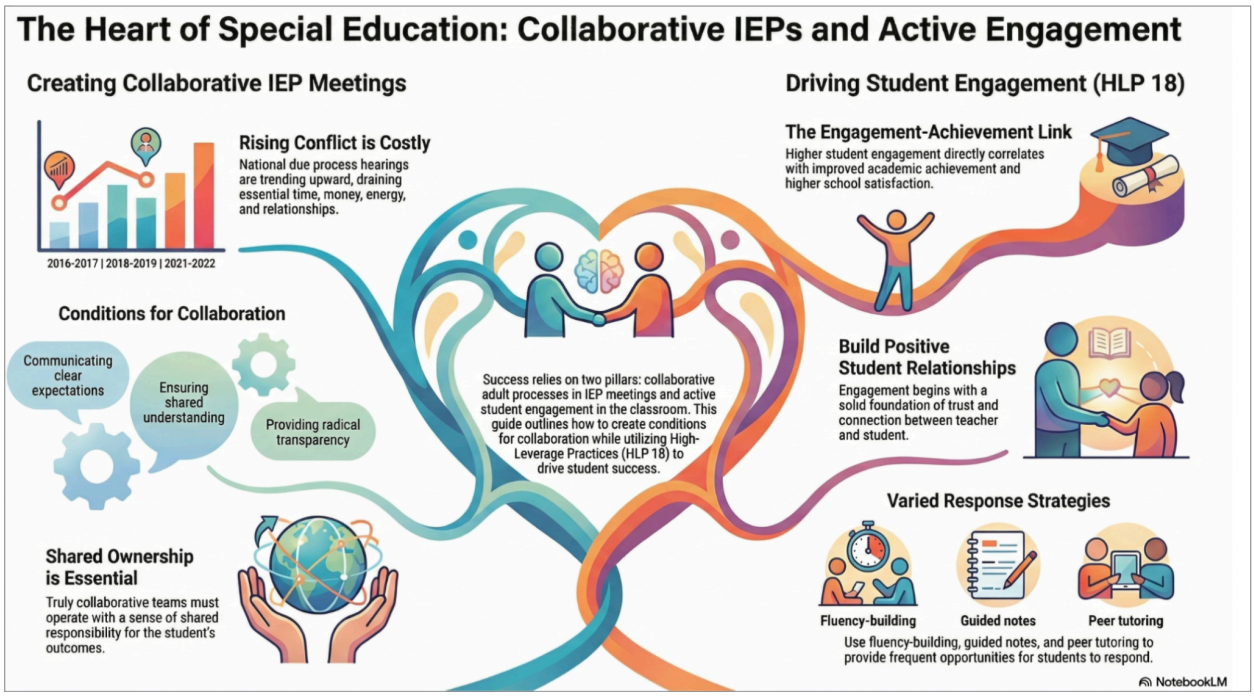
Special Education Information Night

Linsey Bellinger and I are excited to announce our first ever "Special Education Information Night." During Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 11, any and all parents are welcome to attend informational sessions from Nebraska VR and Nebraska DHHS Office of Developmental Disabilities from 5:30-6:30 in the Board Room. Both agencies will provide information about services offered for students with disabilities as they transition to adulthood as well as how to apply for support. PTSA has graciously offered to provide dinner for families who participate, and NHS volunteers will offer childcare. We hope to be able to provide needed information for many of our families!

Presidents' Day Special Education PD

We had a great morning of professional learning for all of our district special education staff on February 16. Topics discussed are represented in the graphic organizer below and included specially designed instruction, active student engagement strategies, and creating conditions for collaborative IEP meetings with high levels of parent involvement.

Thank you for continuing to support the investment in professional development for our teachers!



District Safety Team and Crisis Response Team Annual Meetings

Our District Safety Team and Crisis Response Teams both held their annual meetings over the past month. The District Safety Team met with representatives from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Valley PD, and Valley Fire. We reviewed our NDE Rule 10 Compliance, our Emergency Operations Plan, Standard Reunification Plan procedures, Inter-agency Coordination and Collaboration, Policies and Procedures, and Training Needs. We discussed scheduling summer work time to work through our Reunification plans, planning time for training new staff on safety protocols as they are hired, and potentially scheduling a reunification drill in conjunction with local fire and police sometime next year.

NASES Legislative Conference

Dr. Marten and I were able to attend the NASES Legislative Conference in Lincoln last month and had the opportunity to visit with Senators Wordekemper and Sorrentino about our special education programming, work on literacy goals, and legislative bills impacting schools. We appreciated the opportunity to share our story with our elected officials.

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Continuous Improvement and State Reporting

This month we are working on updating our Special Education Policies and Procedures to submit to the state at the end of the month. We are also working on our Targeted Improvement Plan, Maintenance of Effort reporting, and are awaiting the results of our Focused Monitoring file review. It's a busy time of year!

Thank you for your continued support of our staff, students, and programming! We appreciate it! Have a great month!

Nicki Pechous, Ed.S.
Director of Special Education

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

March 4, 2026

Board Report

Elementary School (Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem)

DC West Community Schools

Contents:

1. Falcon CAFE (PDF attached)
    - Upcoming Events: Falcon Family Room Events, Conferences, No School & Spring Break, Spirit Days, Drumming Residency
    - Upcoming Spirit Days
    - Drumming Residency
    - Kindergarten Round up
    - Upcoming Testing (Fastbridge & NSCAS)

PDF Falcon Cafe 227.pdf

2. March Newsletter

[March Elementary Newsletter]

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DC WEST Community Schools
Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Superintendent's Report
March 9, 2026

Negotiations Committee
I would like to meet with the negotiations committee prior to the April Board meeting to complete classified and administrative staff negotiations for the 2026-2027 school year. Committee members are Jim Tomanek, Kelly Hinrichs, and Jamie Jorgensen.

Master Planning
As we begin working with BCDM on our Master Planning, they have outlined the following steps in the process:
Step 1: Visioning
Step 2: High Level Optimization Study/Analysis
Step 3: Cursory Options
Step 4: Draft Initial Master Plan
Step 5: Final Master Plan
Step 6: Communication Plan
We will begin with some internal intro meetings in March to determine the process and engagement. If the Board has specific questions or input at any time, please contact me so we can address your goals and vision for the process.

Food Service Management Process Update
The request for proposals notification has gone out through a publication in the Omaha World Herald as well as been emailed directly to Food Service Management Companies who work in the State of Nebraska. To date, we have received eight companies who have expressed interest in additional information about the RFP. I met with our entire food service staff explaining the process to them and to dialogue about questions they had. We will be providing an on-site pre-proposal conference for interested companies at DC West on Monday, March 23rd during our lunch periods.

DCWYSO Summer Field Use
I recently met with the leadership of DCWYSO on their needs for summer field use at the fourplex on property. We were able to agree on a payment for field use and maintenance that will cover the expense of routine maintenance needed for the fields for the upcoming season of youth baseball and softball. I am very appreciative of the collaboration we have successfully had over the past year with our changes in fee arrangements while supporting the development of our Falcon youth programs.

Humanex Engagement Results
We have begun analyzing the data from our most recent Humanex engagement survey results for students, staff, and families. Our administrative team had a debrief and action planning session with consultants, our staff will engage in debrief and action planning sessions in early April, and we will present our findings and plans to the Board at an

upcoming meeting. These surveys continue to identify strengths and opportunities for continuous improvement throughout the district.

Superintendent/Parent Forums
I completed three Superintendent/Parent Forums this school year. The first forum had ten in attendance, the second had four, and the most recent had three. I still plan to host one more forum in the fourth quarter. Next year I am going to offer one forum in the first semester and one the second semester and try to publish the dates more in advance. If the Board has any other suggestions or feedback, please let me know.

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:
District Calendar
District Activities Calendar
April 13~ Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Financial Recap February 2026

	2/1/2026	Receipts	Expenditures	2/28/2026
General Fund	$4,646,224.13	$ 1,129,115.08	$ 1,678,693.42	$4,096,645.79
Depreciation Fund	$1,776,609.49	$ 1,363.28	$ 223.33	$1,777,749.44
Food Service Fund	$66,835.15	$ 63,857.78	$ 72,537.41	$58,155.52
Qualified Capital Fund	$157,241.59	$ 21,147.67	$ 1,968.75	$176,420.51
Bond Fund	$1,639,274.62	$ 70,919.76	$ -	$1,710,194.38
Special Building Fund	$294,476.23	$ 67,062.68	$ 15,000.00	$346,538.91
	$8,580,661.21	**$1,353,466.25**	**$1,768,422.91**	**$8,165,704.55**

General Fund Detail

Expenditures	February	YTD	Budgeted
All Instructional Program	$ 922,176.62	$ 4,237,000.84	$ 8,519,107.00
SPED Instructional Program	$ 237,905.68	$ 1,275,852.13	$ 2,534,928.00
Support Services SPED Related	$ 40,913.08	$ 262,963.87	$ 551,856.00
Support Services Non-SPED Related	$ 42,162.87	$ 271,384.77	$ 522,058.00
Support Instructional	$ 48,729.20	$ 363,349.69	$ 785,282.00
Board of Education	$ 9,425.99	$ 57,046.86	$ 111,624.00
Executive Administration Services	$ 29,383.44	$ 181,204.73	$ 384,046.00
District Legal Services	$ -	$ 6,182.00	$ 40,000.00
Office of the Principal	$ 79,894.95	$ 482,605.99	$ 971,578.00
General Admin - Business Services	$ 27,581.30	$ 138,302.22	$ 390,055.00
Maint & Operation of Building & Sit	$ 152,404.90	$ 914,683.16	$ 1,935,494.00
Vehicle Acquisition & Maint	$ -	$ 5,030.35	$ 9,746.00
Regular Pupil Transportation	$ 23,264.20	$ 341,097.65	$ 658,246.00
SPED Pupil Transportation	$ 6,508.03	$ 75,439.18	$ 172,757.00
Categorical Grant from Coporation	$ 17,987.79	$ 127,268.95	$ 322,001.00
State Categorical Programs	$ 778.44	$ 11,576.64	$ 16,376.00
Federal Programs	$ 39,576.93	$ 208,176.80	$ 412,275.00
Transfer Out	$ -	$ -	
	$ 1,678,693.42	**$ 8,959,165.83**	**$ 18,337,429.00**

Revenues	February	YTD
Personal and Prop Taxes	$ 391,330.90	$ 1,265,981.85
Carline Tax	$ -	$ 1,258.05
Motor Vehicle Taxes	$ 144,485.76	$ 815,442.15
Facility Rental	$ -	$ 1,850.00
Tuition Received from Individuals	$ 20,646.85	$ 64,188.60
Interest	$ 2,407.24	$ 20,902.00
Local License Fees	$ 1,700.00	$ 3,180.00
Grants from Corporations/Private	$ -	$ 40,370.31
Other Local Receipts	$ 100.12	$ 485.31
County Fines and License Fees	$ 2,147.43	$ 13,135.66
ESU Receipts	$ -	$ -
State Aid	$ 269,963.00	$ 1,619,778.00
Special Education Programs	$ 289,572.00	$ 808,591.00
Special Education Transportation	$ -	$ -
Homestead Exemption	$ -	$ -
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle	$ -	$ 5,696.05
High Ability Learners	$ -	$ 9,515.00
Early Childhood Grant	$ -	$ -
State Apportionment	$ -	$ 254,040.29
Other State Receipts	$ -	$ 68,007.00
Prop & Personal Property Tax Credit	$ -	$ (14.51)
Title ESSA Programs	$ -	$ 149,703.00
IDEA Programs	$ -	$ 301,532.00
Medicaid	$ 6,761.78	$ 26,146.50
ESSER II & ESSER III	$ -	$ -
Other Federal Categorical Receipts	$ -	$ -
Sale of Property	$ -	$ 51,421.83
Insurance Adjustment	$ -	$ -
	$ 1,129,115.08	**$ 5,521,210.09**

February 2026 Payroll

Net Payroll	$ 687,878.27
Payroll Taxes (District)	$ 71,899.38
Payroll Withholding (Employees)	$ 169,933.47
Retirement (District)	$ 73,243.39
Retirement Withholding (Employees)	$ 72,518.22

Regular; Beginning Month 02/2026; Processing Month 02/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund Number 05, 12

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
05 704	INTEREST	4,656.60	0.00	126.71	0.00	4,783.31
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	1,707.95	40.00	260.00	0.00	1,927.95
05 704 1005	STAFF LOUNGE	3,660.40	0.00	152.76	0.00	3,813.16
05 704 1007	VALLEY WAY	8,798.64	0.00	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	1,695.00	0.00	0.00	863.56
05 704 1102	ARTS & HUMANITIES	550.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.62
05 704 1104	ATHLETICS HS	6,853.43	5,548.00	7,412.00	0.00	8,717.43
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	393.05	0.00	3,344.30
05 704 1108	CHEER	3,399.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,399.95
05 704 1110	SPRING PLAY	1,226.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,226.81
05 704 1111	BBB TEAM	243.65	0.00	280.40	0.00	524.05
05 704 1112	CONCESSIONS	43,043.86	4,720.08	5,689.04	0.00	44,012.82
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	179.90	0.00	0.00	1,889.51
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	480.00	15.00	0.00	2,558.22
05 704 1118	HIGH SCHOOL	1,313.91	0.00	634.85	0.00	1,948.76
05 704 1119	DC TECH 1:1	7,704.73	3,002.15	80.00	0.00	4,782.58
05 704 1120	GBB TEAM	4,057.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,057.14
05 704 1123	HOSA	2,879.17	720.00	420.00	0.00	2,579.17
05 704 1124	STUCO HS	3,835.07	0.00	328.00	0.00	4,163.07
05 704 1128	NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	1,509.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,509.37
05 704 1131	FOOTBALL TEAM	13,329.08	800.00	666.60	0.00	13,195.68
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	4,086.81	0.00	279.36	0.00	4,366.17
05 704 1136	WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB	655.52	0.00	5.00	0.00	660.52
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	902.80	0.00	1,252.68
05 704 1142	YEARBOOK HS	5,059.43	0.00	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

Regular; Beginning Month 02/2026; Processing Month 02/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund Number 05, 12

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
05 704 1161	SOFTBALL TEAM	8,147.43	0.00	58.00	0.00	8,205.43
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	1,760.00	0.00	0.00	1,668.67
05 704 1198	SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS	598.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	598.12
05 704 1224	STUCO MS	14,948.96	895.65	1,355.54	0.00	15,408.85
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	9,290.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,290.13
05 704 2112	MS CONCESSIONS	2,741.70	304.01	877.77	0.00	3,315.46
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	3,080.81	1,350.00	1,087.00	0.00	2,817.81
05 704 2205	UNIFIED SPORTS	2,399.94	0.00	550.00	0.00	2,949.94
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	3,225.75	837.00	0.00	0.00	2,388.75
05 704 3221	PBIS/FALCOIN	4,685.15	448.21	222.00	0.00	4,458.94
05 704 3222	BATTLE OF THE BOOKS	26.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.65
05 704 3318	ELEMENTARY	9,287.89	2,072.31	500.00	0.00	7,715.58
	Fund Total: 05	291,712.00	24,852.31	22,295.88	0.00	289,155.57

Regular; Beginning Month 02/2026; Processing Month 02/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund Number 05, 12

Fund: 12 STUDENT FEES

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
12 704	STUDENT PARTICIPATION FEE	32,130.07	0.00	105.00	0.00	32,235.07
	Fund Total: 12	32,130.07	0.00	105.00	0.00	32,235.07

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
4N6 FANATICS LLC		200.00
ADVENTURE ENTERPRISES, LLC		1,738.50
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, LLC		2,307.47
APPTEGY, INC		18,242.00
AWARDS UNLIMITED INC		1,660.65
BEHAVIOR ADVANTAGE, LLC		5,000.00
BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS		125.00
CITY OF VALLEY		902.75
CITY WIDE FACILITY SOLUTIONS		6,500.00
DAILY RECORD, THE		848.37
DC WEST FOOD SERVICE		1,440.30
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #3		160.00
EGAN SUPPLY CO		1,084.80
ELKHORN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL		114.00
EZ FLEX LLC		6,000.00
FIBER PLATFORM, LLC		558.62
FIRST STUDENT		36,823.12
HOMETOWN LEASING		2,522.27
JUST FOR KIDS THERAPY INC		5,591.25
LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC		2.56
MATHESON TRI-GAS INC		109.72
MAX I. WALKER		383.20
MENARDS - ELKHORN		185.16
MIDWEST MOVEMENT		170.00
MORRISSEY, RICHARD		350.00
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES		125.00
NE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADM		315.00
ONE SOURCE		84.50
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC		96.00
POWERSCHOOL CORPORATION		7,393.97
SPEECH SQUAD, LLC		17,475.75
STANZEL'S MOW & SNOW LLC		7,483.25
STEMFINITY, LLC		527.93
SULLIVAN, MITCHELL		80.00
TIMECLOCK PLUS, LLC		4,875.00
TRAVIS, JEREMY		20.00
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN		60.00
VALLEY ACE HARDWARE		514.20
VECTOR SOLUTIONS		5,045.94
WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBR, INC		1,593.87
WATER ENGINEERING INC		317.62
WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC		19,777.76
Fund Number 01		158,805.53
Checking Account ID 6	Fund Number 06 NUTRITION FUND	
CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING		14,778.50
CHESTERMAN CO		178.00
HILAND DAIRY		4,379.83
MAX I. WALKER		333.80
ROTELLA'S ITALIAN BAKERY INC		633.99
SYSCO LINCOLN		10,707.20
US FOOD INC		8,923.23
Fund Number 06		39,934.55

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
95 PERCENT GROUP LLC		377.30
ACH BANK FEE		64.75
ADVENTURE ENTERPRISES, LLC		1,552.00
ALDANA, MARCO		80.00
BISHOP NEUMANN HIGH SCHOOL		40.00
BOOKWORM, INC, THE		427.77
BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES INC		138.81
BOYS TOWN		3,000.00
CASEY'S BUSINESS MASTERCARD		319.61
COX BUSINESS		198.04
DC WEST ACTIVITY ACCOUNT		60.00
DIETZE MUSIC HOUSE		32.20
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #2		44,891.34
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #3		558.88
EGAN SUPPLY CO		330.84
ENGINEERED CONTROLS, INC		3,925.00
FAS-BREAK		90.00
FIRST STUDENT		3,533.15
GARAGE DOOR SERVICES INC		560.00
GILES, DARBY		80.00
HEARTLAND PEST CONTROL		260.00
HELM SERVICE		598.00
HUGHES TREE SERVICE		4,798.15
HUMBERT, MARGARET		65.00
HY-VEE INC		80.00
INSTITUTE FOR MULTI-SENSORY EDUCATION		82.95
KERNS, JEFFREY		2,242.73
LOGAN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL		72.00
LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORE		1,195.59
MACKIN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES		61.08
MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO IN		2,996.93
MAGIC WRIGHTER, INC.		222.25
MARKING REFRIGERATION, INC		302.50
MIDWEST MOVEMENT		340.00
MULTI-HEALTH SYSTEMS INC.		220.00
NEBR ASSOCATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS		140.00
NEBR STATE BANDMASTERS ASSOC		107.00
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT		23,750.81
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD		2,799.00
PETTY CASH		360.00
PITNEY BOWES BANK, INC PURCHASE POWER		62.37
PITNEY BOWES, INC		459.95
PRAIRIE MECHANICAL CORP		3,705.00
PRIME HOME DEVELOPMENTAL		2,494.80
READ NATURALLY INC		108.90
RIVERSIDE INSIGHT		2,203.60
SCHOOL SPECIALTY INC		53.28
SIX SHIFTS, LLC, THE		483.00
SULLIVAN, MITCHELL		80.00
THUNDERBIRDS FORENSICS BOOSTER CLUB		102.00
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY		125.00
USBANK		1,003.22
VERIZON		105.14
ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION, INC.		9.34
ZTRIP - WHC NE, LLC		1,721.02

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Fund Number 01		113,670.30
Checking Account ID 9	Fund Number 09 QCPUF	
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY		1,968.75
Fund Number 09		1,968.75

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, February 9, 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, February 9, 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 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 6:00 PM.

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

Present: 4, Absent: 2.

Kelly Hinrichs:	Present 6:04pm
Cole Groteluschen:	Present 6:03pm

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. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jamie Jorgensen.
Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

3. New Business
3.1. Master Planning Presentation from BCDM Architects 6:00 – 6:30pm
3.2. Master Planning Presentation from APMA 6:40 – 7:10pm
The Board conducted a work session from 6:00 PM to 7:10 PM focused on the district's long-term master planning. During the presentations, BCDM and APMA shared their qualifications and vision for serving as the district's architect moving forward. Each firm provided a detailed overview of their approach to assessing current facilities, planning for future growth, and designing educational spaces. Throughout the presentations,

the Board asked questions and discussed how each firm's planning process would address the district's future needs.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 7:14pm 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

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

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

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Attendance Taken at 7:15 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 were accepted at this time. The Board received a Thank You note from the family of Cheryl Eckerman.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Luke Janke 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 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

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
Izabella Bryson- Exit Preschool Para 2/2/2026
Tara Brokaw- Hire Elementary Para 01/20/2026
Mia Monaghan - Hire Preschool Para 02/02/2026
Riley Alexander - Hire Elementary Para 02/04/2026
Norma Wallace - Hire Food Service 02/04/2026

6. Old Business

6.1. Review, Discuss, and Consider Architectural Master Planning Proposals
The Board reviewed, discussed, and considered the architectural master planning proposals submitted by BCDM and APMA, which were previously presented during the special meeting. Discussion focused on comparing the respective price points, community engagement plans and previous work with BCDM.

Motion to authorize the Superintendent to move forward with BCDM in the professional services agreement process. Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Jim Tomanek.
Elizabeth Mayer: Nay, Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 1

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

The Board reviewed an update regarding a specific parcel of land discovered to be under the legal ownership of DC West Community Schools. Following a contact from a patron's legal counsel, it was determined that an 1884 deed—which was previously overlooked and is not reflected in the Douglas County GIS—serves as the definitive record of ownership. The District's claim to the land is established through a succession of mergers beginning in 1966 with the merger of District 35 into District 23, followed by the 2001 merger of District 23 into Valley District 33, and concluding with the 2005 merger of Valley and Waterloo to form the current DC West District 15. Because the property of a merged district legally vests in the surviving entity, DC West is the confirmed owner of the parcel. Rawhide/Bevington, the owner of all surrounding ground, has requested that the District convey the parcel to them. Legal counsel has advised that a direct conveyance is not permissible, as the Nebraska Department of Education maintains that school districts may not give property away. Consequently, the land must be transferred through a formal sale. A motion was presented to authorize the Superintendent and the Board President to negotiate the terms of this sale and execute the necessary quitclaim transfer documents to finalize the transaction.

Motion 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 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

7.2. Informational Update of the Food Service Management Company RFP Process and Timeline
Dr. Poloncic informed the Board about the possibility of hiring a Food Service Management Company for the upcoming school year and shared the initial RFP process and timeline. The Board requested that any potential selection prioritize staff retention and keeping lunch prices steady. Dr. Poloncic noted that a parallel job posting for Food Service Director will be run alongside the RFP process until a final decision is made on the best path forward.

7.3. Informational Update of a Proposed House Build Collaborative
Dr. Poloncic provided information regarding a proposed house-building project involving a partnership between DC West, The Builder Foundation, and a local homeowner. It was noted that MOBA (Metropolitan Omaha Builders Association) has a foundation dedicated to bridging construction work within schools, and this project presents an opportunity for the district to be part of their next build. 02/18

7.4. DC West Middle School Continuous Improvement Presentation
Dr. Kerns presented on Continuous Improvement at DC West Middle School.

7.5. Resignation of Certificated Staff
Amber Axline is resigning her fifth grade teaching position as she and her family are moving.
Motion to approve the resignation of Amber Axline, 5th grade teacher, at the end of the 2025-2026 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

8. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting @8pm Passed with a motion by Jim Tomanek 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

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the School Board is required by law to adopt by resolution policies and specific standards for acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applications by October 15th for the following school year; and,

WHEREAS, the School Board has received and reviewed evidence and information submitted by the administration and other sources and made determinations thereon with respect to standards for acceptance or rejection and with respect to the capacity of this school district to accept option enrollment students based upon available staff, available facilities, projected enrollment, and availability of special education programs for the following school year; and,

WHEREAS, the School Board has determined that the educational interests of this school district would be best served by adoption of the resolutions, and the policies and specific standards herein contained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Option Enrollment Policy presented to the School Board as Policy 5006, and Appendix "1" to such Policy 5006, should be and the same are hereby adopted, and any previous policy or interpretation or application of the option enrollment program which is or has been inconsistent with the Policy 5006, and Appendix "1" to such Policy 5006, are repealed effective on the date of the passage of this resolution,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all paragraphs, subparagraphs, and portions of words of this Resolution, of Policy 5006, and Appendix "1" to such Policy 5006 are severable and that in the event any of the same are determined to be invalid for any reason, such determination shall not affect the validity of any of the remainder of the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that policies and specific standards for acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applications should be and are hereby adopted, for applications filed after adoption of this resolution, and are hereinafter set forth:

The above Resolution, having been read in its entirety, member _____ moved for its passage and adoption, member _____ seconded the same. After discussion and on roll call vote, the following members voted in favor of passage and adoption of the above Resolution: _____.
The following members voted against the same: _____.
The following members were absent or not voting: _____.
The Resolution having been consented to and approved by a majority of the members of the School Board, was declared as passed and adopted by the President at a duly held and lawfully convened meeting in full compliance with the Nebraska open meetings law.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

DC West Community Schools

By: _____
President

Attest: _____
Secretary

Appendix "1" to Option Enrollment Policy
Approved March 9, 2026

The following is Appendix "1" to Policy 5006 for the current school year. The Board of Education hereby sets forth the maximum number of option students for the current school year in any program, class, grade level or school building or in any special education programs operated by this school district, based upon available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, projected number of students with which this school district will contract based on existing contractual arrangements, and availability of appropriate special education programs. Any program, class, grade level, or school building which has "0" as the No. of Option Students is hereby declared unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity.

PROGRAM	**IDEAL CAPACITY -3% Growth Factor in Elem Only**	**PROJECTED ENROLLMENT 2026**	**NO. OF OPENINGS FOR OPTION STUDENTS**
Kindergarten	78	54	24
First	78	77	1
Second	78	62	16
Third	78	82	0
Fourth	85	61	24
Fifth	64	63	1
Staffing Capacity, Elementary	**461**	**399**	
Sixth	88	93	0
Seventh	88	81	7
Eighth	88	89	0
Staffing Capacity, Middle School	**264**	**263**	
Ninth	95	81	14
Tenth	95	59	36
Eleventh	95	92	3
Twelfth	95	82	13
Staffing Capacity, High School	**380**	**314**	
District Staffing Capacity	**1105**	**976**	

* Special education capacity will be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with state law and the available resources as determined by the District's Director of Special Education or designee.

RESOLUTION

APPROVING REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL BUILDING ASSOCIATION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education (the "Board") of Douglas County West Community School District 0015 (Douglas County West Community Schools) (the "District"), as follows:

Section 1. The Board hereby finds and determines that the District is a member of the Nebraska Educational Building Association ("NEBA") under the terms of the Interlocal Cooperation Act Agreement (the "Agreement") governing NEBA, and that it is advisable and necessary to appoint representatives to serve on the board of NEBA for the District.

Section 2. The Board hereby appoints the following to serve as the District's representative on the board of directors of the Nebraska Educational Building Association, until such time as replaced by the Board: The Superintendent of the District shall serve as the District's representative on the board of NEBA. Such officer shall serve as the District's representative on the NEBA board under the terms of the Agreement from and after the date of this resolution.

ADOPTED this ____ day of March, 2026.

_____
President

_____
Secretary

To Whom it may Concern:

After 35 wonderful years in education, I am retiring with a full heart and deep gratitude. Working with children has always been the greatest joy of my career. Their energy, honesty, resilience, and growth have inspired me every single day.

It has been an honor to serve in such a great district. Over the years, I have seen many changes in education, and I am proud of how our schools have continued to grow and adapt to meet the needs of all students. Our commitment to educating every child and helping each one succeed has always meant so much to me.

As I begin this next chapter, I look forward to spending more time with my husband, our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. While I will miss the daily interactions with students and colleagues, I leave with countless memories, lasting friendships, and a heart full of appreciation.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being part of so many lives. It has truly been an honor.

Cindy Hayden 2/25/26

February 13, 2026

Dear Dr. Melissa Poloncic:

I hope this letter finds you well. It is with mixed emotions that I submit my resignation from my position as Physical Education, Driver Education and Girls Head Basketball Coach effective at the end of the 2026 school year at Douglas County West Schools.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at DC West and am grateful for the support and collaboration of the administration, fellow educators and students during my tenure. However, after careful consideration, I have decided to explore new opportunities and take on different challenges in my life.

I am committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. I am willing to assist in the hiring and training of my replacement, and I will complete any outstandings tasks or projects before my departure.

I would like to express my gratitude to you, the faculty, and the entire school community for the support and camaraderie I have experienced during my time here. I will miss the rewarding interactions with both colleagues and students.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to be a part of the Douglas County West community. I wish the school continued success, and I hope our paths may cross again in the future.

Sincerely,

Russ Ninemire

