Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, April 13, 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** **3**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Administrative Reports** **5**
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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**
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   - 7.1. DC West Staff, Student, and Parent Engagement Survey Results 47
   - 7.2. Preliminary Draft Budget Projections for Fiscal Year 2027 70
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   - 7.4. Approve Classified & Administrative Salaries for the 2026-2027 School Year 74

7.5. Discussion of 2026-2027 Classified Staff Additions 77

7.6. Approve Certificated Staff New Hires for the 2026-2027 School Year

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
Community Schools

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower



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

Well, we finished up the winter season on an extreme high note for our school and we are heavy into the spring season and dealing with the unpredictability of the Nebraska weather conditions and what it brings each day. Our teams are still putting in the work and trying to just keep learning and growing and focusing on being 1% better each day! We have a lot to be grateful for and thankful for here at DC West and we are going to try to maximize whatever our potential is for each team. Thank you all for your continued support throughout the year!



We are needing to add the following activity extra duty position at the middle school level for current teacher, Morgan Thompson. **MS Band:** ***Concerts, Pep Band, Solo/Ensemble Prep, Solo/Ensemble Contest, 8th Grade All-State Lessons, Honor Bands, and Jazz Band.***

Thank you for your consideration!

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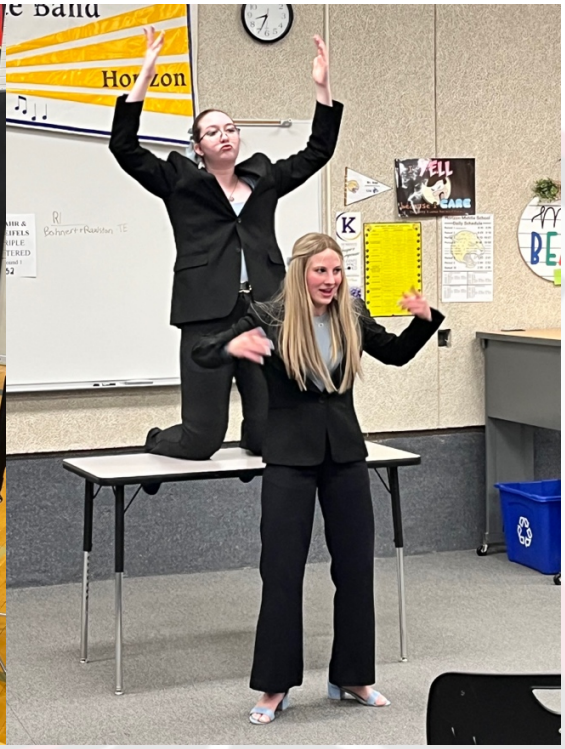




The **HS Boys Basketball Team** finished (23-7) on the season and is your Class C-1 State Runner-ups. DC West opened the state tournament with a (49-91) win vs Grand Island Central Catholic to earn their first win in state tournament history for our DC West Boys Basketball Team. In the state semifinals, DC West had arguably the biggest state tournament upset of the year by avenging an earlier season loss in the DC West Holiday Tournament to Ogallala and winning (43-39) and giving Ogallala their first loss of the season. In the state championship, DC West lost a hard fought battle (42-39) vs Ashland-Greenwood. We had a shot to win it all and that's all you can ask for. It was one heckuva historic run for our team and we have a lot to be proud of. In the banner year, DC West finished rated #2 in the State in Class C-1 Boys Basketball. DC West has been to state in back to back to back years and they will look to keep it going. What an awesome experience and special moment to see everyone come together as a team, as a program, as a school, and as a community all to support our Falcons. 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 Class B Districts at Raymond Central. We had 5 students qualify for state speech in 3 events, which is awesome for our team! Jaxon Swierczek finished 5th overall in the state in DI and brought home a medal for the Falcons! Jaxon Swierczek, Benji Oien, Joslyn Giles, Nylee Hayner, and Noelle Beyl competed in OID. Joslyn Giles and Nylee Hayner competed in Duet. The Falcons are coached by Kristi Eggen and Rosita Kraul.

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Our **Spring Play** performed *Leading Ladies* most recently for our families and community and it was a fantastic performance. They had 3 shows in total on Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday afternoon and they seemed to get better and better with each performance on stage. The spring play is led by Sherry Dill as Director, Dawn Beyl as Assistant Director, and Maggie Dailey as Choreographer.

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Our **HS Girls and Boys Track & Field Teams** have been competing in all the weather elements that Spring Track has to offer. We have already hosted two invites at DC West and that has felt really good for our teams, our school, and our community. Our facility lends itself to hosting high level opportunities for any participant or team in attendance. It takes a lot of people to host a track meet and we couldn't do it without everyone's help and support of the events. Our Girls Head Coach is John Brockhaus and our Boys Head Coach is Mattie Subbert.

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Our **HS Baseball Team** is off to a (4-7) start to the young season. We had our opening day pitch and it was great to see everyone in attendance on that 95 degree day. Everyone that steps into the athletic complex to watch a baseball game is appreciative of the facility. There are four seniors on this year's team that are finding ways to lead and compete for the Falcons. They already have a couple of NCC regular season wins which is hard to do at any point of the season. Come out and catch a game and cheer on our Falcons, we'd love to see you! The team is coached by Joel Voss, Josh Willmott, Marcus Martin, and Cole Ryan.

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Congratulations to the **DC West High School Band** for earning the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association's Excellence in Academic Achievement Award. To receive this award, the band must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. We are proud of you, Falcon Band!

The **HS Golf Team** will have their first taste of competition as they host the DC West Golf Invite where 15 teams will be competing at the Pines Country Club. There are currently 17 players on this year's team. The Team is coached by Ben Knobbe, Sean Pralle, and Trey Baker.

The **HS Soccer Team** is currently (1-5) on the season with Omaha Concordia as the host co-op school. The team consists of Omaha Concordia, DC West, Omaha Brownell-Talbot, and Omaha Christian Academy. DC West currently has three students competing on the team this season. They are playing in the Class B level and the Head Coach is Laura Troutman.

The **MS Track & Field Team** has approximately 60 students participating on this year's team, which is great. Unfortunately, we had to postpone their first track meet due to the cold weather but we hope to see them compete soon! The Girls Head Coach is Amber Axeline and the Boys Head Coach is Jacob Subbert.



Congratulations to the 56 **Middle School Band and Choir Students** that performed at the Platteview Solo and Ensemble Contest. Students had the opportunity to perform a solo, duet, trio, or small group at the contest. We are so proud of our Falcon musicians for their performances!

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



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

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Science Curriculum Pilot Update

After five weeks of piloting Amplify Science in 1st through 8th grade classrooms, the Science Curriculum Committee has decided not to move forward with a recommendation to the Board for adoption.
The committee identified several notable strengths in the curriculum. However, the team ultimately determined that the areas of concern were too significant to support adoption at this time.

The primary concerns included:

- Pacing and Content Redundancy: Repetitive concepts and a slow pace can lead to disengagement, requiring teachers to manually "compact" or skip lessons to maintain rigor.
- Assessment and Grading Clarity: Difficulties identifying "gradable moments" and a lack of formal assessments that mirror the complexity and format of state testing.
- Resource and Lab Optimization: High-prep but low-complexity labs, digital glitches, and kit organization issues can hinder instructional flow and engagement.

As a result of this decision, we will push back the science curriculum adoption cycle by one school year for Kindergarten through 8th grade. During the 2026–27 school year, we will consider piloting additional curriculum options, particularly those that have received high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) ratings from EdReports.

High school science courses are finishing their pilot and I will have an update at the May Board meeting with a potential recommendation.

I am grateful for the teachers who participated in the pilot and shared feedback. Their input played a critical role in reaching a thoughtful and informed decision.

K-1 Literacy Backpack Program

We are currently developing a Kindergarten and 1st grade Literacy Backpack Program. The program is designed to extend early literacy learning into the home by providing students and families with high-quality, developmentally appropriate books and hands-on literacy games on a rotating basis throughout the school year. Each backpack includes children's literature, a literacy activity, and a simple family

guidance card, giving families clear, accessible ways to practice key reading skills together and build consistent at-home learning routines. This initiative is made possible through funding from the Learning Community, allowing the district to provide these materials to all participating classrooms at no cost to families.

Operationally, five students per classroom check out a backpack each Monday and return it the following Monday, allowing all students to access the materials on a regular rotation. Backpacks are color-coded by grade level, refreshed with new books and activities each month, and managed with a simple tracking system supported by a parent volunteer, helping ensure the program is sustainable and easy for teachers to implement. By strengthening home–school connections and providing structured opportunities for families to read and play together, this program is expected to reinforce classroom instruction, support school readiness, and promote long-term literacy success for our youngest learners.

Career and Technical Education Planning

Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers are actively engaged in a revision and refresh process of their programs, focusing on aligning coursework with current industry standards and student career pathways. As part of this work, teachers are identifying updated program goals and determining the instructional materials, equipment, and professional learning needed to support high-quality, hands-on learning experiences for students. The identified resources will be supported through approximately $7,500 in State CTE Grant funds and approximately $6,000 from the Perkins Grant, ensuring programs remain relevant, well-equipped, and responsive to workforce demands.

ASSESSMENT

PreACT and ACT

On April 7, the high school held its primary spring testing day. 9th grade students took the PreACT 8/9, 10th grade students completed the PreACT, and 11th grade students participated in the state ACT. We will share results with students, families, and the board once they are available.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Leading & Coaching for Impact: Leveraging ELA & Foundational Skills IPGs for Reflective Practice & Feedback

Our instructional coach, Mrs. Nabity, building principals, and both directors attended this training as a team. The session focused on using the Instructional Practice Guides to deepen understanding of standards-aligned content, effective instruction, and meaningful student engagement in ELA.. The team will complete two IPG observations and reflections twice a year in each K-12 ELA classroom during the 26-27 school year.

Women in Leadership Conference

Dr. Poloncic and I recently attended the Celebrating Women in Leadership conference, an event focused on empowering and sustaining women in educational leadership roles. The conference featured sessions on sustaining "stretch capacity" without burnout, building resilience, and cultivating collaborative, problem-solving school cultures, as well as learning about practical habits that protect leaders' energy, foster meaningful connection, and boost staff morale. This experience provided us with strategies to support our own leadership effectiveness and to strengthen the well-being and engagement of the teams we serve.

District Continuous Improvement Team

Dr. Pechous and I co-led the District Continuous Improvement Team meeting on March 30, with building leadership teams focusing on advancing our continuous improvement cycle and planning for 2026–2027. Participants reviewed building improvement plans, analyzed implementation and outcome data, and reflected on the impact of strategies related to ELA achievement, MTSS, SEBL, and inclusive instruction. Teams also collaborated to refine the newly developed High Leverage Instructional Practices document which will be used for instructional walkthroughs and classroom observations to continue strengthening teaching and learning across the district.

Family & Community Partnership

The National School Superintendent Association (AASA) Early Childhood Cohort visit

The AASA Early Childhood Cohort has requested to visit Buffett Early Childhood Institute and DC West Elementary to experience first hand the work of the Superintendent's Early Childhood Plan. It is being planned for October 2026. This visit will highlight the district's early learning practices, provide an opportunity to showcase classrooms and instructional approaches, and allow cohort members to engage directly with staff about our PK–3 alignment and support. Planning is underway with our Buffett Early Childhood Institute partners to design a 3 day event. More details will be shared with the Board once they have been finalized.

DC WEST
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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

April 7, 2026
Board Report
Elementary School (Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem)
DC West Community Schools

Contents:

1. **Kindergarten Roundup**
2. **SOWAH Drumming Residency**
3. **NSCAS/MAP Testing Kickoff**
4. **Energy Bus 2 week calendar for Staff**
5. **Notes from the Principal from the newsletter**
6. **Ch-ch-ch Changes for Elementary 2026-27 school year**

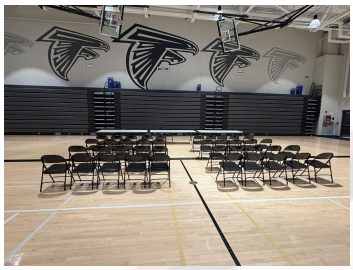
1. Kindergarten Roundup

The Elementary tried a new format for Kindergarten Roundup. Upon arrival, parents received a name tag with a color. We split them into four groups and had them go through four stations to enhance the parent experience. We received positive feedback and have some refinement noted for improvements for next year. Almost 100% attendance, only 4 families were unable to attend. We currently have 70 students registered for Kindergarten and able to accept all of our 10 option enrollment students.

1. Building Staff (Principal, Assistant Principal, Nurse, Nurse para, Counselor, and Interventionists.)
2. Community Partners (Valley Library, Waterloo Library, and YMCA.)
3. DC West Foundation and DC West PTSA
4. Building Tour









2.Sowah Drumming Residency

Ms. Beck is hosting a drumming residency that will be a multi-cultural experience for student preschool through 5th grade. The residency will culminate with a performance in the fine arts center.5th grade students will be performing along with Sowah. Along with learning to play the traditional drums, students will also be learning about the culture of Ghana and how musical influences have shaped their lifestyles.



3.NSCAS/MAP/Fastbridge Communication to families

The Spring assessment window is from March 23rd-May 1st. DC West Elementary will be conducting a combined model of NSCAS/MAP this Spring for 3rd-5th graders. This will reduce the amount of testing in half for 3-5 students. 2nd grade will take MAP as usual. Fastbridge testing will take place for K-1 students. Grade level testing dates and times are listed below.

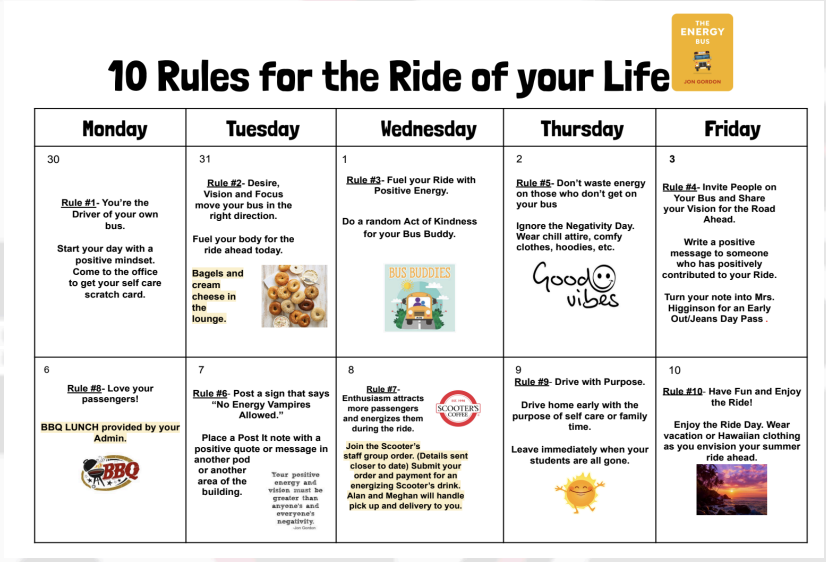
Our goal is for all kids to demonstrate growth and achievement. Below is a link to the testing schedule. We are sharing this with you so you know when your child will be testing. We'd appreciate your support to make sure your child is well rested, arrives on time, and has a full stomach on their testing days. MAP and Fastbridge provide very important data that informs our

decision making and drives our instruction. If your child will be absent on a testing day, please notify the school as soon as possible so we can arrange a make-up session.

K-1 Reminder: DC West has made the team decision to have Kindergarten and 1st grade students take the Fastbridge screener for both reading and math. The screener is done one-on-one with one of our team members and could take place on any of the days listed on the calendar below. The time for each student varies depending on their ability level. We have found that the data that is produced from this screener is much more informative and targeted than the data produced from MAP at this developmental stage.

4. Energy Bus 2 week calendar for Staff from the Principals

DC West Administration put together 2 weeks of staff appreciation. Meals and prizes were provided by the principals. Our staff was very appreciative of the recognition and appreciation.



10 Rules for the Ride of your Life

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 Rule #1- You're the Driver of your own bus. Start your day with a positive mindset. Come to the office to get your self care scratch card.	31 Rule #2- Desire, Vision and Focus move your bus in the right direction. Fuel your body for the ride ahead today. Bagels and cream cheese in the lounge.	1 Rule #3- Fuel your Ride with Positive Energy. Do a random Act of Kindness for your Bus Buddy.	2 Rule #5- Don't waste energy on those who don't get on your bus Ignore the Negativity Day. Wear chill attire, comfy clothes, hoodies, etc.	3 Rule #4- Invite People on Your Bus and Share your Vision for the Road Ahead. Write a positive message to someone who has positively contributed to your Ride. Turn your note into Mrs. Higginson for an Early Out/Jeans Day Pass .
6 Rule #8- Love your passengers! BBQ LUNCH provided by your Admin.	7 Rule #6- Post a sign that says "No Energy Vampires Allowed." Place a Post It note with a positive quote or message in another pod or another area of the building.	8 Rule #7- Enthusiasm attracts more passengers and energizes them during the ride. Join the Scooter's staff group order. (Details sent closer to date) Submit your order and payment for an energizing Scooter's drink. Alan and Meghan will handle pick up and delivery to you.	9 Rule #9- Drive with Purpose. Drive home early with the purpose of self care or family time. Leave immediately when your students are all gone.	10 Rule #10- Have Fun and Enjoy the Ride! Enjoy the Ride Day. Wear vacation or Hawaiian clothing as you envision your summer ride ahead.







5. Notes from the Principals



Fidgets: We are including fidgets for several reasons. Fidgets in schools are intended to be a tool not a toy. Students have really started to blur this line and it's causing disruptions in the classroom learning environment. We have lofty goals for our students and ensuring a learning environment that is distraction free and conducive to all learners is a huge priority. Please do not allow students to bring fidgets that are not discrete tools for their focus and learning. If students bring anything that is a distraction to themselves or others in the class, the item will be taken and parents will be informed. We want to stress that we are committed to the growth, achievement, and success of all our students. Ensuring a structured learning environment without distractions is educationally necessary.

Bike/Scooter Safety: When students ride a scooter or bike to school it is imperative that they walk beside their bike or scooter while on campus, and be extra careful when navigating the streets of Valley. Safety equipment, knowledge of bike/scooter safety, and knowledge of street safety is strongly encouraged. Student safety is at the top of our school priorities.

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Beverages brought from home: Families we kindly ask that you do not allow your child to bring any soda, energy drinks, or caffeinated beverages to school. This includes cold lunches brought from home. There are special days that teachers may allow clear soda, but on a daily basis we ask that the previously listed beverages are not brought with students.

Student Placement - 2026-2027 School Year

The classroom placement process is a very complex one that includes many factors in the decision-making process. Each of the following are considered before final rosters are prepared:

- Program needs of the student
- Balanced ratio of girls and boys
- Balance of achievement levels in literacy and mathematics
- Motivational level of each student
- Behavioral factors regarding each student
- Compatibility of students with others in the classroom
- Independent work habits
- Leadership skills
- Information provided by previous teachers

The DC West staff take the task of placement very seriously. Each grade level team, along with assistance from specialists, guidance, Special Education, and Intervention dedicate much time, effort, and care into developing class rosters that result in offering a quality educational experience. Once balanced classroom rosters have been created, the classroom teacher will then be assigned.

Parental Input - Parents often offer comments that we all agree upon: "We want a warm, nurturing, caring environment for our child," or "We want our child challenged," or "We want our child in a structured classroom." We take comments like these as a given and expect that each teacher is responsible for providing a nurturing, challenging, and safe environment for every student. Our charge is to create balanced classrooms based on the knowledge we have about all students.

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As parents, you may have pertinent information about your child that you would like to be considered as a factor in the placement process. Examples that are helpful include: "Please separate my twins," or "My child is able to speak more than one language, but may need support," or "My child would be most successful if they were not placed with. . ."

If you would like to speak on the phone or meet regarding placement for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact the office at 402-359-2151. At that time you will be asked to provide any pertinent information that you feel we do not already know. You will be asked to describe the classroom environment you believe your child would most benefit. We discourage specific requests for a teacher. However, you may share your top two thoughts and your reasoning behind the request. This information will then be shared with the teams as one more factor to consider.

Please reach out to the school office by Monday, April 6th with communication requests. After this date we will have already started the placement process.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sarka and Mrs. Ranslem
DC West Elementary

6. Ch-ch-ch changes for Elementary 2026-2027 School Year

The Elementary is pleased to welcome several new staff members to the Falcon Family. Betsy Hayes (5th grade) coming from Papillion where she was an Instructional Coach and classroom teacher, Brooklyn Reynolds (4th grade) coming as a 1st year teacher who student taught with Mrs. Svoboda in 2nd grade,, and Kylie Phillips (Special Education) Senior at Midland coming into her 1st year teaching, will be joining the teaching staff. Additionally, Candy Goree will serve as a Special Education paraprofessional in Cassie's classroom.

We are also excited to share internal staff transitions. Shari Fischer will return to the 4th grade team, while Danielle Svoboda and Mikayla Olson will join the 3rd grade team.

Following the retirement of Mrs. Hayden, staffing adjustments have been made to support student needs. Mr. Subbert will now serve grades 4 and 5, Mr. Ethen will remain in 3rd grade, Ms. Phillips will primarily serve 2nd grade with flexibility to support other

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levels, and Mrs. Bottorff will serve kindergarten and 1st grade. Mrs. Singer will also join the 2nd grade team.

These additions and transitions reflect our continued commitment to strong instruction and student support across all grade levels.

DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing to share some exciting updates regarding our middle school curriculum for the upcoming academic year. To provide our students with a more diverse and engaging educational experience, we are transitioning to a hexter-based rotation (six-week modules)for these exploatory classes. This new structure allows our students to explore a wide variety of subjects and develop essential skills across various disciplines.

The hexter course offerings for each grade level are as follows:

6th Grade Hexter Rotations:
Google Platforms/Typing, Speech, Band Lessons, Digital Citizenship, Study Skills, STEM 6

7th Grade Hexter Rotations:
Acting, Photography, Media, Careers, French, STEM 7

8th Grade Hexter Rotations:
Debate, Yearbook, Research, Careers 2, FCS, STEM 8, Spanish

We are enthusiastic about the potential of these courses to enrich the middle school experience and better prepare our students for their future academic endeavors.

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!



DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 | From The Desk of Dr. Kerns

I would like to take a moment to publicly thank the DC West PTSA for providing our 7th and 8th-grade students with an amazing Glow Party dance last week. We truly appreciate the time, energy, and financial resources they invested to create such a memorable event for our kids.

I was incredibly proud of our students' conduct throughout the evening. They represented our school with excellence, making it a successful and positive experience for everyone involved.







DC WEST Community Schools
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Board Report
April 13th, 2026

Shawna Younghans- Administrative Facilitator

Master Schedule Review & Design Cohort

The High School Scheduling Team has been collaborating with representatives from Education Resource Strategies (ERS) and the Nebraska Department of Education to evaluate and improve the efficiency of the high school master schedule. The work focuses on three core areas: course offerings, class sizes, and dual credit opportunities.

The process began with a structured examination of the district's values and beliefs around scheduling and class size best practices. This values-first approach has helped ground the team's recommendations in what is best for students.

The district wishes to recognize Mr. Baker, Mr. Troy, and Ms. Richards for their dedication and collaborative spirit throughout this design cohort process.

Outstanding Leadership Award — Midland University

On Friday, March 27, 2026, Midland University hosted its annual Outstanding High School Leaders Ceremony & Luncheon at the Wikert Event Center, recognizing 52 high school juniors from across the region. The event was co-sponsored by Midland University and Pinnacle Bank.

Students were nominated, completed an application, and were evaluated by a review panel of leaders from Midland University, Pinnacle Bank, and the Fremont community. Selection criteria included student involvement, demonstrated leadership, and personal attributes.

The following students from our district were honored as recipients:

- Emily Fletcher
- Noelle Beyl
- Scarlett Higginson
- Lillian Lakner
- Kinley Nelson
- Talia Walsh

Notably, Midland University is offering $6.6 million in total scholarships. Each student accepted to and enrolled at Midland will receive a scholarship valued at over $100,000 over four years.

Please join the high school in congratulating these outstanding student leaders.

Mrs. Shawna Younghans

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Jim Knott - High School Principal **Board Report**
Douglas County West High School **April 13, 2026**

As we approach the end of the school year, many important events are either happening or are on the horizon at the high school. We recently finished administering the state-required Nebraska ACT on April 7th. Eighty out of eighty-one juniors arrived on time and ready to test that morning - an accomplishment in itself. The student that was absent is set to make up the test on April 21st. Thanks go out to our ACT team of Dr. Dawn Marten, Katie Richards, Nikki Billedeaux, Matt Caldwell, Brant Loewe, Heather Cox, Kristi Eggen, Kim LaChapelle, Mike Troy, Randy Donner, Garrett Hoffman, Peggy Cooper, Kim Loofe, Kristen Phillips, Rachel Smith, and Shawna Younghans. The amount of time this group spent organizing and administering the test according to strict ACT standards is definitely appreciated. We should receive preliminary ACT results before the end of the school year.

Prom is coming up on Saturday, April 11 at the Countryside Venue, northwest of Valley on West Reichmuth Road. This is the first time we have had prom at this beautiful, local venue. The theme is "A Night in Las Vegas" and is open to all DC West juniors and seniors, as well as their individual guests. The dance is from 7:00-10:00 PM with the coronation at 8:00. The post-prom, sponsored by the junior parents, will be held at the high school from 11:00 PM to 3:00 AM. I would like to extend a big "Thank You" to our Prom sponsors, Mrs. Boardman and Ms. Dailey, as well as Mrs. Finck, Deputy Johnson, the Countryside Venue staff, and the junior parents for helping to put on a great event for our students.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING SENIOR DATES:
*May 1 – Senior Scholarship Breakfast 7:00 AM
*May 4-5 – Senior Final Exams
*May 6 – Senior's Last Day / Graduation Practice 8:00-12:00
*May 10 – Graduation 2:00 PM

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April 2026 Student Services Report

Thank you!

I wanted to let you know that I successfully defended my dissertation, "Inclusive Special Education: Changing Mindsets and Practices to Improve Student Achievement," on March 13. I will graduate from UNL with a Doctor of Education degree on May 8. Thank you for all your support over the past four years as I've pursued my advanced degree!

Grow Your Own Update

We are excited to announce that our partnership with Midland University for the NDE Teacher Apprenticeship program is expanding. Lindsay Schurman, preschool para, will continue into Year 2 of her program in elementary education and early childhood education this upcoming school year with plans to student teach at DC West while she continues her para position in the Spring 2027 semester.

Regan Olson, behavior skills para, has been accepted into Midland's new "Three-to-Teach" program. This program is designed to help paras with few college credits complete their degree and teaching certification in three years while continuing their employment as a paraeducator. Regan plans to major in elementary education and special education. Her program is funded through a grant from NDE.

Skylar Pritchett, elementary life skills para, is also working on obtaining her K-12 special education certificate through UNO's Accelerated Masters in Special Education program. This program is also supported through the NDE Grow Your Own apprenticeship program, and we are excited to partner with UNO to support Skylar as she pursues her career as a teacher.

District Continuous Improvement Update

The District Continuous Improvement Team met on March 30 for our fourth quarter session. We spent a lot of time reflecting on our goals and progress for this year and started planning for next year. Our focus continues to be on improving literacy achievement throughout the district, but a secondary focus that we believe we accomplished this year was learning about the continuous improvement process and developing the skills to be even more purposeful and successful in our efforts next year. Our final meeting for this school year is scheduled for May 27, and we will be excited to share our outcomes for this year and goals for next year at that time.

Special Education Transition Night

We had a great turnout for our first ever Special Education Transition Night during Parent Teacher Conferences last month. Turner Goa from Nebraska VR shared a presentation about VR services available to students with disabilities during high school and after graduation, and Joyful Stoves shared information about when and how to register with DHHS for Developmental Disabilities services. Joyful also shared with families about the various waivers that are available to help support individuals with disabilities. Five families and a few staff participated in the event. Thank you to the PTSA for providing a delicious meal and a special thanks to Linsey Bellinger for her help in planning the event and for providing support with food and child care during the event.



NASES Executive Board

I was recently elected to the Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors (NASES) Executive Board as the Nebraska representative to the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)'s board. My main duty will be representing Nebraska at the

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national CASE Convention for the annual board meeting. I am excited to represent DC West and Nebraska for the next three years in this role.

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

Nicki Pechous, Ed.D.
Director of Student Services

DC WEST Community Schools
Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Superintendent's Report
April 8, 2026

Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Selection Progress
Our DC West RFP for a Food Service Management Company was released on February 28th. Eight FSMCs asked for the full RFP information. A pre-proposal conference for all was held on March 23rd and four FSMCs attended. A deadline for asking questions from the pre-proposal was March 30th and answers have been submitted from the school district. The final deadline for receiving proposals from interested FSMCs is April 28th at 2:00pm. We look forward to receiving the proposals. Our school team plans to meet and score the received proposals on May 4th in order to select a recommendation to bring to the Board at the May meeting.

Apptegy
We have researched and selected a new partner for our website and communication platform with community and families. We are in the beginning stages of making this transition and the majority of the work will take place this summer. We look forward to this new platform to meet new online ADA compliance as well as streamlining our communication and social media platforms. This selection was made due to Apptegy's user friendly interface, ease of use, as well as visual appeal. Some neighboring schools using Apptegy are Gretna Public Schools, Logan View Public Schools, Cedar Bluffs Public Schools.

Option Enrollment Acceptance
We recently completed and notified families of their option enrollment acceptance for the 2026-2027 school year. The following is the data from this year's option enrollment period:

Grade	Projected Enrollment per March 9, 2026	Openings for Option	April 1st Option Decisions
K	54	24	11 accepted
1	77	1	1 accepted
2	62	16	0 accepted
3	82	0	0 accepted
4	61	24	1 accepted
5	63	1	0 accepted
6	93	0	4 denied
7	81	7	1 accepted
8	89	0	3 denied

9	81	14	11 accepted, 1 denied
10	59	36	2 accepted
11	92	3	3 accepted
12	82	13	3 accepted

Last Day of School
This winter, we missed three weather related days. We had included three weather related days in the original approved school district calendar. Therefore, we will conclude the school year for students at 11:45am on Thursday, May 21st. Friday, May 22nd will be the final teacher workday. No formal Board approval is needed as the calendar was not adjusted.

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 29, 6:30pm~ High School Leadership Dinner (All Board is Invited by our Student Council)
May 10, 2:00pm~ High School Graduation (All Board Attends)
May 11, 7:00pm~ Regular Board of Education Meeting

Financial Recap March 2026

	3/1/2026	Receipts	Expenditures	3/31/2026
General Fund	$4,096,645.79	$ 2,758,410.55	$ 1,345,074.30	$5,509,982.04
Depreciation Fund	$1,777,749.44	$ 1,510.49	$ -	$1,779,259.93
Food Service Fund	$58,155.52	$ 54,327.48	$ 61,663.83	$50,819.17
Qualified Capital Fund	$176,420.51	$ 110,833.61	$ 3,398.35	$283,855.77
Bond Fund	$1,710,194.38	$ 103,493.20	$ -	$1,813,687.58
Special Building Fund	$346,538.91	$ 352,400.85	$ 10,166.11	$688,773.65
	$8,165,704.55	**$3,380,976.18**	**$1,420,302.59**	**$10,126,378.14**

General Fund Detail

Expenditures	March	YTD	Budgeted
All Instructional Program	$ 677,095.29	$ 4,914,096.13	$ 8,519,107.00
SPED Instructional Program	$ 179,557.32	$ 1,455,409.45	$ 2,534,928.00
Support Services SPED Related	$ 47,022.32	$ 309,986.19	$ 551,856.00
Support Services Non-SPED Related	$ 40,898.89	$ 312,283.66	$ 522,058.00
Support Instructional	$ 46,380.91	$ 409,730.60	$ 785,282.00
Board of Education	$ 7,523.37	$ 64,570.23	$ 111,624.00
Executive Administration Services	$ 41,312.13	$ 222,516.86	$ 384,046.00
District Legal Services	$ 1,476.00	$ 7,658.00	$ 40,000.00
Office of the Principal	$ 81,558.52	$ 564,164.51	$ 971,578.00
General Admin - Business Services	$ 23,712.69	$ 162,014.91	$ 390,055.00
Maint & Operation of Building & Sit	$ 92,326.10	$ 1,007,009.26	$ 1,935,494.00
Vehicle Acquisition & Maint	$ -	$ 5,030.35	$ 9,746.00
Regular Pupil Transportation	$ 37,385.92	$ 378,483.57	$ 658,246.00
SPED Pupil Transportation	$ 11,630.42	$ 87,069.60	$ 172,757.00
Categorical Grant from Coporation	$ 17,806.24	$ 145,075.19	$ 322,001.00
State Categorical Programs	$ 1,280.48	$ 12,857.12	$ 16,376.00
Federal Programs	$ 38,107.70	$ 246,284.50	$ 412,275.00
Transfer Out	$ -	$ -	
	$ 1,345,074.30	**$ 10,304,240.13**	**$ 18,337,429.00**

Revenues	March	YTD
Personal and Prop Taxes	$ 266,287.60	$ 1,532,269.45
Carline Tax	$ -	$ 1,258.05
Motor Vehicle Taxes	$ 122,447.22	$ 937,889.37
Facility Rental	$ 250.00	$ 2,100.00
Tuition Received from Individuals	$ 7,213.70	$ 71,402.30
Interest	$ 2,908.01	$ 23,810.01
Local License Fees	$ -	$ 3,180.00
Grants from Corporations/Private	$ 1,960.00	$ 42,330.31
Other Local Receipts	$ 510.98	$ 996.29
County Fines and License Fees	$ 2,609.83	$ 15,745.49
ESU Receipts	$ -	$ -
State Aid	$ 269,963.00	$ 1,889,741.00
Special Education Programs	$ 274,789.00	$ 1,083,380.00
Special Education Transportation	$ -	$ -
Homestead Exemption	$ 36,370.62	$ 36,370.62
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	$ 1,769,195.42	$ 1,769,180.91
Title ESSA Programs	$ -	$ 149,703.00
IDEA Programs	$ -	$ 301,532.00
Medicaid	$ 3,905.17	$ 30,051.67
ESSER II & ESSER III	$ -	$ -
Other Federal Categorical Receipts	$ -	$ -
Sale of Property	$ -	$ 51,421.83
Insurance Adjustment	$ -	$ -
	$ 2,758,410.55	**$ 8,279,620.64**

March 2026 Payroll

Net Payroll	$ 681,962.41
Payroll Taxes (District)	$ 71,310.69
Payroll Withholding (Employees)	$ 168,775.29
Retirement (District)	$ 72,860.76
Retirement Withholding (Employees)	$ 72,139.45

Regular; Beginning Month 03/2026; Processing Month 03/2026; 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	4,783.31	0.00	142.16	0.00	4,925.47
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	1,927.95	228.40	450.00	0.00	2,149.55
05 704 1005	STAFF LOUNGE	3,813.16	0.00	146.09	0.00	3,959.25
05 704 1007	VALLEY WAY	8,798.64	275.00	0.00	0.00	8,523.64
05 704 1011	PTSA DONATION	4,117.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,117.70
05 704 1023	PROM	863.56	0.00	350.00	0.00	1,213.56
05 704 1102	ARTS & HUMANITIES	550.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.62
05 704 1104	ATHLETICS HS	8,717.43	8,859.61	9,032.03	0.00	8,889.85
05 704 1106	BASEBALL TEAM	1,199.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,199.55
05 704 1107	BAND	3,344.30	86.50	0.00	0.00	3,257.80
05 704 1108	CHEER	3,399.95	3,432.70	5,000.00	0.00	4,967.25
05 704 1110	SPRING PLAY	1,226.81	495.54	1,000.00	0.00	1,731.27
05 704 1111	BBB TEAM	524.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	524.05
05 704 1112	CONCESSIONS	44,012.82	5,168.57	5,774.78	0.00	44,619.03
05 704 1113	CONSTRUCTION TECH	7,106.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,106.79
05 704 1114	DANCE TEAM	1,889.51	0.00	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	2,558.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,558.22
05 704 1118	HIGH SCHOOL	1,948.76	0.00	593.97	0.00	2,542.73
05 704 1119	DC TECH 1:1	4,782.58	0.00	80.00	0.00	4,862.58
05 704 1120	GBB TEAM	4,057.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,057.14
05 704 1123	HOSA	2,579.17	0.00	300.00	0.00	2,879.17
05 704 1124	STUCO HS	4,163.07	736.80	482.60	0.00	3,908.87
05 704 1128	NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	1,509.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,509.37
05 704 1131	FOOTBALL TEAM	13,195.68	0.00	0.00	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	4,366.17	86.50	732.60	0.00	5,012.27
05 704 1136	WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB	660.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	660.52
05 704 1137	ROBOTICS TEAM	4,354.52	0.00	150.00	0.00	4,504.52
05 704 1141	GOLF TEAM	1,252.68	431.80	0.00	0.00	820.88
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 03/2026; Processing Month 03/2026; 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	8,205.43	0.00	0.00	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	1,668.67	0.00	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	15,408.85	412.50	0.00	0.00	14,996.35
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	902.58	912.00	0.00	9,299.55
05 704 2112	MS CONCESSIONS	3,315.46	579.74	0.00	0.00	2,735.72
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	2,817.81	80.00	0.00	0.00	2,737.81
05 704 2205	UNIFIED SPORTS	2,949.94	0.00	0.00	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	2,137.50	1,855.00	0.00	828.79
05 704 2242	MS YEARBOOK	3,394.48	273.69	0.00	0.00	3,120.79
05 704 3220	ELEM FIELD TRIP	2,388.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,388.75
05 704 3221	PBIS/FALCOIN	4,458.94	18.49	394.20	0.00	4,834.65
05 704 3222	BATTLE OF THE BOOKS	26.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.65
05 704 3318	ELEMENTARY	7,715.58	526.63	984.13	0.00	8,173.08
	Fund Total: 05	289,155.57	24,732.55	28,379.56	0.00	292,802.58

Regular; Beginning Month 03/2026; Processing Month 03/2026; 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	32,235.07	0.00	70.00	0.00	32,305.07
	Fund Total: 12	32,235.07	0.00	70.00	0.00	32,305.07

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
ADVENTURE ENTERPRISES, LLC		1,406.00
ALCOVE ROOFING		750.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, LLC		3,138.08
ASCENT POLE RENTAL		390.00
ATHLETIC.NET		1,578.00
AWARDS UNLIMITED INC		401.15
BALLOON BRIGADE		550.00
BERGANKDV		16,500.00
BLICK ART MATERIALS		32.16
BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES INC		128.60
BOYS TOWN		900.00
CAPPEL NAPA AUTO SUPPLY - VALLEY		173.44
CITY WIDE FACILITY SOLUTIONS		6,500.00
CROWN PLAZA HOTEL & RESORTS		458.00
CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES, LLC		486.28
DAILY RECORD, THE		32.00
DC WEST FOOD SERVICE		1,233.35
DEIDEL, SHERIDAN		50.00
DIETZE MUSIC HOUSE		128.00
DISCOVERY EDUCATION, INC		1,299.00
EAGLE SERVICES INC.		405.00
EAKES OFFICE PLUS		899.70
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #3		130.00
EGAN SUPPLY CO		2,427.42
FIBER PLATFORM, LLC		558.62
FIREGUARD LLC		511.00
FIRST STUDENT		5,260.46
GIBSON, TIMOTHY		50.00
GOODWIN TUCKER		1,574.14
HEARTLAND PEST CONTROL		280.00
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS		1,045.00
HOMETOWN LEASING		2,522.27
HORST, LAKMINIE		50.00
HUMANEX VENTURES LLC		18,000.00
HUMBERT, MARGARET		196.63
JOSTENS INC		52.20
JUST FOR KIDS THERAPY INC		5,680.00
JW PEPPER & SONS		171.73
KNOTT, JAMES		8.00
KV CONSTRUCTION INC		12,111.00
LAZEL INC.		2,195.00
MATHESON TRI-GAS INC		100.27
MAX I. WALKER		314.80
MENARDS - ELKHORN		646.08
MIDWEST IMPRESSIONS INC		153.00
NE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADM		405.00
NEBR ASSOCATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS		305.00
NEBRASKA TURF PRODUCTS, INC		1,805.44
NWEA - HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT PUBLISHING CO.		1,187.50
ODEY'S INC		14,540.40
ONE SOURCE		376.50
OVERDRIVE INC		750.00
PERRY GUTHERY HAASE & GESSFORD		601.25
POWERSCHOOL CORPORATION		4,081.00

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
PRAIRIE MECHANICAL CORP		5,695.29
PREMIER SPORTS OFFICIALS ASSOC		135.00
PRIME HOME DDS		5,429.03
PUBLICATION PRINTING		14.50
QUILL, LLC		341.63
SCHEELS ALL SPORTS, INC		79.00
SECURITY EQUIPMENT INC.		972.00
SPEECH SQUAD, LLC		16,119.00
SYSCLOUD INC.		2,720.00
SYTSMA, JORDAN		50.00
THOMAS, CYNTHIA		155.45
USBANK		3,288.65
VALLEY ACE HARDWARE		918.20
WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBR, INC		1,593.87
WATER ENGINEERING INC		317.62
WILLMOTT, JOSHUA		52.00
WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC		17,513.91
XTRA MATH		500.00
Fund Number 01		171,423.62

Checking Account ID 2	Fund Number 02	DEPRECIATION		
BLAZER ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT				4,234.64
DIETZE MUSIC HOUSE				5,900.00
Fund Number 02				10,134.64

Checking Account ID 6	Fund Number 06	NUTRITION FUND		
CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING				11,140.97
HILAND DAIRY				4,278.42
MAX I. WALKER				265.60
ROTELLA'S ITALIAN BAKERY INC				504.39
SYSCO LINCOLN				8,235.06
US FOOD INC				12,805.92
Fund Number 06				37,230.36

Checking Account ID 8	Fund Number 08	SPECIAL BUILIDING FUND		
LATITUDE SIGNAGE & DESIGN				4,917.00
Fund Number 08				4,917.00

Checking Account ID 9	Fund Number 09	QCPUF		
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY				1,968.75
Fund Number 09				1,968.75

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
ACH BANK FEE		65.00
ADVENTURE ENTERPRISES, LLC		4,656.00
AMERICOM COMMUNICATIONS		845.00
AUL SPECIAL PAY TRUST		5,000.00
BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC		27.00
BSN SPORTS LLC		467.20
CASEY'S BUSINESS MASTERCARD		5.56
CITI CARD - COSTCO		1,283.97
CLASSIC SPORTSWEAR & AWARDS		229.40
COX BUSINESS		197.60
DIETZE MUSIC HOUSE		1,193.33
GOODWIN TUCKER		300.95
HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES		43.16
HUMBERT, MARGARET		65.00
HY-VEE INC		75.00
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, LLC		137.60
JOSTENS INC		274.95
JW PEPPER & SONS		206.96
LIFEGUARD MD, INC		133.00
LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORE		1,238.77
LOWE'S BUSINESS ACCOUNT		529.30
MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO IN		3,011.92
MAGIC WRIGHTER, INC.		277.75
MONARCH JOINT VENTURE		987.50
NSAA DISTRICT II		530.00
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT		20,841.14
PERRY GUTHERY HAASE & GESSFORD		1,476.00
PETTY CASH		315.63
PLACEK, RYAN		337.70
PLATTEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL		150.00
SULLIVAN, MITCHELL		80.00
TK ELEVATOR CORPORATION		953.73
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY		125.00
USBANK		1,199.41
VERIZON		105.14
ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION, INC.		4.67
Fund Number 01		47,370.34
Checking Account ID 8	Fund Number 08 SPECIAL BUILIDING FUND	
LATITUDE SIGNAGE & DESIGN		10,166.11
Fund Number 08		10,166.11
Checking Account ID 9	Fund Number 09 QCPUF	
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY		1,998.35
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT		2,400.00
Fund Number 09		4,398.35

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, March 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, March 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 7:00 PM.

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

Present: 5, Absent: 1.
Attendance Update Taken at 7:01 PM.

Elizabeth Mayer:	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 from the family of Kelly Berggren and from the family of Sara Widhlem.

3. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented 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

4. Administrative Reports
4.1. Superintendent's Report
Board member Mayer asked about wage comparisons for food service staff with other school districts and conference schools. Dr. Poloncic confirmed having wage comparison data available and offered to share relevant information via email.

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
Norma Wallace - hire food service 2/4/2026
Ali Del Luna - exit 2/4/2026
Riley Alexander - hire 2/4/2026-exit 2/17/2026

6. New Business

6.1. High School Continuous Improvement Presentation
The High School administration shared a continuous improvement presentation with the Board.

6.2. 2026-2027 School Year Capacity Resolution
The Board discussed school capacity planning for the 2026-27 school year, with discussions about staffing and student enrollment across grade levels. Per policy 5006, option enrollment capacity is determined by the Board of Education. The resolution for appendix 1 to the option enrollment policy was passed in October. The administration recommended the approval of a new resolution dated March 9th in order to use the most updated enrollment information available in determining Option Enrollment acceptance for 2026-2027 between March 15th and April 1st.
Motion to approve the resolution for Appendix 1, Policy 5006 as presented 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 approve the resolution as presented 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

6.3. Approve Representative for the Board of Nebraska Educational Building Association (NEBA)
Board Member Janke, current DC West Representative on the NEBA Board and former Board President, proposed a change to the district's representation. Mr. Janke recommended that the Superintendent serve as the district's representative moving forward, rather than the Board continuing to appoint the sitting Board President. He suggested that this change would provide greater long-term continuity, ensure more regular attendance at interlocal meetings, and align DC West's representation with other member districts. The Board confirmed that the Finance Committee will continue to monitor the NEBA loan numbers annually to keep up with its financial oversight duties. Motion to approve the resolution as presented 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

6.4. Approve the Resignations (Retirements) of Certificated Staff Members
The following certificated staff have submitted their resignation to retire at the end of the 2025-2026 school year:
Mr. Russ Ninemire, Middle School PE
Mrs. Cindy Hayden, Elementary Special Education
Motion to approve the resignation (retirement) of Mr. Russ Ninemire, Middle School PE and Mrs. Cindy Hayden, Elementary Special Education Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen 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

6.5. Authorize the Superintendent to Sell, Recycle, or Dispose of Materials
Items that need to be sold, recycled, and disposed of:

- Old music from our music curriculum
- Computers and iPads to be recycled (resold) after new purchase
- Old football jerseys

Motion to authorize the Superintendent to sell, recycle, or dispose of materials 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

Before adjournment, Board Member Mayer asked about researching a school app to improve district communication. Dr. Poloncic reported that she is already working with the technology staff to look into various options.

7. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting @ 7:48pm 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

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

Project	Funding Source	Owner	Status	Contractor	Cost	Notes
AHU Replacement	QCPUF	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	In progress	Fluid Mechanical	$607,250.00	**Energy Loan
North Gym Entrance Doors Replacement	QCPUF	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	Not started			Getting opionion due to latching issues
Exterior Siding Repair (near Science rooms in high school)	Insurance Claim	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	In progress			Storm claim
Install additional Vape detectors in restrooms	General	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	Not started			*Notes*
Replacment of non LED commons lights in the high school	General	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	In progress			Bids in progress
Cement Pad for House Build	Grant	John Brockhaus & Scott Perrigo	Not started			*Notes*
Blinds or Window Tints in Elementary and areas of HS	General	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	Not started			Walk around scheduled with Principals
High School soft furniture replacement in counseling and commons	General	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo & Jim Knott	Not started			*Notes*
Weightroom exterior signage repair	Insurance Claim	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	In progress			storm claim now being repaired
Areas of seeding and landscape on main campus and plaza of the new athletic complex	General	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	Not started			*Notes*
Interior repaint rotation schedule	General	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	Not started			create map and schedule
Assess rooftop replacements for 2026-2027	QCPUF	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	Not started			*Notes*
Acquire a bid for the construction of a bus barn with 4 oversized stalls	General	Melissa Poloncic & Scott Perrigo	Not started			Daubert Construction Bid $118,740
Paint MS/HS Parking Lots	General	Scott Perrigo & Melissa Poloncic	Not started			*Notes*
Assess and acquire replacement bids for Preschool vehicles	Depreciation	Melissa Poloncic	Not started			*Notes*
Assess and acquire bid for maintenance truck	General	Scott Perrigo & Melissa Poloncic	Not started			*Notes*

Project	Funding Source	Owner	Status	Contractor	Cost	Notes
Project	General	Name	Not started			*Notes*
Project	General	Name	Not started			*Notes*
Project	General	Name	Not started			*Notes*
Project	General	Name	Not started			*Notes*
Project	General	Name	Not started			*Notes*
Project	General	Name	Not started			*Notes*
Project	General	Name	Not started			*Notes*

DC West Community Schools

Full Organization

February 2026

Student Survey Grades 4-12

- Online Assessment
- Confidential
- 64 Questions
- 13 Dimensions
- Three Areas Assessed:
  - Student
  - Teacher
  - Principal

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Dimensions

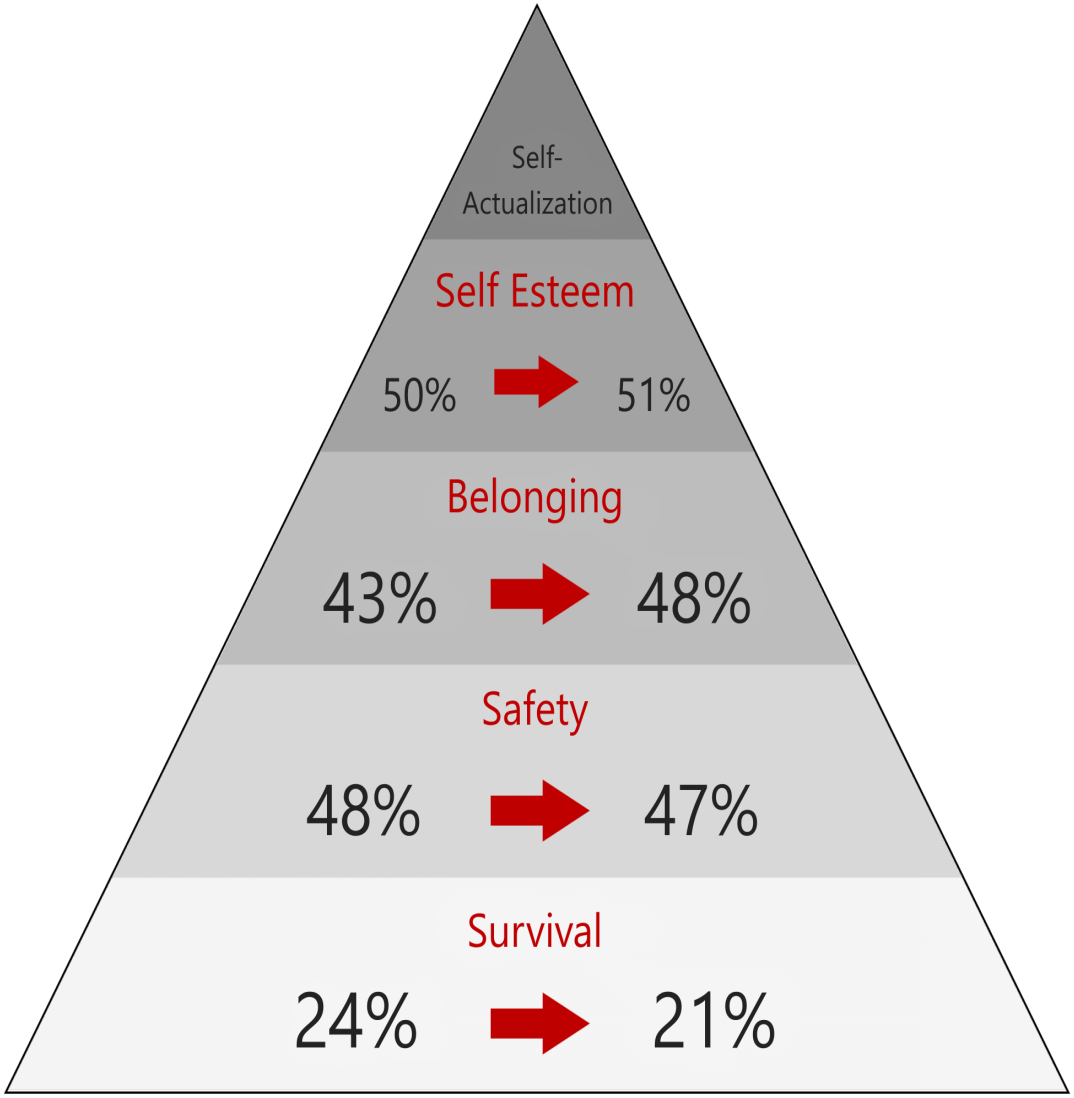
Dimension	Mean	Change
Self Esteem	3.86	+0.01
Perceptions of Principal	3.82	+0.01
Belonging	3.78	+0.05
Classroom Management	3.74	0.00
Safety	3.71	-0.03
Feedback	3.65	-0.01
Engagement	3.62	+0.01
Fairness	3.53	-0.03
Perceptions of Teacher	3.51	-0.03
Relevance	3.45	+0.01
Survival Needs	3.41	-0.01
Satisfaction	3.20	-0.04
Choice	3.10	-0.02

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(n=581)

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Snapshot of Maslow's Hierarchy



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Top Action Items

Question	Dimension	Mean	Change
13. I have friends at school who care about me.	Self Esteem	4.25	+0.15
15. My teachers want me to be a successful person.	Self Esteem	4.05	+0.01
56. My principal is doing a great job leading our school.	Perceptions of Principal	4.02	+0.06
6. My teachers care about my health.	Survival Needs	4.01	-0.02
17. My teachers believe in me.	Self Esteem	3.96	+0.02

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(n=581)

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Bottom Action Items

Question	Dimension	Mean	Change
3. I have a lot of energy at the start of the school day.	Survival Needs	2.53	-0.09
25. I look forward to being in school each day.	Satisfaction	2.73	-0.09
33. In class, I get to choose the activities I work on.	Choice	2.79	-0.07
37. My teachers ask me to help create classroom rules or expectations.	Choice	3.01	-0.05
26. I have fun at school each day.	Satisfaction	3.08	-0.05

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(n=581)

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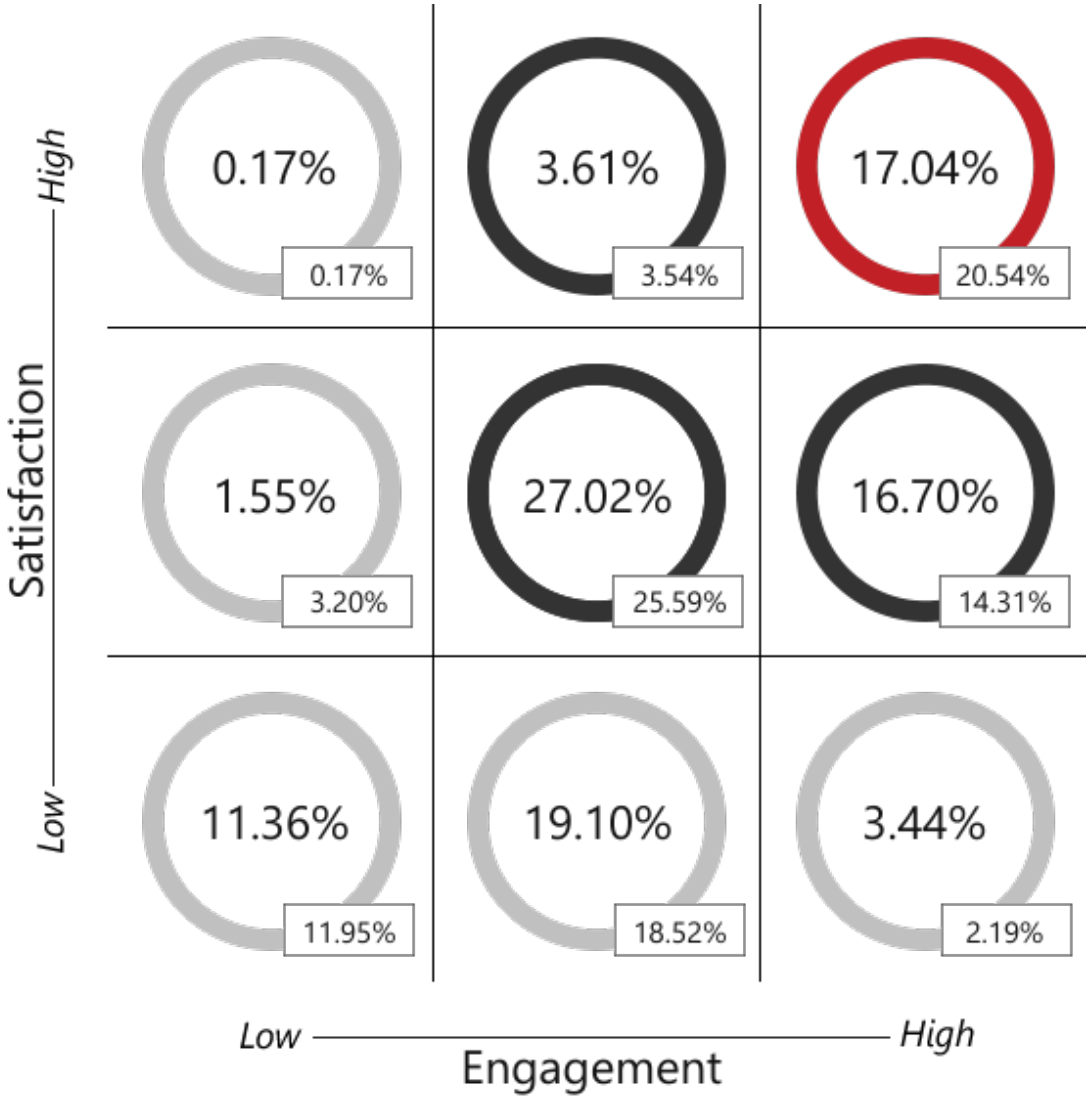
3x3 Dimensions

Satisfaction captures students' enjoyment and enthusiasm for school, driven by engaging teachers, fun learning experiences, and a positive daily outlook on education.

Engagement reflects students' attentiveness, motivation, and perseverance in learning, as shown by their ability to stay focused in lessons, achieve learning goals, and persist through challenges.

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3x3



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Parent/Family Survey

- Online Assessment
- Confidential
- 43 Questions
- 8 Dimensions

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Dimensions

Dimension	Mean	Change
Safety	4.20	-0.12
School Environment	4.16	-0.04
Student Learning	4.16	+0.02
Mission	4.13	+0.50
Principal	4.12	+0.01
School District	4.10	+0.37
Teachers	4.04	+0.02
Superintendent	3.80	+0.77

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(n=261)

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Top Items

Question	Dimension	Mean	Change
9. The school is clean and well-maintained.	School Environment	4.53	0.00
3. My child feels welcome in school.	School Environment	4.41	+0.07
2. When I enter my child's school, the front office staff is helpful.	School Environment	4.41	+0.06
29. My child feels physically safe in school.	Safety	4.40	-0.10
21. Teachers treat me with respect.	Teachers	4.40	-0.02

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(n=261)

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Bottom Items

Question	Dimension	Mean	Change
26. My child's teachers reach out to me regularly with feedback about how my child is doing in school.	Teachers	3.20	+0.15
11. The bus drivers are responsible and trustworthy.	School Environment	3.55	-0.37
27. My child shares with me that learning is fun in this school.	Teachers	3.63	-0.03
38. This school district does an excellent job of communicating with me personally.	School District	3.68	+0.63
10. The cafeteria provides high-quality meals.	School Environment	3.72	+0.03

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3x3 Dimensions

Families are PROUD to be here

School Pride reflects how parents perceive the school's mission, values, and reputation — including the learning environment, support for excellence, parental involvement, and the district's standing in the community.

Families think their student can THRIVE here

Service Quality captures parental perceptions of the school experience — including the welcoming atmosphere, staff helpfulness, leadership, cleanliness, meal quality, and communication effectiveness.

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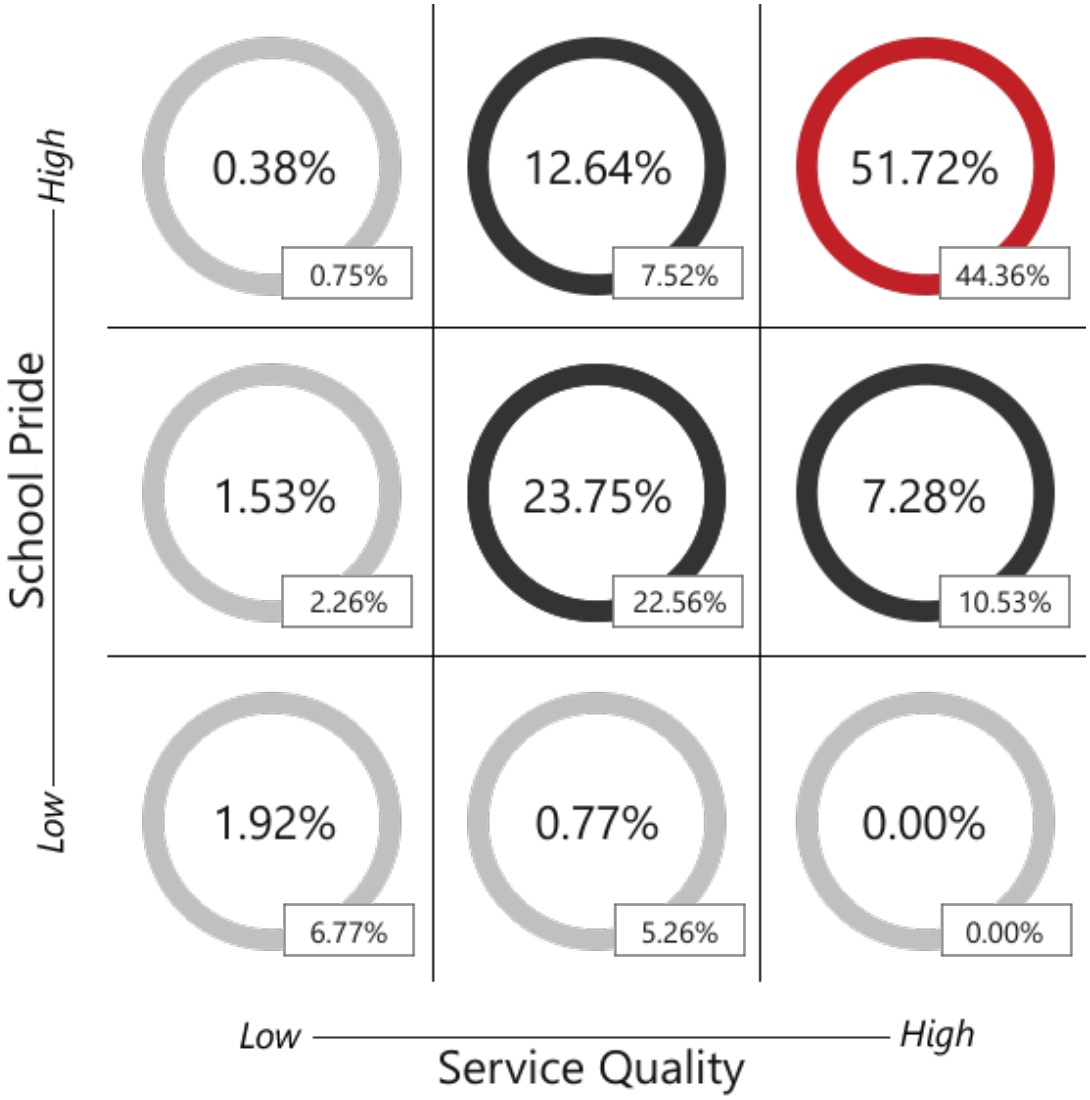
Family 3x3

Dimension	Mean	Change
School Pride	4.17	+0.29
Service Quality	4.09	+0.17

(n=261)

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3x3



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All Staff Survey

- Online Assessment
- Confidential
- Four Areas Assessed
  - You
  - Team/Department
  - Administrator or Supervisor
  - Whole Organization

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Dimensions

Dimension	Mean	Change
Pride	4.31	-0.09
Engage-Inspire	4.28	-0.11
Satisfaction	4.14	-0.17
Career Development	4.10	-0.09
Continuous Improvement	4.08	-0.12
Mission Conscious	4.08	-0.08
Quality	4.08	-0.16
Training & Development	4.07	-0.07
Talent/Fit	4.06	-0.09
Relationships	4.04	-0.13
Innovation	4.01	-0.13
Support-Equip	3.99	-0.11
Performance Planning	3.95	-0.13
Communication	3.90	-0.20
Recognition	3.88	-0.09

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(n=127)

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Top Items

Question	Dimension	Mean	Change
4. I feel great pride in the work I do.	Pride	4.62	-0.03
22. I support our organization's mission.	Mission Conscious	4.54	+0.04
8. I am driven to contribute to the success of our organization.	Engage-Inspire	4.54	-0.02
2. I am fully engaged in the work that I do.	Engage-Inspire	4.52	-0.07
91. I take complete ownership for my attitude and effort in embracing a growth mindset.	Relationships	4.47	-0.07
1. In my role I have the opportunity to do things that I both do well and enjoy.	Talent/Fit	4.47	-0.05

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(n=127)

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Bottom Items

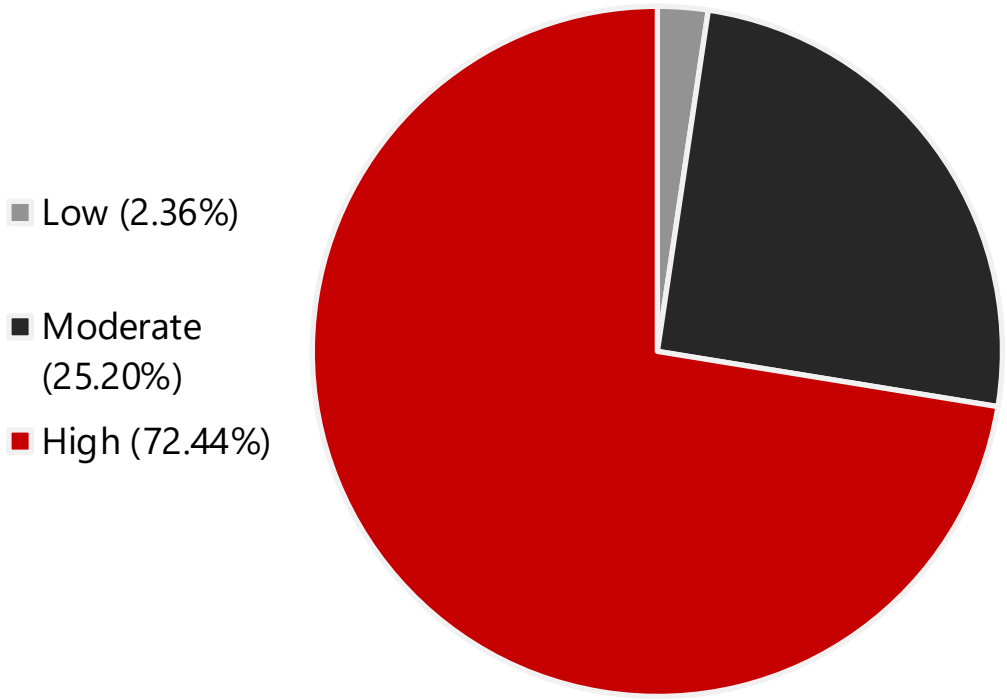
Question	Dimension	Mean	Change
9. I have received meaningful recognition in the past 10 days.	Recognition	3.40	-0.03
28. I am provided the opportunity to spend quality time with my supervisor.	Support-Equip	3.57	-0.18
61. When disagreements arise within our team, we effectively communicate to seek resolution.	Communication	3.71	-0.28
77. Our organization selects the right people for the right job.	Talent/Fit	3.71	-0.06
44. Our team effectively communicates with each other.	Communication	3.74	-0.31

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Growth Mindset +



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Growth Mindset +

Question	Dimension	Mean	Change
91. I take complete ownership for my attitude and effort in embracing a growth mindset.	Growth Mindset	4.47	-0.07
85. I am committed to achieving my potential through learning and growing.	Growth Mindset	4.44	-0.03
21. I am committed to a growth mindset to achieve my potential.	Growth Mindset	4.41	0.00
17. I embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.	Growth Mindset	4.35	+0.03
6. I seek opportunities to further my growth and development.	Growth Mindset	4.32	+0.01
78. I feel proud of and inspired by the success of others on my team.	Growth Mindset	4.21	-0.09
18. I demonstrate gratitude by recognizing others in meaningful ways.	Growth Mindset	4.21	-0.03
36. My supervisor builds a culture of learning and growth.	Growth Mindset	4.00	-0.08
90. Our organization embraces diversity in people, ideas, and experiences to maximize our potential.	Growth Mindset	3.93	-0.12
52. I am on a team that continuously challenges me to grow and improve.	Growth Mindset	3.90	-0.22

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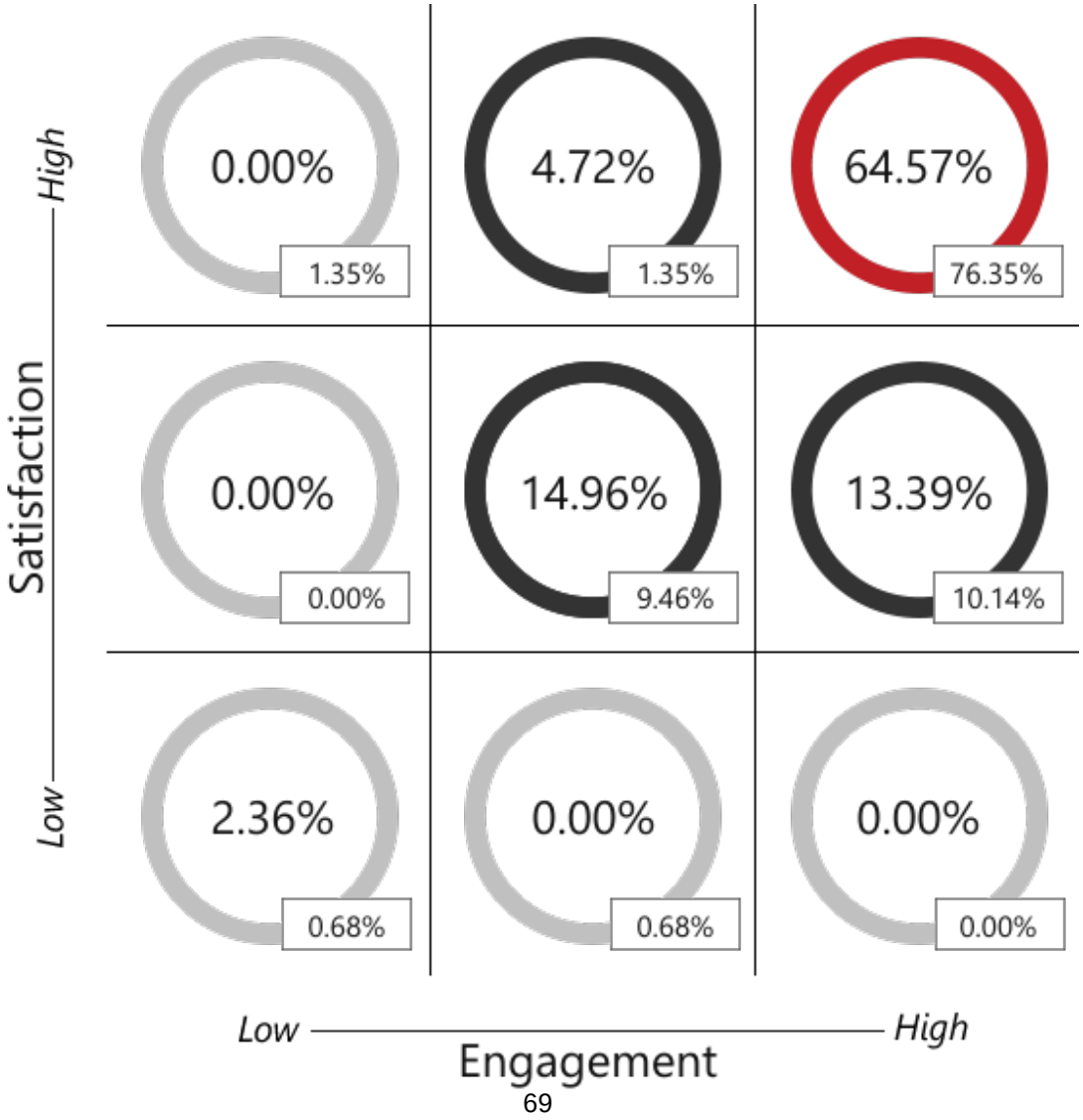
3x3 Dimensions

Engagement: I enjoy what I get to do.

Satisfaction: I want to do it here.

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3x3



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Planning Budget FY27								
2026-2027		**FY26 Comparison**			FY27 Budget Authority			
Property Value/100*levy)*.99	$ 11,301,249	$ 10,968,424			$ 14,988,334			
Add SPED & OAR	$ 4,175,996	$ 3,667,618						
Add State Aid	$ 2,845,071	$ 2,699,629						
Cash Reserve	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,001,758			Net option portion of state aid		$ 659,457	
Total Resources	$ 19,322,316	$ 18,337,429						
					FY27 Est. Revenue for Budget			
					$ 19,322,316			
Proposed Levy Breakout:		**Approximate Revenue Breakout:**			FY27 Estimated Expenditures		$ 343,077	
General Fund	$0.56	General Fund	$ 11,301,249		$ 18,979,239	*projected exp*		
Building Fund	$0.11	State Aid	$ 2,845,071					
QCPUF	$0.03	OAR	$ 4,175,996					
Bond Fund	$0.07	Cash Reserve	$ 1,000,000		NEBA Project Payment		$ 2,033,572	
Total Levy	**$0.77**	Building Fund Contribution	$ 2,119,502		QCPUF Payment			
		QCPUF	$ 578,046		Bond Payment		$ 1,197,150	
		Bond Fund Contribution	$ 1,348,774					
LB243 General & Building Fund Property Tax Revenue Cap		$12,991,222	(estimate revenue growth cap)					
		6% authority ($14,149,276)	$ 13,420,751					

Valuation History:

	% Increase		
2011	$ 723,695,170		Draft 3.31.26
2012	$ 731,025,850	1%	
2013	$ 773,038,830	6%	
2014	$ 827,160,840	7%	
2015	$ 888,301,725	7%	
2016	$ 912,003,345	3%	
2017	$ 979,410,705	7%	
2018	$ 1,024,457,565	5%	
2019	$ 1,067,803,345	4%	
2020	$ 1,227,094,910	15%	
2021	$ 1,323,016,395	8%	
2022	$ 1,405,719,565	6%	
2023	$ 1,641,374,350	16%	
2024	$1,778,331,750.00	8%	*certified
2025	$1,926,820,355.00	8%	estimate
2026	$2,038,464,763.00	5%	Average Increase
		7%	

DC WEST MASTER PLAN – PROCESS/TIMELINE

Objectives:

- Align educational needs, capacity, financial ability, and facility conditions into a comprehensive master plan.
- Utilize engagement to both help provide input and inform the community
    - Initial input on goals/directions
    - Touchpoint on key information and district status
    - Informational on plan and drivers for plan
- Create a high-level plan that provides a roadmap for future growth

DCWest Strategic Plan Goal V: DISTRICT RESOURCES

Strategy 5.1: 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.

Strategy 5.2: Provide the structure and staffing in each school that ensures that every student is personally connected to the school community and supports the development of students' academic, social-emotional, and mental health well-being.

Strategy 5.3: Align district resources to support a quality education system and high-level learning environment by ensuring necessary staffing levels, space allocation, and resource expenditures.

Step 1: Visioning Session (goals/priorities, Qualitative) – Beginning April 2026

- ***Student and Staff Engagement Session (1st)***
- ***Board of Education Engagement Session (2nd)***
    - What challenges will a growing enrollment have on DC West's desire for quality education?
    - What are some financial considerations?
    - What facility conditions may drive decisions, if any?
    - What metrics will help determine milestones?
    - What approach is important?
- ***Community Engagement Session 1 (following BOE/Student/Staff direction)***

Step 2: High-Level optimization study/analysis (Quantitative) – June / July 2026

- Core Space analysis / Q&A along with some square footage recommendations/ best practices
- Cursory study of future needs and ability to accommodate
- Optimization of classrooms
- Enrollment Analysis by RSP & Associates

Step 3: Cursory options – August / September 2026

- ***Board of Education Engagement Session***
    - Establish Goals / Metrics
    - Provide potential pro/cons options for the growth plan
    - Bubble diagram and enrollment/population shifting exercise
- ***Community Engagement Session 2 (following BOE direction)***

Step 4: Draft Initial Master Plan – October / November 2026

- Concept narrative
- Potential bubble diagram
- Key milestones that drive timing

Step 5: Final Master Plan – January/February/March 2027

- Concept plan with probable order of magnitude of costs
- Concept thresholds that trigger concept plans

Community Engagement Session 3 (Informational)

DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

2026-27 CLASSIFIED PART-TIME SALARY SCHEDULE

STEP	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	$ 15.77	$ 17.35	$ 17.80	$ 18.38	$ 19.19	$ 20.97	$ 23.11
2	$ 15.95	$ 17.52	$ 18.04	$ 18.61	$ 19.42	$ 21.27	$ 23.45
3	$ 16.14	$ 17.70	$ 18.27	$ 18.85	$ 19.64	$ 21.56	$ 23.81
4	$ 16.30	$ 17.86	$ 18.51	$ 19.08	$ 19.88	$ 21.83	$ 24.14
5	$ 16.49	$ 18.04	$ 18.72	$ 19.31	$ 20.11	$ 22.13	$ 24.49
6	$ 16.65	$ 18.21	$ 18.96	$ 19.54	$ 20.35	$ 22.42	$ 24.84
7	$ 16.83	$ 18.38	$ 19.19	$ 19.77	$ 20.57	$ 22.71	$ 25.18
8	$ 17.02	$ 18.56	$ 19.36	$ 20.00	$ 20.80	$ 22.99	$ 25.53
9	$ 17.17	$ 18.72	$ 19.54	$ 20.22	$ 21.02	$ 23.29	$ 25.86
10	$ 17.37	$ 18.91	$ 19.71	$ 20.45	$ 21.27	$ 23.57	$ 26.22
11	$ 17.53	$ 19.08	$ 19.94	$ 20.75	$ 21.50	$ 23.86	$ 26.57
12	$ 17.70	$ 19.24	$ 20.11	$ 21.02	$ 21.72	$ 24.14	$ 26.92
13	$ 17.88	$ 19.42	$ 20.29	$ 21.32	$ 21.96	$ 24.43	$ 27.25
14	$ 18.05	$ 19.59	$ 20.45	$ 21.61	$ 22.18	$ 24.73	$ 27.59
15	$ 18.24	$ 19.77	$ 20.63	$ 21.90	$ 22.42	$ 25.01	$ 27.95
16	$ 18.41	$ 19.94	$ 20.80	$ 22.18	$ 22.65	$ 25.30	$ 28.30
17	$ 18.58	$ 20.11	$ 21.00	$ 22.48	$ 22.88	$ 25.59	$ 28.64
18	$ 18.76	$ 20.29	$ 21.16	$ 22.76	$ 23.11	$ 25.86	$ 28.98
19	$ 18.93	$ 20.45	$ 21.32	$ 23.05	$ 23.34	$ 26.16	$ 29.33
20	$ 19.11	$ 20.63	$ 21.61	$ 23.34	$ 23.57	$ 26.45	$ 29.68
21	$ 19.29	$ 20.80	$ 21.90	$ 23.62	$ 23.81	$ 26.73	$ 30.04
22	$ 19.48	$ 20.95	$ 22.16	$ 23.89	$ 24.00	$ 26.99	$ 30.33
23	$ 19.72	$ 21.12	$ 22.44	$ 24.16	$ 24.23	$ 27.28	$ 30.66
24	$ 19.95	$ 21.29	$ 22.73	$ 24.45	$ 24.46	$ 27.55	$ 31.00
25	$ 20.17	$ 21.45	$ 23.02	$ 24.73	$ 24.68	$ 27.84	$ 31.34
26	$ 20.41	$ 21.62	$ 23.30	$ 25.02	$ 24.91	$ 28.13	$ 31.68
27	$ 20.65	$ 21.80	$ 23.58	$ 25.30	$ 25.14	$ 28.42	$ 32.02

A Food Service, Part Time Custodian
B Para (Reg. Ed.), Part Time Driver, Kitchen Manager
C Para (Library, SPED, Work Room)
D Para (PK, Health Needs, RBT), Office Aide
E Counselor's Secretary
F District Office Assistant
G Part Time Accompanist

2026-27 CLASSIFIED PPACA FULL-TIME SALARY SCHEDULE

STEP	CF	DF	EF	FF	GF	HF	IF	JF
1	$ 16.92	$ 17.78	$ 18.59	$ 20.54	$ 24.46	$ 29.34	$ 33.21	$ 22.15
2	$ 17.09	$ 18.01	$ 18.82	$ 20.77	$ 24.80	$ 29.75	$ 33.82	$ 22.50
3	$ 17.26	$ 18.24	$ 19.04	$ 21.00	$ 25.15	$ 30.15	$ 34.47	$ 22.85
4	$ 17.43	$ 18.46	$ 19.28	$ 21.23	$ 25.49	$ 30.55	$ 35.11	$ 23.18
5	$ 17.61	$ 18.70	$ 19.51	$ 21.48	$ 25.83	$ 30.96	$ 35.73	$ 23.54
6	$ 17.78	$ 18.93	$ 19.74	$ 21.69	$ 26.19	$ 31.36	$ 36.37	$ 23.89
7	$ 17.95	$ 19.17	$ 19.98	$ 21.93	$ 26.53	$ 31.76	$ 37.00	$ 24.23
8	$ 18.13	$ 19.39	$ 20.19	$ 22.15	$ 26.87	$ 32.16	$ 37.63	$ 24.57
9	$ 18.30	$ 19.62	$ 20.42	$ 22.39	$ 27.22	$ 32.56	$ 38.25	$ 24.91
10	$ 18.46	$ 19.84	$ 20.65	$ 22.60	$ 27.56	$ 32.96	$ 38.91	$ 25.26
11	$ 18.64	$ 20.09	$ 20.89	$ 22.85	$ 27.90	$ 33.37	$ 39.53	$ 25.61
12	$ 18.82	$ 20.32	$ 21.12	$ 23.08	$ 28.25	$ 33.77	$ 40.17	$ 25.95
13	$ 18.98	$ 20.54	$ 21.34	$ 23.31	$ 28.60	$ 34.18	$ 40.81	$ 26.30
14	$ 19.17	$ 20.77	$ 21.58	$ 23.54	$ 28.95	$ 34.58	$ 41.42	$ 26.64
15	$ 19.33	$ 21.00	$ 21.80	$ 23.83	$ 29.29	$ 34.97	$ 42.07	$ 26.98
16	$ 19.51	$ 21.23	$ 22.04	$ 24.16	$ 29.64	$ 35.32	$ 42.68	$ 27.33
17	$ 19.69	$ 21.48	$ 22.26	$ 24.51	$ 29.98	$ 35.84	$ 43.33	$ 27.69
18	$ 19.84	$ 21.69	$ 22.50	$ 24.86	$ 30.45	$ 36.30	$ 43.98	$ 28.03
19	$ 20.03	$ 21.93	$ 22.73	$ 25.20	$ 30.91	$ 36.77	$ 44.59	$ 28.36
20	$ 20.19	$ 22.15	$ 22.96	$ 25.54	$ 31.36	$ 37.23	$ 45.23	$ 28.71
21	$ 20.37	$ 22.39	$ 23.18	$ 25.90	$ 31.82	$ 37.68	$ 45.86	$ 29.05
22	$ 20.54	$ 22.61	$ 23.42	$ 26.24	$ 32.27	$ 38.16	$ 46.47	$ 29.40
23	$ 20.72	$ 22.85	$ 23.65	$ 26.58	$ 32.74	$ 38.61	$ 47.10	$ 29.75
24	$ 20.89	$ 23.08	$ 23.88	$ 26.92	$ 33.19	$ 39.05	$ 47.73	$ 30.09
25	$ 21.04	$ 23.31	$ 24.11	$ 27.25	$ 33.64	$ 39.50	$ 48.37	$ 30.43
26	$ 21.22	$ 23.55	$ 24.34	$ 27.59	$ 34.09	$ 39.94	$ 49.01	$ 30.77
27	$ 21.39	$ 23.77	$ 24.58	$ 27.95	$ 34.55	$ 40.39	$ 49.65	$ 31.11

CF Para (SPED)
DF Para (Health Needs, RBT), Full Time Custodian
EF Light Maintenance
FF Building & Counseling Secretary, Head Custodian
GF Maintenance, Technology Support
HF District Office Secretary, Human Resource
IF Business Manager
JF Food Service Director

2026-27 CLASSIFIED PART-TIME SALARY SCHEDULE (% INCREASE)							
STEP	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	$ 0.53	$ 0.59	$ 0.60	$ 0.62	$ 0.65	$ 0.71	$ 0.78
2	$ 0.54	$ 0.59	$ 0.61	$ 0.63	$ 0.66	$ 0.72	$ 0.79
3	$ 0.55	$ 0.60	$ 0.62	$ 0.64	$ 0.66	$ 0.73	$ 0.81
4	$ 0.55	$ 0.60	$ 0.63	$ 0.65	$ 0.67	$ 0.74	$ 0.82
5	$ 0.56	$ 0.61	$ 0.63	$ 0.65	$ 0.68	$ 0.75	$ 0.83
6	$ 0.56	$ 0.62	$ 0.64	$ 0.66	$ 0.69	$ 0.76	$ 0.84
7	$ 0.57	$ 0.62	$ 0.65	$ 0.67	$ 0.70	$ 0.77	$ 0.85
8	$ 0.58	$ 0.63	$ 0.65	$ 0.68	$ 0.70	$ 0.78	$ 0.86
9	$ 0.58	$ 0.63	$ 0.66	$ 0.68	$ 0.71	$ 0.79	$ 0.87
10	$ 0.59	$ 0.64	$ 0.67	$ 0.69	$ 0.72	$ 0.80	$ 0.89
11	$ 0.59	$ 0.65	$ 0.67	$ 0.70	$ 0.73	$ 0.81	$ 0.90
12	$ 0.60	$ 0.65	$ 0.68	$ 0.71	$ 0.73	$ 0.82	$ 0.91
13	$ 0.60	$ 0.66	$ 0.69	$ 0.72	$ 0.74	$ 0.83	$ 0.92
14	$ 0.61	$ 0.66	$ 0.69	$ 0.73	$ 0.75	$ 0.84	$ 0.93
15	$ 0.62	$ 0.67	$ 0.70	$ 0.74	$ 0.76	$ 0.85	$ 0.95
16	$ 0.62	$ 0.67	$ 0.70	$ 0.75	$ 0.77	$ 0.86	$ 0.96
17	$ 0.63	$ 0.68	$ 0.71	$ 0.76	$ 0.77	$ 0.87	$ 0.97
18	$ 0.63	$ 0.69	$ 0.72	$ 0.77	$ 0.78	$ 0.87	$ 0.98
19	$ 0.64	$ 0.69	$ 0.72	$ 0.78	$ 0.79	$ 0.88	$ 0.99
20	$ 0.65	$ 0.70	$ 0.73	$ 0.79	$ 0.80	$ 0.89	$ 1.00
21	$ 0.65	$ 0.70	$ 0.74	$ 0.80	$ 0.81	$ 0.90	$ 1.02
22	$ 0.66	$ 0.71	$ 0.75	$ 0.81	$ 0.81	$ 0.91	$ 1.03
23	$ 0.67	$ 0.71	$ 0.76	$ 0.82	$ 0.82	$ 0.92	$ 1.04
24	$ 0.67	$ 0.72	$ 0.77	$ 0.83	$ 0.83	$ 0.93	$ 1.05
25	$ 0.68	$ 0.73	$ 0.78	$ 0.84	$ 0.83	$ 0.94	$ 1.06
26	$ 0.69	$ 0.73	$ 0.79	$ 0.85	$ 0.84	$ 0.95	$ 1.07
27	$ 0.70	$ 0.74	$ 0.80	$ 0.86	$ 0.85	$ 0.96	$ 1.08
incr. on base	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%

2026-27 CLASSIFIED PPACA FULL-TIME SALARY SCHEDULE (% INCREASE)								
STEP	CF	DF	EF	FF	GF	HF	IF	JF
1	$ 0.57	$ 0.60	$ 0.63	$ 0.69	$ 0.83	$ 0.99	$ 1.12	$ 0.75
2	$ 0.58	$ 0.61	$ 0.64	$ 0.70	$ 0.84	$ 1.01	$ 1.14	$ 0.76
3	$ 0.58	$ 0.62	$ 0.64	$ 0.71	$ 0.85	$ 1.02	$ 1.17	$ 0.77
4	$ 0.59	$ 0.62	$ 0.65	$ 0.72	$ 0.86	$ 1.03	$ 1.19	$ 0.78
5	$ 0.60	$ 0.63	$ 0.66	$ 0.73	$ 0.87	$ 1.05	$ 1.21	$ 0.80
6	$ 0.60	$ 0.64	$ 0.67	$ 0.73	$ 0.89	$ 1.06	$ 1.23	$ 0.81
7	$ 0.61	$ 0.65	$ 0.68	$ 0.74	$ 0.90	$ 1.07	$ 1.25	$ 0.82
8	$ 0.61	$ 0.66	$ 0.68	$ 0.75	$ 0.91	$ 1.09	$ 1.27	$ 0.83
9	$ 0.62	$ 0.66	$ 0.69	$ 0.76	$ 0.92	$ 1.10	$ 1.29	$ 0.84
10	$ 0.62	$ 0.67	$ 0.70	$ 0.76	$ 0.93	$ 1.11	$ 1.32	$ 0.85
11	$ 0.63	$ 0.68	$ 0.71	$ 0.77	$ 0.94	$ 1.13	$ 1.34	$ 0.87
12	$ 0.64	$ 0.69	$ 0.71	$ 0.78	$ 0.96	$ 1.14	$ 1.36	$ 0.88
13	$ 0.64	$ 0.69	$ 0.72	$ 0.79	$ 0.97	$ 1.16	$ 1.38	$ 0.89
14	$ 0.65	$ 0.70	$ 0.73	$ 0.80	$ 0.98	$ 1.17	$ 1.40	$ 0.90
15	$ 0.65	$ 0.71	$ 0.74	$ 0.81	$ 0.99	$ 1.18	$ 1.42	$ 0.91
16	$ 0.66	$ 0.72	$ 0.75	$ 0.82	$ 1.00	$ 1.19	$ 1.44	$ 0.92
17	$ 0.67	$ 0.73	$ 0.75	$ 0.83	$ 1.01	$ 1.21	$ 1.47	$ 0.94
18	$ 0.67	$ 0.73	$ 0.76	$ 0.84	$ 1.03	$ 1.23	$ 1.49	$ 0.95
19	$ 0.68	$ 0.74	$ 0.77	$ 0.85	$ 1.05	$ 1.24	$ 1.51	$ 0.96
20	$ 0.68	$ 0.75	$ 0.78	$ 0.86	$ 1.06	$ 1.26	$ 1.53	$ 0.97
21	$ 0.69	$ 0.76	$ 0.78	$ 0.88	$ 1.08	$ 1.27	$ 1.55	$ 0.98
22	$ 0.69	$ 0.76	$ 0.79	$ 0.89	$ 1.09	$ 1.29	$ 1.57	$ 0.99
23	$ 0.70	$ 0.77	$ 0.80	$ 0.90	$ 1.11	$ 1.31	$ 1.59	$ 1.01
24	$ 0.71	$ 0.78	$ 0.81	$ 0.91	$ 1.12	$ 1.32	$ 1.61	$ 1.02
25	$ 0.71	$ 0.79	$ 0.82	$ 0.92	$ 1.14	$ 1.34	$ 1.64	$ 1.03
26	$ 0.72	$ 0.80	$ 0.82	$ 0.93	$ 1.15	$ 1.35	$ 1.66	$ 1.04
27	$ 0.72	$ 0.80	$ 0.83	$ 0.95	$ 1.17	$ 1.37	$ 1.68	$ 1.05
incr. on base	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%

Administrative Salaries 2025-2026

Name	Salary	Flat Salary (Benefits)	Total Salary	Contract Days
Kerns	$114,360.00	$22,000.00	$136,360.00	220
Knott	$145,406.00	$22,000.00	$167,406.00	220
Marten	$124,391.00	$22,000.00	$146,391.00	225
Pechous	$116,884.00	$22,000.00	$138,884.00	225
Poloncic	$197,824.00	$23,359.00	$221,183.00	260
Ranslem	$83,000.00	$22,000.00	$105,000.00	215
Sarka	$112,000.00	$22,000.00	$134,000.00	220
Travis	$122,622.00	$22,000.00	$144,622.00	220
Total	**$1,016,487.00**	**$177,359.00**	**$1,193,846.00**	

Proposed Administrative Salaries 2026-2027

Name	Salary	Flat Salary (Benefits)	Total Salary	Contract Days
Kerns	$117,633.00	$23,500.00	$141,133.00	220
Knott	$149,765.00	$23,500.00	$173,265.00	220
Marten	$128,015.00	$23,500.00	$151,515.00	225
Pechous	$120,245.00	$23,500.00	$143,745.00	225
Poloncic	$203,924.00	$25,000.00	$228,924.00	260
Ranslem	$85,175.00	$23,500.00	$108,675.00	215
Sarka	$115,190.00	$23,500.00	$138,690.00	220
Travis	$126,184.00	$23,500.00	$149,684.00	220
Total	**$1,046,131.00**	**$189,500.00**	**$1,235,631.00**	

District Office Administrative Assistant (New)
1.0FTE Position 12 months
FF Column Pay Classification

Business Office Tasks

- Assist with general district office duties as needed (answering phones, greeting visitors, etc.)
- Mail & Deliveries (Receiving)
    - Receive, sort and distribute incoming mail daily
    - Deliver internal mail and packages to the building office daily
    - Deliver mail to the post office daily
    - Coordinate the arrival of deliveries
    - Check in received packages daily thoroughly in the accounting system
    - Notify staff of packages received and coordinate custodial for large deliveries daily
- Purchasing
    - Assist data input into accounts payable for all funds in the accounting system as compiled and directed by the Business Manager
    - Assist data input into accounts receivable for all funds in the accounting system as compiled and directed by the Business Manager
- Scan accounts payable & receivable documents into K-12 docs
- Assist with fixed asset inventory
- Input requisitions for Buildings and Grounds and District Office
- Records management as needed

Special Education Office Tasks (as directed by the Director of Student Services)

- Student records upkeep in Powerschool
- IEP transfers
- MIPS data input

Curriculum and Instruction Office Tasks (as directed by the Director of Learning)

- Annual and ongoing curriculum materials organization, ordering, check-in, and distribution
- Assist in preparation for district wide assessments
- Assist in preparation for professional development events or meeting set-up

Administrative Assistant to the Director of Activities and Athletics (New)
1.0FTE Position 10 months
FF Column Classification

- Entry of requisitions for Activities and Athletics
- Data input and upkeep of changes on the scheduling platform for games, activities, contracts, refs, etc.
- Assist the AD in coordinating workers for all events
- Communication prior to events as directed by the Director of Athletics and Activities
- Prepare event programs with rosters
- Assist the AD in maintaining records on coaching certifications, training, and other NSAA requirements
- Assist in the creation of distribution lists for communications of activity groups
- Assist in reviewing accuracy of calendar of activities and transportation arrangements for activities in coordination with the Transportation Director
- Mailing of contracts for events
- Prepare ribbons, medals, and award certificates
- Assist in preparation for end of the year or special events
- Book lodging for activities
- Coordination of coaching startup to the season (keys, HR coordination, CPR, classes needed, etc)