Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, October 12, 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**
   - 4.1. Superintendent's Report 5
   - 4.2. Elementary School — Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem 7
   - 4.3. Middle School — Dr. Kerns 12
   - 4.4. High School — Mr. Knott & Mrs. Younghans 19
   - 4.5. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment — Dr. Marten 21
   - 4.6. Student Services & Special Education — Dr. Pechous 25
   - 4.7. Athletics & Activities — Mr. Travis 30
   - 4.8. Financial Report 38
5. **Consent Agenda**
   - 5.1. Approve Minutes 45
   - 5.2. Approve Claims for Payment
   - 5.3. Approve Financial Report

5.4. Approve Classified Staff

6. **New Business**

6.1. District Continuous Improvement Plan and Goals

6.2. Elementary Continuous Improvement Plan and Goals

6.3. Option Enrollment Resolution for the 2027-2028 School Year 50

6.4. Lease Renewal Confirmation Resolution 2026 53

6.5. Sell, Recycle, Dispose of Property

6.6. Approve Cooperative Agreement for High School Girls Wrestling for the 2026-27 Season

6.7. Food Service Program Discussion 54

7. **Adjournment**

Board of Education

Cole Groteluschen

Dr. Kelly Hinrichs

Luke Janke

Jamie Jorgensen

Elizabeth Mayer

Jim Tomanek

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

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

Meetings of the Board

When

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

Where

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

Notice of Meetings

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

Business of the Board

Agendas

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

Public Participation

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

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

- The Board invites you to share any information you may have or address any question to any Board member or the Superintendent regarding new business in the week prior to the next meeting.

- If, at any Board meeting, any person shall conduct himself or herself in a disorderly manner and after notice of the president or the person presiding shall persist therein, the president or person presiding may ask the person to leave and if the person refuses, the president or presiding officer may order any law enforcement officer or any other person or persons to take him or her into custody until the meeting is adjourned.

- Meetings may be recorded. Recording must be done so as not to disrupt the meeting.

- Meetings of the Board of Education shall be conducted in compliance with appropriate policy, state statutes and open meeting laws.

Mission Statement

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



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

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

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

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



Board Meeting Procedures

"Engage, Prepare, and Empower"

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

DC WEST Community Schools
Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Superintendent's Report
October 12, 2026

Master Planning Update
The community survey is in collection until Sunday, October 11th. As of October 6th, we have received 328 completed surveys. The team from BCDM met with our entire administrative team on Friday, September 25th for an engagement session. BCDM is requesting another Board engagement meeting on **Monday, November 16th as a worksession** prior to the Board meeting to review community survey information and engage in next steps in the process. We are providing RSP official student enrollment counts from our NDE October reporting data as well as the last decade of this official reporting data. They continue their progress on the enrollment study.

Continuous Improvement Presentations
Monthly, we will present our 2026-27 continuous improvement goals and plans by school or department to the Board of Education that are directly aligned with our strategic plan. We do this to share important professional development and work towards our goals that occur on a regular basis to keep you informed as we continue to push for excellence in our school district.

NASB Upcoming Professional Development for Board
The State Education Conference "Building Strong Futures" will be held in Omaha on November 18-20th. I will plan on attending and would love to have as many Board members as possible join me. Please let me know if you plan to attend and I will register you.

NEBA (Nebraska Educational Building Association) Update
I recently chaired the virtual NEBA meeting on Tuesday, October 6th. During this meeting, two more schools joined the interlocal and will be approving lease purchase projects through the NEBA in their communities of Central City and David City. To date, there are seven total schools in NEBA; DCWest Community Schools, Minden Public Schools, East Butler Public Schools, Hemingford Public Schools, Mead Public Schools, Central City Public Schools, and David City Public Schools. The next in person meeting will be at the State Education Conference on November 19th.

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:
October 14th~ EL/MS/HS Conferences
October 15th-19th~ Fall Break, Teacher Professional Development on the 19th
November 16th~ 6:00 Work Session, 7:00 Regular Board of Education Meeting

DC WEST
Community Schools

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

October 5, 2026
Board Report
Elementary School (Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem)
DC West Community Schools

Contents:

1. **Kindness Fundraiser & Run**
2. **AASA School Site Visit**
3. **Continuous Improvement Action Teams**
4. **Falcon Cafe Kickoff**
5. **Assessment Data**
6. **IPG Walkthroughs**

1. Kindness Fundraiser & Run

Our new Kindness Fundraiser was a huge success! We are thrilled to share that our school community hit our fundraising goal this year of $60,000. Beyond the amazing prizes, this fundraiser gave us an opportunity to teach our students the importance of kindness, thoughtful gestures, and making a positive difference in the lives of others. Although the weather didn't cooperate we made the best of it and did our run in the gym!

We truly appreciate everyone's understanding and patience as we introduced a new fundraiser to our school community. A huge thank you to our PTSA, generous donors, staff, teachers, families, and entire school community for all of the time, support, and effort that went into making this possible. We are so proud of what we accomplished together and grateful for the kindness shown throughout the entire process!





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2. AASA School Site Visit

On October 8th, DC West Elementary will be hosting Early Childhood professionals from around the country to experience the collaborative work that has been done for building continuous improvement in partnership with The Buffett Early Childhood Institute. The group will be on campus for the entire day as they participate in breakout sessions, facility tours, and a panel of DC West and Buffett Professionals.

Breakout presentations will be facilitated about the 3 pillars of our CI goals.

1. Leadership Effectiveness
    a. Kelsey Nabity
    b. Alan Sarka
2. Instructional Excellence
    a. Meghan Ranslem
    b. Alyssa Anson
3. Family Community Partnerships
    a. Amy Tessendorf
    b. Kristen Reeves

Community Partnerships- We want to thank our community panel members for their participation on the Family Community Partnership Engagement Panel

    c. Christina Groteluschenfrom PTSA
    d. Jim Tomanek from COPE
    e. Janae Robinson from PTSA and the DC West Foundation
    f. Danae Dinkel from UNO
    g. Meagan Pruitt from Waterloo Library
    h. Sami Stewart from ValleyLibrary

District Level leaders will culminate the visit with a panel about Building Collaborative Partnerships.

Panel Members:

- Dr. Tonya Jolley- Buffett Early Childhood Institute
    - Program Administrator
- Alyssa Anson- Buffett Early Childhood Institute
    - Early Childhood Specialist

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- Dr. Dawn Marten- DC West Community Schools
  - Director of Learning
- Dr. Amy Schmidtke- Buffett Early Childhood Institute
  - Director of Educational Practice
- Alan Sarka- DC West Community Schools
  - Elementary Principal
- Kelsey Nabity- DC West Community Schools
  - Teacher Leader
- Amy Tessendorf- DC West Community Schools
  - Home Visitor and Family Facilitator

3. Continuous Improvement Action Teams:

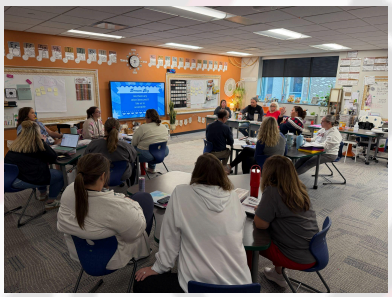
Staff involvement and buy in is extremely important to push our building continuous improvement goals forward with a collaborative shared vision. Because of that, we've asked ALL certified teachers to join an action team in an area that they are passionate about.

Building Pillars

1. Leadership Effectiveness
2. Instructional Excellence
3. Family and Community Partnerships

Action Teams will meet at strategic times throughout the year to identify focuses and logical action steps. Each team has 2-3 leaders that will then report their work back to the Continuous Improvement Team and share progress. These teams will drive our building progress towards our goals through shared leadership and a shared vision.





4. Falcon Café Kickoff

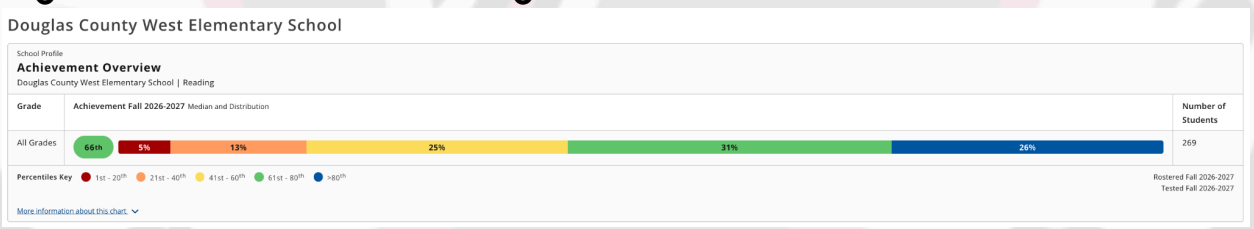
Our first Falcon Café was a great success! We had a wonderful turnout and enjoyed sharing information about the work happening at DC West Elementary through our three action teams: Instructional Excellence, Leadership Effectiveness, and Family & Community Partnerships.

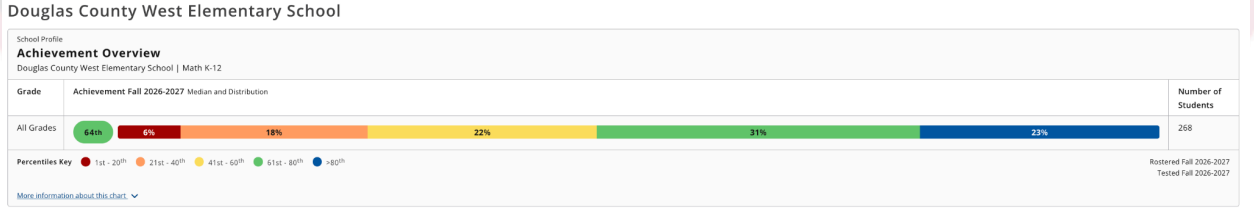
Community members learned more about the purpose of each action team, the work currently underway, and the leaders helping guide these efforts. We were especially grateful for the opportunity to hear questions, feedback, suggestions, and ideas for future topics from our families and community members.

Our "parking lot" sticky notes provided a great way for attendees to share their thoughts and help us identify topics they would like to learn more about. This feedback will help guide our future Falcon Cafés throughout the remainder of the school year. We are so thankful to everyone who joined us and helped make our first Falcon Café a success!

5. 2026 Fall MAP Data

Below is DC West Elementary achievement data for both Reading and Mathematics. Staff engaged in a collaborative data analysis process to examine student performance, identify trends and areas of need, develop targeted skill-based instructional groups, and identify students requiring additional interventions or supports. This data-driven process is used to inform instructional planning and ensure that students receive targeted instruction aligned to their individual learning needs.





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6. IPG walkthroughs for teachers

In partnership with ESU 3, DC West instructional leaders have conducted Instructional Practice Guide walkthroughs with all teachers during literacy instruction. Data collected through these walkthroughs will be compiled and analyzed to identify trends, strengths, and areas for instructional improvement. The findings will be shared with staff to promote collective reflection and inform instructional decision-making. This data will be used to guide targeted instructional shifts and support the implementation of high-leverage instructional practices that positively impact student learning and achievement.

DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

BOARD REPORT

OCTOBER 2026 • ENGAGE, PREPARE, AND EMPOWER

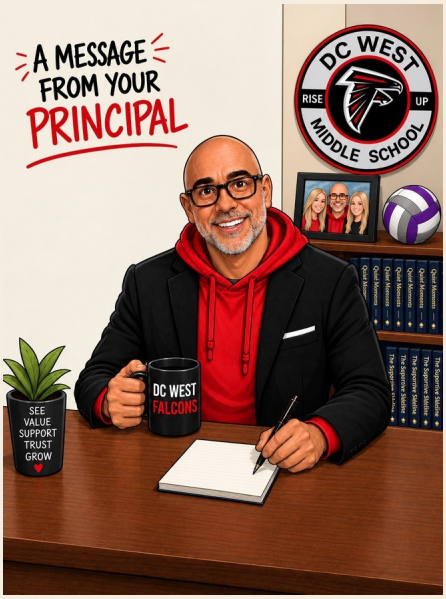
October at DC West means the routines are set and the real work is humming. Walk the halls and you can feel it. Students working to complete a project. A teacher kneeling beside a desk. A quiet high-five when a hard problem finally clicks.

Before the learning happens, the relationship does. Our teachers made that their focus this year: know the student first. The kid who needs a word at the door. The one who won't talk until you ask twice. Culture is built in those quiet moments, and our staff is building it every single day.

This month's report opens up more of what happens inside our classrooms, from the goals that drive our teaching to the training our teachers are pursuing. Scan a code, read a goal, and see the work for yourself.

Thank you for partnering with us. Go Falcons.

Dr. Jeffrey Kerns
PRINCIPAL, DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL



NEW FOR FAMILIES

See It for Yourself

You will notice a QR code for each grade level in this report. It is the fastest way to see what your student is part of every day. Open your phone camera, hold it over your grade's code, and tap the link that appears. No app to download and nothing to log into.

So much of a great school day happens where families cannot see it. These codes pull back the curtain and give you a direct look at the work behind the day.

6th Grade
Scan for updates

7th Grade
Scan for updates

8th Grade
Scan for updates

OUR ROADMAP

Where We Are Headed This Year

Every decision at DC West Middle School points back to these three goals. These are our loftiest goals, and we set them high on purpose. They are simple to say and hard to earn, and a target this high pulls our best work out of us every single day.

GOAL 1 · READING

English Language Arts

80%

of students on track or advanced on the NSCAS ELA test within two years.

Powered by data-driven instruction, MTSS support time, and training in the science of reading.

GOAL 2 · MATH

Mathematics

80%

of students on track or advanced on the NSCAS Math test within two years.

The same playbook: data-driven instruction and targeted MTSS support.

GOAL 3 · PEOPLE

School Culture

4.1+

mean staff team-culture score on our HumanEx survey.

Built on clear team norms, healthy conflict, and teachers sharing what works.

Each goal ladders up to our district priorities, from student-centered learning to strong family and community partnerships.

INVESTING IN TEACHERS

Training in the Science of Reading

Who's enrolled: ELA • Special Education • Reading Specialists

Great instruction starts with great training. This year our ELA, special education, and reading specialist teachers are enrolled in the **Foundations of Adolescent Literacy** course, a blended program built on the science of reading and designed for teachers in Tier 1 secondary classrooms.

It is a serious commitment. Teachers dig into the core building blocks of literacy, from phonological and phonemic awareness and phonics to vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. They leave each session with concrete, evidence-based strategies for the exact students they teach, which ties straight back to Goal 1 above.

13	15	5
two-hour in-person sessions	hours of online learning modules	hours of pre-session work

FALCON ATHLETICS

Cross Country Off and Running

> We've had a few medalists at our meets so far this season, including Hayden Cameron (8th), Cora Jurgensen (7th), and Will Hutchinson (7th).
>
> — MR. ZIMMER, MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY COACH

MEDALIST	MEDALIST	MEDALIST
Hayden Cameron	**Cora Jurgensen**	**Will Hutchinson**
8th Grade	7th Grade	7th Grade



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Robotics Is Off to a Great Start!

Robotics is underway, and our teams are already busy designing, building, problem-solving, and working together as we prepare for this year's competitions!

Did you miss the sign-up? It is not too late to join. Students who are interested in robotics, engineering, coding, or who just want to try something new are still welcome to get involved. No previous robotics experience is necessary.

> Interested? **Email Mrs. Leonard at lleonard@dcwest.org** for details.



FALCON SPIRIT

8th Grade Takes the Spirit Award!

> 8th grade brought the noise at the fall pep rally and took home the Spirit Award! They get to decorate the megaphone and return it at the winter pep rally.
>
> — ALYSSA LINDAHL, CHEER COACH



UNIFIED SPORTS

Unified Flag Football Kicks Off

> Our Unified Flag Football team is off and running! Our first game was Wednesday, September 23rd, against Papillion South High School. Next up, we take on Fort Calhoun on Thursday, October 8th.

— MRS. MASTERS

> Stay in the loop! Get team news and info anytime on our **BAND:** **band.us/n/acaebfI7p0KdH**



FALCON FOOTBALL

Falcon Football Battles On

> Middle school football has gotten off to an inauspicious beginning. Weather has been the culprit of a game cancellation and a shortened game that ended in a 6–6 draw against rival Fort Calhoun. This hasn't dampened the spirits of the team. With four matches left, the team has some great opportunities to show off all of the hard work they've been putting in during practices. Go Falcons!

— MR. HAYS



RISE UP

Earn Your Falcon Reward Trip

Good habits add up. Each quarter, students who Rise Up can earn a spot on the Falcon Reward Trip. Meet at least four of the five marks below and your student qualifies — a simple way to celebrate the everyday choices that make a great student and a great Falcon.

MEET 4 OF 5 TO QUALIFY

1. Grades of “C” or above in all classes
2. No missing assignments, tests, or projects
3. No cell phone violations for the quarter
4. No office suspension (ISS or OSS)
5. No more than 2 full-day absences

1ST QUARTER REWARD TRIP — SPARETIME!

1st Quarter Falcon Rewards is upon us! Every student who meets the qualifications above will be going to SpareTime.

DATE	TIME	GRADE
October 21	9:00 – 11:00 AM	8th Grade
October 21	12:30 – 2:30 PM	6th Grade
October 22	12:30 – 2:30 PM	7th Grade

> The cost to bowl is **$9 per child**. Pay through e-funds (preferred), or send **$9 exact change** to the front office before **October 15**. For laser tag, arcade games, or concessions, students may bring additional cash to SpareTime.

We are looking forward to a fun time celebrating our first quarter successes and hard work!

PLEASE NOTE

A Reminder About Our Cell Phone Policy

Personal devices should be away and silent during the school day so our students can stay focused on learning. When that expectation is not met, here is how staff respond. Consequences build with each infraction.

> Every step begins the same way: **the teacher collects the device and turns it over to the principal, who documents the infraction in EduClimber.** What changes is what happens next.

1 FIRST INFRACTION

The student picks the device back up from the principal at the end of the day.

2 SECOND INFRACTION

The principal contacts the parent. The student checks the device in each morning for **1 school day**, or leaves it home.

3 THIRD INFRACTION

The parent is contacted and **picks up the device**. Morning check-in continues for **5 school days**, or it stays home.

4 FOURTH INFRACTION

The parent is contacted and picks up the device. Morning check-in continues for the **remainder of the semester**, or it stays home.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every Day in the Building Counts

Thinking about a family trip? These natural breaks in the DC West calendar are the easiest days to travel without your student missing class. **Winter Break** (Dec 19–Jan 4) and **Spring Break** (Mar 27–Apr 4) offer the longest windows.

Middle school is where good habits take root, and showing up is the first one. These years move fast, and each lesson builds on the one before, so a missed day is rarely just one day of learning lost. That is exactly why we share the calendar below. The breaks are built in on purpose, with long weekends and vacation windows made for rest and travel. Please plan the trips around those, keep the school days for school, and every day in the building becomes a day your student grows.

Save the flyer for the full list of long weekends and breaks. Every day in school counts, so planning around these dates helps keep your student on track.



BREAKS & LONG WEEKENDS AT A GLANCE

TESTING UPDATES

Winter MAP Growth Testing

In December, all students take the Winter MAP Growth assessments in reading and math. These check-ins show us how each student is growing since fall and where to focus next. Testing takes place during regular class periods on iPads.

ASSESSMENT	GRADES	TEST DAYS	MAKE-UP / FINISH
Reading (ELA)	6th, 7th & 8th	December 1–3	December 4
Math	6th, 7th & 8th	December 8–9	December 11

TESTING UPDATES

Spring State Testing (NSCAS)

In the spring, students take Nebraska's NSCAS state assessments on iPads. ELA and Math are given during block periods (2nd and 3rd), and 8th grade Science takes place during regular class periods.

ASSESSMENT	GRADE	TEST DAYS
Science	8th Grade	April 7 & 8
Reading (ELA)	6th, 7th & 8th	April 20 & 22
Math	6th, 7th & 8th	April 27 & 29

GO FALCONS!

Engage, Prepare, and Empower

DC West Middle School • Board Report • October 2026

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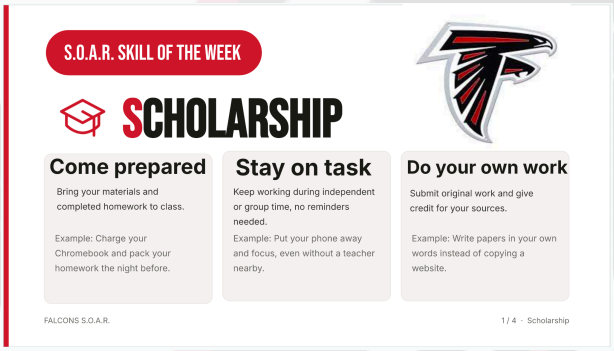
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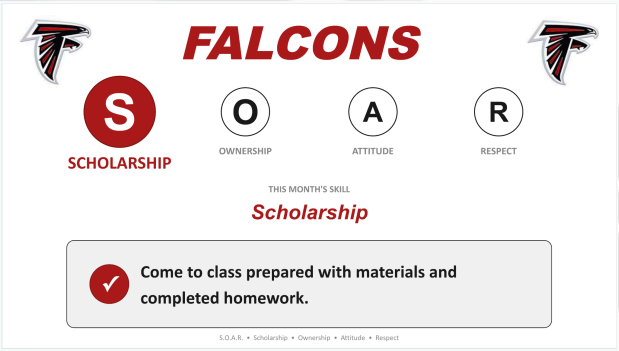
Board Report
October 12th, 2026

Shawna Younghans- Administrative Facilitator

Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Learning (SEBL) Team

This report highlights the work of our Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Learning (SEBL) team so far this year. The team hit the ground running and has already created slides that teach S.O.A.R. skills, which are displayed on the televisions in the commons and in classrooms. The first example below is the slide students see during each passing period and at lunch. Each quarter, the featured S.O.A.R. letter will change to highlight the next group of skills. Once a week, students announce the skill of the quarter and share a specific expectation for their peers to focus on. The 2nd picture below is an example slide teachers can display on their classroom televisions during the beginning and end of class.





Under the leadership of Mr. Matt Caldwell and Mrs. Kristen Phillips, the SEBL team has been organized and thoughtful in planning its next steps. Great job to this team and we are excited to see what is yet to come.

Keystone Flex

This school year we have continued Keystone Flex for juniors and seniors. Both classes have enjoyed the time to study and talk with peers in the media center and to play games in the gym. To participate, students must be earning a C or higher in all subjects. Of the students who are not eligible on Tuesday, more than 60% complete their work in time to participate by Friday.

Go Falcons!
Mrs. Shawna Younghans

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Jim Knott
High School Principal

Board Report
October 12, 2026

As we move towards mid-October, several important things are happening or are coming up at Douglas County West High School. High school parent-teacher conferences will be held on October 7th and 14th. We went to the "two-consecutive-Wednesdays" model to hopefully have fewer activity conflicts, allowing a high percentage of teachers to be available for parents. Conferences will be held in-person in the teacher's classrooms from 3:45-7:45 on October 7th and 2:30-7:45 on October 14th.

On Wednesday, October 28th, we will hold our fall standardized testing day where all juniors take the Practice ACT in preparation for the real ACT on April 6. All other grade levels will be attending class as normal on the 28th. This is our second year in this format. After juniors take the Practice ACT and receive the results, the teaching staff will analyze the results in order to provide extra practice in low-performance areas. Like the nationally recognized ACT, the Practice ACT provides tests in the areas of math, science, reading, and writing. Juniors will finish testing around noon on October 28th.

School improvement is an ongoing process at DC West High School. We continue to look for ways to improve our existing structures, making them more efficient and effective for students. One segment of time that has undergone a major overhaul over the last two years is Keystone. Keystone is a daily, homeroom-like, 30-minute time period in the middle of the day where students are split into small groups (ideally 15 or less) in teacher classrooms. The goals are mainly homework completion and allowing students time to receive needed academic help. Because we know most of our academic struggle is in either Math or English, this year we created daily math-specific and writing-specific workshops for students, available during Keystone. The math workshop is staffed by dual credit Math teacher, Ms. Heather Cox and Algebra teacher, Mr. JD Gagner. Ms. Cox stated, "The math workshop has been a great addition to our Keystone time. It allows students from any math class to seek help, make up homework or tests, or receive additional instruction in a math-focused environment. I think students feel more comfortable coming to math workshop since it is separate from academic support." Writing workshop teacher Mr. Jared Wiemer followed by stating, "The writing workshop has also been a great addition. Right now, lots of seniors are taking advantage of the opportunity to make up missed class periods or just get some extra work time in an individualized environment. I think the next step is encouraging students to stop by for help with any writing, whether it is for English class or any other subject!"

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

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

High Leverage Instructional Practices

Over the course of the 2025–26 school year, the District Continuous Improvement Team worked collaboratively to develop a resource designed to support and strengthen K–12 instruction across DC West. The district team identified high-leverage instructional practices aligned to the DC West Instructional Model Standard 3: Instructional Strategies, which is defined as: *The teacher uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.*

In 2026-27, principals, along with my support, will develop a plan for reviewing and reinforcing these practices in classrooms. These practices have a high return on investment by strengthening instruction and supporting student learning. During the school year, the District Continuous Improvement Team will continue this work by identifying and finalizing high-leverage instructional practices aligned to the DC West Instructional Model Standard 2: Learning Environment, defined as: *The teacher creates and maintains a learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.*

Depending on the pace of the team's work, additional instructional model standards may also be developed during the year. We will keep you updated.

EL Program Review

On September 21, we convened our English Learner (EL) Program Review Team to complete a comprehensive review of current practices using the Nebraska Rule 15 EL Program Review Checklist. The team included district and building leaders, EL Coordinator Alyssa Lindahl, and Dawn Ferreyra, Education Consultant and Title III Grant Coordinator. During the review, the group identified several established strengths, including use of the Home Language Survey and ELPA21 screener, access to Language Line interpretation services, a dedicated K–12 EL coordinator, elementary literacy supports, and existing pull-out services at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The team also discussed instructional practices that can strengthen support for multilingual learners, including use of the PLUSS Model—pre-teaching critical vocabulary, linking to prior knowledge, unpacking text meaning, scaffolding instruction, and providing structured opportunities for students to use academic language.

The review also resulted in clear next steps to strengthen consistency, documentation, and program implementation across the district. Priorities include establishing a more defined enrollment and registration process for language identification, translation, screening, and documentation; ensuring timely parent/guardian notification when students qualify for EL services; strengthening the connection between ELPA21 data and PowerSchool; and developing student language profiles and a service matrix to guide instruction and accommodations.

The team will also identify professional learning needs for classroom teachers and establish an annual process for reviewing EL and former EL student data. These next steps will help DC West create a more systematic, coordinated program that ensures multilingual learners

have meaningful access to rigorous instruction, appropriate supports, and opportunities for continued academic and English language development.

ASSESSMENT

2025-26 NSCAS Results

2025-2026 NSCAS district results are embargoed until the public release from the Nebraska Department of Education on November 25. Results will be shared with the board at the December Board of Education Meeting.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Foundations of Literacy: Intermediate and Secondary Staff

DC West teachers are participating in the Foundations of Adolescent Literacy professional learning series, a blended, dual-track course designed specifically for English language arts educators in grades 4–12. The training supports teachers in applying the science of reading within intermediate and secondary classrooms through a combination of self-paced asynchronous learning, pre-session preparation, and in-person professional learning. Participants will complete either the Intermediate Course or the Secondary Course, allowing the learning to align with the developmental needs of the students they serve.

The coursework addresses essential components of adolescent literacy, including reading development, word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, writing, background knowledge, self-efficacy, and data analysis. Teachers have already begun the first year of the series, with additional in-person learning sessions scheduled throughout the 2026–27 school year. This sustained investment in professional learning will strengthen instructional consistency and build staff capacity to provide effective, evidence-based literacy instruction for students across grades 4–12

District Professional Learning Day

On September 28, DC West staff participated in a district professional learning day focused on strengthening instructional practices, student support systems, and consistency across grade levels. Select K–3 staff continued Day 2 of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Early Literacy Workshop, deepening their understanding of science of reading-aligned instruction during the morning session and collaborating with grade-level teammates in the afternoon to apply their learning. Teachers in grades 4–12 engaged in Inclusive Practices professional learning and examined grading best practices, with particular attention to the appropriate use of extra credit and group scores.

In addition, all special education staff participated in specialized professional learning to support high-quality services for students with disabilities. The day provided staff with dedicated time to build shared understanding, collaborate with colleagues, and translate new learning into practical next steps for classrooms and student support systems.

Family & Community Partnership

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

The big day is almost here! On Thursday, October 8, DC West Elementary will proudly welcome the AASA Early Learning Cohort for a special site visit. Fifty educational leaders from across the nation will have the opportunity to see firsthand the meaningful work taking place through the Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan and DC West's valued partnership with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. We are excited to showcase the dedication of our staff, the strength of our family and community partnerships, and the practices that are making a positive difference for our youngest learners.

Throughout the day, visiting educators will participate in rotations showcasing key elements of the work at DC West Elementary. Sessions will feature:

- The school's continuous-improvement process
- Instructional coaching
- Preschool classroom practices
- Family-school connections through the Falcon Family Room
- The Teacher Leadership Network
- Instructional implementation support
- Family Community Partnership Panel:

Christina Groteluschen, *PTSA Vice President*

The DC West Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is a key partner in strengthening connections among families, staff, and schools. Through volunteer coordination, fundraising, and community-building events, the PTSA enhances educational opportunities and supports initiatives across the district. Its contributions—from meeting classroom needs to supporting schoolwide celebrations—help foster a strong sense of belonging and ensure that every family feels connected to the DC West community.

Jim Tomanek, COPE *Executive Director*

COPE, Christian Outreach Program of Elkhorn, is a valued community partner that helps meet the basic needs of local families by providing food, clothing, household items, and other essential support. Through its annual back-to-school backpack program and holiday assistance initiatives, COPE directly supports DC West students and families, as well as residents throughout western Douglas County.

Janae Robinson, *PTSA President & DC West Foundation Board of Directors*

The Falcon Café is a welcoming opportunity for families to connect with DC West staff and gain a deeper understanding of what students are learning in the classroom. Each Falcon Café provides time to engage and build relationships with other families while learning about school programs and initiatives. Families are encouraged to share suggestions for topics they would like to see featured at future Falcon Café sessions.

Denae Dinkel, *University of Nebraska-Omaha*

Through a partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the Literacy Backpack Program provides families with books and engaging literacy activities to support early reading development and encourage learning at home. This collaboration extends valuable university expertise into DC West homes, helping families build foundational literacy skills and nurture a love of reading among young learners.

Meagan Pruitt, Waterloo *Library Director*

The Waterloo Library partners with DC West to extend learning beyond the classroom through programs such as playgroups, summer reading opportunities, and family literacy events. This collaboration connects students and families with accessible community resources that foster literacy, learning, and engagement at every stage of development.

Sami Stewart, Valley *Library Director*

The Valley Library collaborates with DC West to provide students and families with access to books, educational programming, and community resources that extend and complement classroom learning. This partnership helps cultivate a love of reading, strengthen family engagement, and promote lifelong learning beyond the school day.

The visit will conclude with a collaborative discussion with a panel of DC West leaders and staff members focused on the Ambassador Team and the value of building strong, sustainable partnerships.

DC WEST Community Schools
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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Director of Student Services
October 2026

Hello from the Special Services Department! This month, I'm sharing my goals for the year and updating you on happenings in the Student Services and Special Education departments.

2026-27 Professional Goals
My goals for this year center around the Administrator Standards identified in the DC West Administrator Evaluation and Continuous Growth Handbook:

Standard 1: Vision for Learning
By the end of the 2026-27 school year, given multiple data sources related to special education programming and achievement, I will work with the Special Education Leadership Team to analyze the data and use it to develop and articulate a shared vision for the DC West Special Education Department for the 2027-28 school year that is in alignment with DC West's mission of engaging, preparing, and empowering all students. I will measure my progress on this goal by completing our 2027-2028 Targeted Improvement Plan.

Standard 2: Continuous Improvement
Given collaboration with the district continuous improvement team and special education leadership team, I will further enhance the District Continuous Improvement Team process and the Special Education Targeted Improvement Plan by completing problem identification, root cause analysis, and improvement plan actions for both plans for the 2027-2028 school year by the end of the year.

Standard 3: Instructional Leadership
By the end of the 2026-27 school year, I will ensure that every special education teacher has received professional development in literacy (if they teach reading or writing) and inclusive practices. I will measure progress on this goal by ensuring that teachers of literacy participate in CLSD Literacy Grant training programs as directed by the Director of Learning and me. I will also ensure that all special education teachers have participated in the Inclusive Practices Academy and/or participated in district-wide training on inclusive practices on district professional development days in September and January. I will also monitor the outcomes of this training through fall and spring walk-in observations for teachers to ensure the implementation of the practices learned during training.

Standard 4: Culture for Learning
By the end of the 2026-27 school year, given collaboration with the Director of Learning and special education teachers and access to high-quality educational materials, I will ensure that curriculum guides for special education classes are developed for high school Science Connections, Social Studies Connections, Independent Living, and Vocational Skills courses that are aligned to grade-level standards with extended indicators. I will monitor progress on this goal by completing Google folders and binders that outline course objectives and pacing guides.

Standard 5: Systems Management
By the end of the 2026-27 school year, I will submit the following to NDE to ensure maximum reimbursement for special education costs

- Special Education Financial Record System (SPEDFRS) documentation for the 2025-26 school year
- Maintenance of Effort for Eligibility and Compliance
- Flex Funding Project application and report
- IDEA Grant Application
- PEaK Grant reimbursement requests.

In addition, with collaboration and input from the special education department and administration, I will develop and launch an updated special education weighted caseload system to improve human resources needs assessments in special education for teachers and paraeducators.

Standard 6: Staff Leadership
By the end of the 2026-27 school year, given collaboration with administrators and opportunities for relationship-building and networking within and outside the school district, I will work to ensure that at least 95% of special education positions for the 2027-28 school year are filled with highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals. Strategies I will use to achieve this goal include providing ongoing support to current teachers and creating a culture of belonging to reduce attrition,, recruiting talent through professional networks and social media, and attending college career fairs as needed.

Standard 7: Developing Relationships
This year, I will improve my communication through purposeful inclusion of all individuals impacted by decision-making in personal and electronic communication. I also strive to recognize and express gratitude to staff through thank-you notes to individuals on a minimum of a weekly basis, as well as recognition of special education staff birthdays and major life events.

Standard 8: Professional Ethics and Advocacy
Throughout this school year, I will strive to treat all individuals with dignity and respect, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members. My specific goal to measure progress in this area is to receive at least 80% positive feedback on our special education parent survey this year.

Thank you for supporting my continued development as a district leader.

2025-26 Targeted Improvement Feedback
We received our feedback from the NDE Office of Special Education this month, and the results look great! Overall, we received 83 out of 90 points possible, and we were determined to have no risk of being identified as a district needing to improve our improvement planning! A huge shout-out to our Special Education Leadership Team, including Shawna Younghans, Kristen Phillips, Jake Subbert, Garrett Hoffman, Rachel Smith, Reagan Rosenberg, Kim Bottorff, and Cassie Seckel, for all their hard work and assistance in analyzing, planning, implementing, and reporting our procedures and outcomes.

Early Childhood Advisory
Thank you to the preschool team for their continued support of the Early Childhood Advisory. We had a great turnout of parents and community members at our first quarter Advisory meeting with lots of great ideas on how to support and enhance early childhood programming in our district. Parent participants discussed the desire to continue to make a family directory available for preschool families wishing to participate, possibilities on expanding parent involvement in the preschool, especially for dads, and potential parent education and training opportunities this year. We will report back on these during our second quarter meeting in November.

Inclusive Practices Training
All grades 4-12 teachers participated in a great morning of learning about inclusive practices on September 28. McKayla LaBorde, ESU 3 Executive Director of Student Services, and Allison Kelberlau, ESU 3 Assistant Director of Student Services, led teachers through an exploration of inclusive thinking and the development of inclusive systems and practices to support high-level learning for all by leveraging practices designed to keep students engaged and provide choices for how they learn and demonstrate their knowledge. We look forward to part two of this training in January.

SEBL Leadership Team Updates
The District Mental Health Team met on September 29, and we have decided to rebrand ourselves as the Social-Emotional-Behavioral Learning (SEBL) Leadership Team. We are making this change because our purpose is not to diagnose or identify or intervene with student mental health issues, but rather to achieve the objectives of Strategic Plan Goal 2.2, centering on developing an evidence-based MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) for social-emotional-behavioral needs. In addition to identifying standard Tiers 1, 2, and 3 supports for SEBL areas, this group is researching best practices for universal screening to ensure all students who need additional support have access to it.

Flex Funding Year-End Report: Elementary Math Intervention
The Elementary Math Intervention Program is funded through a special education flexible funding project. Flexible funding projects must be designed to support struggling students and close achievement gaps to reduce the chance of more students needing special education services. The following information was shared in our year-end report with the Department of Education. Special thanks to Toni Donohoe for all her work in providing high-quality math intervention services.

Sixty-one non-disabled students in grades K-5 (~ages 5-11) received Tier 2 math intervention at DC West Elementary School during the 2025-2026 school year. The programming is provided in pull-out small groups in intervention classrooms approximately 80% of the time, and through push-in services in the general education classroom approximately 20% of the time, by a highly qualified general education interventionist during a scheduled intervention block for each grade level, which is provided in addition to classroom-based core instruction. Small-group instruction is provided 2-4 times per week for 30 minutes per session, depending on student need and response to prior intervention. The primary evidence-based intervention used for math is "Do the Math." In addition, targeted intensive pre-teaching and re-teaching using explicit instruction and additional practice opportunities aligned with core instruction and grade-level standards are provided.

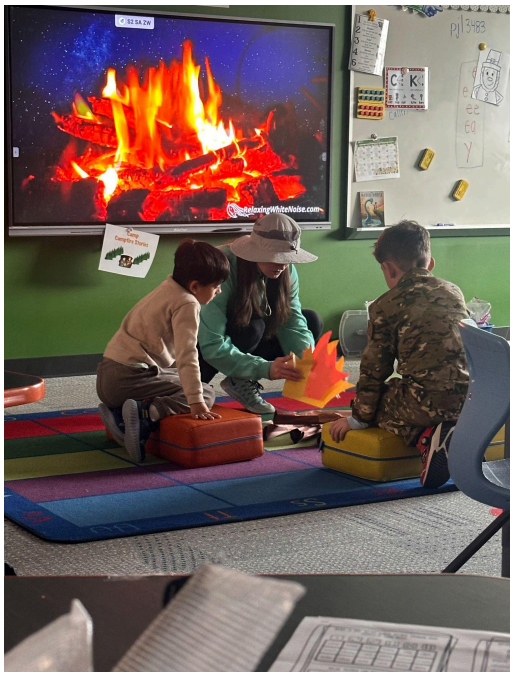
In the fall, 48 students were identified to receive math intervention services in grades K-5. Of those 48, 36 students made progress from fall to winter, as evidenced by increased MAP or FastBridge Math percentile ranks in the winter. Of those 36, 13 students exited intervention in the winter by demonstrating math skills within the average range for their grade level. At the same time, after winter benchmarking, 13 new students entered intervention due to a combination of below-average performance on the winter MAP and teacher recommendation. Of the 48 students who received intervention from winter

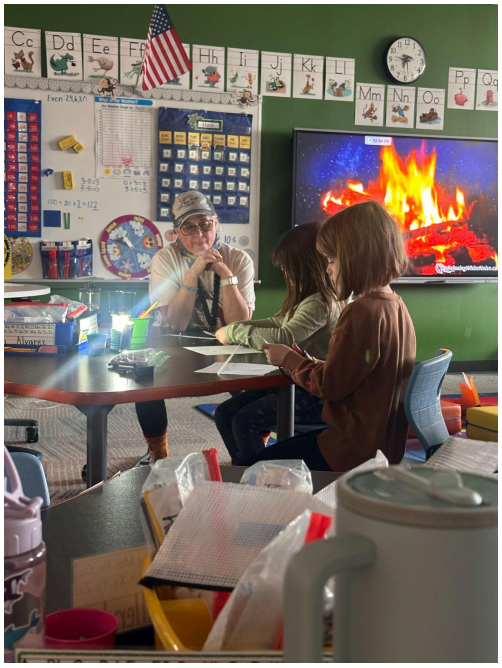
to spring, 26 students made progress as evidenced by increasing their MAP or FastBridge screener percentile. 19 of the 26 (73%) students made sufficient progress to exit the intervention program. Of the total 61 students served in the program over the course of the year, only three students (5%) went on to be eligible for special education services.

The Elementary Math Intervention Program's positive impact on the students served cannot be overstated. By closing the achievement gap, students will be more successful in math. They will need less costly specialized instruction and intervention, and their self-concept as learners and successful students will be positively impacted.

MTSS Summit Presentation

Mattie Subbert, Kim Bottorff, and I are attending the NeMTSS Summit in Kearney on October 8 and 9. On Friday morning, we will present a "School Spotlight" session about our experiences implementing what we have learned in the Inclusive Practices Academy in Mrs. Subbert's first-grade classroom. Mrs. Subbert and Mrs. Bottorff are amazing co-teachers whose efforts have produced impressive results in improved reading outcomes for all learners, including those with and without disabilities. We are excited to share our experience, and I couldn't be prouder to present with these amazing educators!





Thanks for your continued support of our special programs and services at DC West!
Dr. Nicki Pechous
Director of Student Services

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

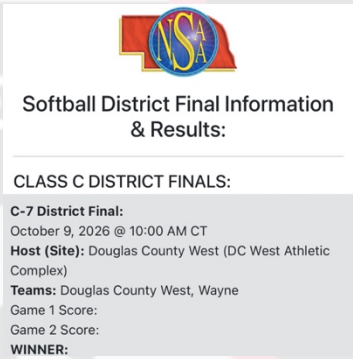
It's been a fast and furious fall for our Falcons with weather all over the place, which can be challenging at times for everyone. However, they continue to make us proud and represent us The Falcon Way!



Fall Senior Athletic Pictures provided by Sherri Harnisch.



Our **Unified Flag Football Team** recently competed vs Papio South High School and lost a very close and competitive game. They had a great time representing the Falcons and are looking forward to playing again here very soon vs Fort Calhoun. The Unified Sports Teams are coached by Lisa Masters.







Our **DC West HS Softball Team** is currently hosting the C-7 District Final to qualify for the NSAA State Softball Tournament. The Falcons will host #10 Wayne in a best 2 out of 3 match-up at our DC West Athletic Complex on Friday, October 9th starting at 10:00am. They finished 3rd in the NCC Tournament and we're C-4 Subdistrict Champs this week beating Falls City and Boone Central. They are currently (18-9) on the season and playing their best softball when it counts. Pitcher, Lillee Zach just surpassed 200 strikeouts on the season which is nearing a DC West Record. If the Falcons qualify for State, it is October 14th-16th in Hastings with the State Championship date of October 19th at Bowlin Field at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Come cheer on our Falcons and let's hope for the best! The Falcons are coached by Head Coach Ady Marshall.

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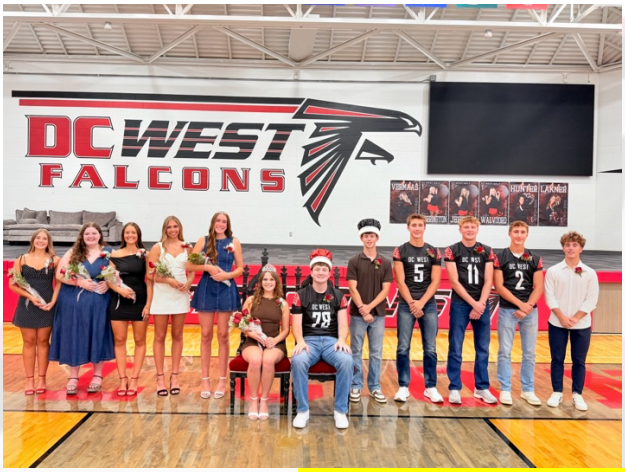


Our **HS Cross Country Team** has competed extremely well this season. Junior, Jack Steinbach has won all but one competition, which is outstanding. Sophomore, Harold Maca has been right on his heels and finished in the top ten all season as well. Both the girls and boys cross country teams will be participating in the NCC Invite at Logan View on Thursday of this week. I'm excited for what the end of the season competition brings for the Falcons! The DC West Cross Country Head Coach is Ty Hansen.




Our **HS Girls Golf Team** just finished up their season at District Golf at Oakland Country Club this week. We had an excellent start to the addition of a new program. We had 14 girls start the season and 14 girls finish the season which is also a plus for any program just starting out. They had fun, they represented DC West very well, and they competed to get better every day. It'll be exciting for them in the off-season in preparation for next year. The DC West Head Golf Coach is Ben Knobbe.

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Congratulations to our **Homecoming Court 2026**
King - Trent Alexander
Queen - Emily Fletcher
Prince - Wyatt Janke
Princess - Talia Walsh





Our **HS Football Team** is currently (1-5) with tough losses to Pierce, Mount Michael, Central City, Wahoo, and Ashland-Greenwood, which were all state playoff team's last season. We had a fantastic homecoming victory over Nebraska City that we got the chance to finish on a Monday night due to the weather. We have three remaining games that I know the players and coaches are looking forward to. Our JV has been winning as of late which is exciting for the future for us. Our Head Football Coach is Mike Troy.

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NCC VOLLEYBALL Tournament 2026

Higher Seed hosts Monday-Thursday games and these games start at 6:00 pm. Saturday determined by host rotation school

Wild Card Points as of 10/5/26	
1-DC West	43.9474
2-Yutan	43.2105
3-Louisville	43.15
4-Fort Calhoun	42.4545
5-Syracuse	41.8947
6-Arlington	40.4091
7-Ray. Central	38.1429
8-LVSS	37.913
9-Conestoga	36.4211

#8 LVSS
6:00 PM
G1 @ LVSS
Mon 10/12
#9 Conestoga

G1 Winner

G1 Loser
6:00 PM
G8 @ Higher Seed
Thurs 10/15

G3 Loser

#1 DC West
6:00 PM
G2 @ DCW
Tues 10/13
G1 Winner

G2 Winner
6:00 PM
G6 @ Higher Seed
Thurs 10/15

G3 Winner

#4 Fort Calhoun
6:00 PM
G3 @ FC
Tues 10/13

G6 Winner

2:30 PM
G11
Sat 10/17
@ DC West

Championship

#5 Syracuse

#3 Louisville
6:00 PM
G4 @ LOU
Tues 10/13

G4 Loser
6:00 PM
G9 @ Higher Seed
Thurs 10/15

G5 Loser

G4 Winner
6:00 PM
G7 @ Higher Seed
Thurs 10/15

G5 Winner

#6 Arlington

#2 Yutan
6:00 PM
G5 @ YUT
Tues 10/13

G7 Winner

G6 Loser
1:00 PM
G10
Sat 10/17
G7 Loser
@ DC West

3rd Place

#7 Ray. Central

Our **HS Volleyball Team** is currently (14-7) on the season and rated #9 in Class C-1 in the state. DC West has earned the #1 seed in the upcoming NCC Volleyball Tournament. DC West is the host school this year which is also extra exciting for our team. We recently celebrated Youth Volleyball Night at DC West and that is always a fun night for all of our Future Falcons. The DC West Volleyball Team Head Coach is Bob Wald.

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Our **HS Cheer and Dance Team** have had a great Fall as they continue to make the environments electric for our fans and programs. We appreciate all of their support and efforts for our Falcons! Our HS Cheer and Dance Head Coach is Alyssa Lindahl.



Our **HS Choir** recently sang the National Anthem at one of our home football games, which was fantastic!

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Our **DC West Student Sections** have been great in supporting our Falcons on game day here at DC West!



Our **Middle School Football Team** had one game cancelled last week due to the extreme heat and finished in a tie after continuous lightning delay in their second game. We have approximately 40 participants on this year's football team. Our MS Head Football Coach is Jesse Hays.



Our **Middle School Volleyball Team** has had a very competitive season for the Falcons! The coaches have shared that the team is very coachable and hardworking which are two characteristics that can lead to success. We have approximately 32 participants on this year's volleyball team. Our MS Head Volleyball Coach is Mandi Mace.

Our **Middle School Cross Country Team** has had an either very hot or very wet season, which can be a challenge but they have continued to learn and grow in the sport. This is a competitive and young group that I am excited to watch continue to develop in the cross country world. Our MS Head Cross Country Coach is Nolan Zimmer.

To view upcoming **Team Schedules or Events**, please go to **BOUND**:

https://www.gobound.com/ne/schools/douglascountywest

"One teammate can change everything. The tone, the standard, the energy, the belief. Be the ONE."

Please let me know if I can ever be of any help and I'm really looking forward to a fantastic year.

Go Falcons!

Mr. Travis
#FalconsTakeFlight

JEREMY TRAVIS
Director of Athletics & Activities (7-12)
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Financial Recap September 2026

	9/1/26	Receipts	Expenditures	9/31/2026
General Fund	$ 9,271,159.47	$ 856,532.64	$ 1,646,366.11	$8,481,326.00
Depreciation Fund	$ 1,846,527.83	$ 1,456.38	$ -	$1,847,984.21
Food Service Fund	$ 61,851.82	$ 59,903.40	$ 29,033.49	$92,721.73
Qualified Capital Fund	$ 279,097.92	$ 20,217.26	$ 1,998.77	$297,316.41
Bond Fund	$ 2,654,055.58	$ 66,459.49	$ -	$2,720,515.07
Special Building Fund	$ 1,020,858.66	$ 63,330.40	$ -	$1,084,189.06
	$ 15,133,551.28	**$ 1,067,899.57**	**$1,677,398.37**	**$14,524,052.48**

General Fund Detail

Expenditures	**September**	**YTD**	**Budgeted**
All Instructional Program	$ 684,658.49	$ 684,658.49	$ 9,176,597.64
SPED Instructional Program	$ 168,536.90	$ 168,536.90	$ 2,624,131.79
Support Services SPED Related	$ 44,567.17	$ 44,567.17	$ 559,659.96
Support Services Non-SPED Relate	$ 44,930.57	$ 44,930.57	$ 562,526.89
Support Instructional	$ 104,834.54	$ 104,834.54	$ 788,257.16
Board of Education	$ 28,781.58	$ 28,781.58	$ 126,500.00
Executive Administration Services	$ 31,964.33	$ 31,964.33	$ 391,616.76
District Legal Services	$ 1,634.00	$ 1,634.00	$ 40,000.00
Office of the Principal	$ 90,707.41	$ 90,707.41	$ 1,044,803.59
General Admin - Business Services	$ 25,342.80	$ 25,342.80	$ 376,887.74
Maint & Operation of Building & S	$ 306,099.35	$ 306,099.35	$ 1,800,106.85
Vehicle Acquisition & Maint	$ 4,565.66	$ 4,565.66	$ 10,000.00
Regular Pupil Transportation	$ 41,777.04	$ 41,777.04	$ 719,500.00
SPED Pupil Transportation	$ 10,974.43	$ 10,974.43	$ 159,503.83
Categorical Grant from Coporation	$ 18,793.33	$ 18,793.33	$ 259,998.60
State Categorical Programs	$ 635.93	$ 635.93	$ 16,442.00
Federal Programs	$ 37,562.58	$ 37,562.58	$ 414,695.00
Transfer Out			
	$ 1,646,366.11	**$ 1,646,366.11**	**$ 19,071,227.81**

Revenues	**September**	**YTD**
Personal and Prop Taxes	$ 371,230.65	$ 371,230.65
Carline Tax	$ 916.81	$ 916.81
Motor Vehicle Taxes	$ 146,493.29	$ 146,493.29
Facility Rental		
Tuition Received from Individuals	$ 24,174.70	$ 24,174.70
Interest	$ 4,139.77	$ 4,139.77
Local License Fees		
Grants from Corporations/Private		
Other Local Receipts	$ 651.57	$ 651.57
County Fines and License Fees		
ESU Receipts		
State Aid	$ 285,106.00	$ 285,106.00
Special Education Programs		
Special Education Transportation		
Homestead Exemption		
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle		
High Ability Learners		
Early Childhood Grant		
State Apportionment		
Other State Receipts	$ 17,000.00	$ 17,000.00
Prop & Personal Property Tax Credit		
Title ESSA Programs		
IDEA Programs	$ 400.00	$ 400.00
Medicaid		
ESSER II & ESSER III		
Other Federal Categorical Receipts		
Sale of Property	$ 6,419.85	$ 6,419.85
Insurance Adjustment		
	$ 856,532.64	**$ 856,532.64**

September 2026 Payroll

Net Payroll	$ 667,975.50
Payroll Taxes (District)	$ 70,255.44
Payroll Withholding (Employees)	$ 174,080.13
Retirement (District)	$ 66,054.10
Retirement Withholding (Employees)	$ 65,353.17

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
05 704	INTEREST	5,414.98	0.00	144.98	0.00	5,559.96
05 704 1001	ACTIVITY PASSES	28,757.14	0.00	2,077.96	0.00	30,835.10
05 704 1002	CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS	8,651.53	1,320.00	3,000.00	0.00	10,331.53
05 704 1003	INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	344.05	509.40	50.00	0.00	(115.35)
05 704 1005	STAFF LOUNGE	4,331.80	0.00	131.27	0.00	4,463.07
05 704 1007	VALLEY WAY	9,523.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,523.64
05 704 1011	PTSA DONATION	4,117.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,117.70
05 704 1023	PROM	3,922.28	0.00	192.25	0.00	4,114.53
05 704 1102	ARTS & HUMANITIES	550.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.62
05 704 1104	ATHLETICS HS	8,381.25	7,455.00	9,595.99	0.00	10,522.24
05 704 1106	BASEBALL TEAM	1,199.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,199.55
05 704 1107	BAND	2,361.05	0.00	482.28	0.00	2,843.33
05 704 1108	CHEER	10,534.07	2,818.56	7,394.00	0.00	15,109.51
05 704 1110	SPRING PLAY	3,221.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,221.03
05 704 1111	BBB TEAM	344.05	375.00	216.75	0.00	185.80
05 704 1112	CONCESSIONS	40,862.50	6,386.03	9,447.75	0.00	43,924.22
05 704 1113	CONSTRUCTION TECH	7,106.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,106.79
05 704 1114	DANCE TEAM	3,415.71	3,497.25	381.55	0.00	300.01
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	1,160.00	150.00	0.00	2,597.71
05 704 1117	FBLA	2,558.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,558.22
05 704 1118	HIGH SCHOOL	1,396.31	144.00	116.95	0.00	1,369.26
05 704 1119	DC TECH 1:1	10,027.58	0.00	1,120.00	0.00	11,147.58
05 704 1120	GBB TEAM	5,790.14	0.00	403.06	0.00	6,193.20
05 704 1123	HOSA	2,087.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,087.77
05 704 1124	STUCO HS	6,094.70	1,626.75	3,866.00	0.00	8,333.95
05 704 1128	NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	982.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	982.66
05 704 1131	FOOTBALL TEAM	2,593.12	0.00	120.00	0.00	2,713.12
05 704 1132	SCIENCE CLUB	446.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	446.69
05 704 1133	SPEECH TEAM	2,532.77	0.00	238.25	0.00	2,771.02
05 704 1134	VOCAL MUSIC	4,917.77	0.00	839.08	0.00	5,756.85
05 704 1136	WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB	660.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	660.52
05 704 1137	ROBOTICS TEAM	6,649.32	0.00	92.25	0.00	6,741.57
05 704 1141	GOLF TEAM	564.88	0.00	25.00	0.00	589.88
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
05 704 1161	SOFTBALL TEAM	10,273.40	0.00	54.50	0.00	10,327.90
05 704 1166	BOYS TRACK TEAM	240.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.52

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
05 704 1167	GIRLS TRACK TEAM	112.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	112.50
05 704 1176	VOLLEYBALL TEAM	6,031.74	1,341.00	0.00	0.00	4,690.74
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	15,868.52	0.00	520.25	0.00	16,388.77
05 704 1225	COFFEE CART - EL SPED	1,576.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,576.40
05 704 1319	DISNEY MUSICAL	16,777.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,777.10
05 704 1320	PRESCHOOL	7,517.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,517.07
05 704 2112	MS CONCESSIONS	2,735.72	2,450.13	820.50	0.00	1,106.09
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	177.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	177.51
05 704 2204	ATHLETICS MS	3,481.81	1,175.00	2,041.00	0.00	4,347.81
05 704 2205	UNIFIED SPORTS	2,949.94	0.00	1,400.00	0.00	4,349.94
05 704 2216	MS DRAMA	42.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.72
05 704 2218	MIDDLE SCHOOL	853.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	853.79
05 704 2242	MS YEARBOOK	3,120.79	0.00	25.00	0.00	3,145.79
05 704 3221	PBIS/FALCOIN	5,185.15	0.00	301.00	0.00	5,486.15
05 704 3222	BATTLE OF THE BOOKS	152.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	152.65
05 704 3318	ELEMENTARY	6,403.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,403.23
	Fund Total: 05	293,189.18	30,258.12	45,247.62	0.00	308,178.68

Fund	Fund Description	Beginning Fund Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Outstanding Invoices	Outstanding POs	Direct Balance Adjustments	Unencumbered Ending Fund Balance
12	STUDENT FEES	40,875.07	1,926.00	1,540.00	0.00	33.00	0.00	40,456.07

Vendor Name	Vendor Description			Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01		GENERAL FUND	
ACH BANK FEE	FEE			63.00
AUL SPECIAL PAY TRUST				5,000.00
CASEY'S BUSINESS MASTERCARD				92.50
CASPER, KAREN				152.15
COX BUSINESS	SERVICE			198.26
DC WEST FOOD SERVICE				455.30
DISCOUNT TIRE				616.00
ESHIPPING LLC				295.85
FASTSIGNS				302.72
LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORE	FUEL			1,820.14
LUNCHTIME SOLUTIONS INC				1,568.05
MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO IN	INSURANCE			3,202.95
MAGIC WRIGHTER, INC.	FEE			298.00
NASB ALICAP				232,353.00
NIPPON SANSO MATHESON INC	SUPPLIES			109.72
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	UTILITIES			32,570.96
S & S BLEACHERS, LLC				2,900.00
USBANK				2,242.88
WOODHOUSE				1,350.00
Fund Number 01				285,591.48
Checking Account ID 1				285,591.48
Checking Account ID 15	Fund Number 15		SCHOLARSHIP	
GUARDIPEE, ELLESIA				625.00
JARECKE, HUDSON				1,000.00
Fund Number 15				1,625.00
Checking Account ID 15				1,625.00
Checking Account ID 6	Fund Number 06		NUTRITION FUND	
LUNCHTIME SOLUTIONS INC				29,033.49
Fund Number 06				29,033.49
Checking Account ID 6				29,033.49

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1 Fund Number 01	GENERAL FUND	
A UNITED AUTOMATIC DOORS & GLASS INC		1,244.10
ALCOVE ROOFING		1,625.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, LLC		4,976.19
APPLE COMPUTER INC		5,895.00
AWARDS UNLIMITED INC		346.17
BAND SHOPPE		354.70
BERGAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL		160.00
BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES INC		62.63
CAPPEL NAPA AUTO SUPPLY - VALLEY		0.09
CENGAGE LEARNING		570.40
CITY WIDE FACILITY SOLUTIONS	SERVICE	8,036.36
COMPLETE COMMUNICATION, LLC		3,241.00
DAILY RECORD, THE	SERVICE	395.99
DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL		150.00
EAGLE SERVICES INC.		352.50
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #3		1,587.06
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #5		3,366.60
EGAN SUPPLY CO	SUPPLIES	655.45
EVERWAY, LLC		7,481.85
FASTSIGNS		222.50
FIBER PLATFORM, LLC	SERVICE	559.67
FREMONT ELECTRIC INC		390.00
FREMONT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL		150.00
GOODWIN TUCKER GROUP	service	1,911.17
GREAT KIDS, INC		199.00
HAMPTON INN KEARNEY		339.90
KNOTT, JAMES		158.99
LEARNING FORWARD NEBRASKA		25.00
MARK OF DISTINCTION LLC, THE		1,594.00
MECHANICAL SALES INC		384.00
MENARDS - ELKHORN	SUPPLIES	1,506.93
METAL DOORS & HARDWARE CO		360.00
NACIA		40.00
NCS PEARSON INC		497.59
NE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADM		140.00
NEBRASKA CAPITAL CONFERENCE		840.00
NEBRASKA DEPT OF EDUCATION		560.00
NEBRASKA METHODIST COLLEGE		39.00
NEBRASKA SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION		420.00
NIPPON SANSO MATHESON INC	SUPPLIES	109.72
NORTHERN SPEECH SERVICES		29.00
NSAA DISTRICT II		35.00
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD		2,700.00
PHILLIPS, KRISTEN		52.20
PUBLICATION PRINTING		102.20
SPEECH SQUAD, LLC		18,983.00
STANZEL'S MOW & SNOW LLC	SERVICE	12,250.00
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY		270.00
WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBR, INC	SERVICE	1,748.63
WATER ENGINEERING INC	SERVICE	333.50
YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS		175.00
ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION, INC.		2.35
Fund Number 01		87,629.44

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1		87,629.44
Checking Account ID 2 Fund Number 02	DEPRECIATION	
SHEPPARD'S BUSINESS INTERIORS INC		7,454.15
Fund Number 02		7,454.15
Checking Account ID 2		7,454.15
Checking Account ID 9 Fund Number 09	QCPUF	
FLUID MECHANICAL LLC		113,123.04
Fund Number 09		113,123.04
Checking Account ID 9		113,123.04

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, September 14, 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, September 14, 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 7:04 PM.

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

Present: 5, Absent: 1.

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

Public comments were opened. Parent Adriana Ulrich addressed the Board regarding her concerns.

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
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

4. Administrative Reports

4.1. Superintendent's Report

4.2. Financial Report

5. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Luke Janke. Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea
Yea: 5, 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
Michael Rains - hired custodian
Jessica Samuelson - hired HS health para
Dean Harrifeld - part-time driver

6. Board Committees
The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, September 8th at 4:30 p.m. to review the 2027 Budget.

Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Whole:

- The Superintendent provided an update on the progress of Master Planning.
- 2027 QCPUF Projects Discussion
    - The board asked to research costs and options for high school roof replacement and rooftop unit (RTU) replacements, including potential to package projects together, and bring findings to the October meeting.

7. New Business

7.1. Approve the 2026-2027 Budget
Consider information, discussion, and public comment from the public hearings to approve the 2026-2027 budget.
Motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget as presented Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

7.2. Adopt Resolution to Set the Final Tax Request
Consider information, discussion, and public comment from the public hearings to approve the resolution to set the final tax request for the 2026-2027 budget.
Motion to approve the resolution to set the final tax request for the 2026-2027 budget Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

8. Executive Session
The Board may enter into closed session at any time to discuss any matter for which a closed session is lawful and appropriate.

We have personnel and legal matters that need to be handled in closed session.

Before the Board can enter closed session, a motion must be made in agreement with Statute 84-1410 by the Board to discuss topics such as personnel, negotiations, and legal matters.

Motion to enter in Executive Session 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
Yea: 5, Nay: 0
Attendance Updated after motion for Executive Session

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

Present: 4, Absent: 2.

9. Reconvene to Regular Session & Adjournment

Motion to Reconvene to Regular Session & Adjourn passed at 7:57pm with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

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

Monday, September 14, 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, September 14, 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 7:02 PM.

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

Present: 5, Absent: 1.

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

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

2. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Cole Groteluschen.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

3. Final Tax Request Presentation and Hearing
Presentation of the Final Tax Request

4. Public Communications and Correspondence
No comments or correspondence were presented

5. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting 7:03 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
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

Kristi Frost

Kristi Frost, Board Secretary

Dr. Melissa Poloncic

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 28-0015, a/k/a, DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Monday, September 14, 2026

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Attendance Taken at 6:45 PM.

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

Present: 5, Absent: 1.

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

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

2. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Luke Janke.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

3. 2027 Budget Hearing and Presentation
Budget Presentation Fiscal Year

4. Public Communications and Correspondence
No comments or correspondence were presented

5. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting @ 7:01 Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Elizabeth Mayer.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

Kristi Trost
Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

Dr. Melissa Poloncic
Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DATED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

DC West Community Schools

By: _____
President

Attest: _____
Secretary

Appendix "1" to Option Enrollment Policy
Approved October 12, 2026

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

PROGRAM	**IDEAL CAPACITY -3% Growth Factor in Elem Only**	**PROJECTED ENROLLMENT 2027-28**	**NO. OF OPENINGS FOR OPTION STUDENTS**
Kindergarten	78	70	8
First	78	71	7
Second	78	81	0 Closed
Third	78	65	13
Fourth	85	81	4
Fifth	64	64	0 Closed
Staffing Capacity, Elementary	**461**	**432**	
Sixth	88	63	25
Seventh	88	90	0 Closed
Eighth	88	83	5
Staffing Capacity, Middle School	**264**	**236**	
Ninth	95	91	4
Tenth	95	83	12
Eleventh	95	65	30
Twelfth	95	99	0 Closed
Staffing Capacity, High School	**380**	**338**	
District Staffing Capacity	**1105**	**1006**	

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

DC West Change In Class Size From Year to Year

K-12 Total Enrollment	First Enrolled	Current Grade	Class of	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	# increase	% change	% change per year
	05-06	Graduated	2018								49	51	62	84	82	77	28	57.0%	11.4%
	06-07	Graduated	2019							45	49	57	58	66	67	73	28	62.0%	10.4%
	07-08	Graduated	2020						49	56	57	61	69	74	76	76	27	55.0%	7.9%
	08-09	Graduated	2021					34	37	45	45	54	65	60	73	74	40	118.0%	15.0%
	09-10	Graduated	2022				64	65	74	74	75	79	80	72	78	82	18	28.0%	3.1%
	10-11	Graduated	2023			45	46	46	47	49	53	58	64	68	70	73	28	62.0%	6.2%
	11-12	Graduated	2024		51	55	59	57	59	59	63	76	80	81	83	90	39	76.0%	6.9%
675	12-13	Graduated	2025	49	52	55	59	62	64	64	70	72	77	77	82	81	32	65.0%	5.0%
721	13-14	Graduated	2026	44	52	51	52	57	57	58	62	66	67	68	67	67	23	52.0%	4.0%
780	14-15	12th	2027	68	67	75	78	80	81	84	87	89	91	85	86	87	19	27.0%	2.0%
820	15-16	11th	2028	72	76	74	77	77	82	85	89	94	93	89	99		27	37.0%	3.0%
834	16-17	10th	2029	52	52	50	43	45	53	62	69	63	60	65			13	25.0%	2.0%
866	17-18	9th	2030	67	72	71	72	71	77	82	82	82	83				16	23.0%	2.0%
880	18-19	8th	2031	70	71	72	74	75	80	88	90	91					21	30.0%	3.0%
892	19-20	7th	2032	60	62	65	67	71	78	82	83						23	38.0%	4.0%
925	20-21	6th	2033	74	75	82	91	91	92	90							16	24.0%	2.3%
937	21-22	5th	2034	51	56	57	60	63	63								12	23.0%	3.0%
963	22-23	4th	2035	66	68	60	62	64									-2	-6.0%	-1.2%
1019	23-24	3rd	2036	76	81	83	81										5	6.0%	1.5%
987	24-25	2nd	2037	58	62	65											7	12.0%	4.0%
996	25-26	1st	2038	78	81												3	3.0%	1.5%
1023	26-27	K	2039	71															

	Average Kindergarten Class Size	Average Graduating Class Size
3yr avg	69	78
6yr avg	67	80
all yrs avg	64	78

	Average % Yearly Increase
5yr avg	1.76%
10yr avg	2.21%
all yrs avg	4.61%

LEASE RENEWAL CONFIRMATION RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0015 (DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS), AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings and Determinations. The Board of Education (the **"Board"**) of the Douglas County School District 0015 (Douglas County West Community Schools) (the **"District"**), hereby finds and determines that it has entered into a Lease Agreement dated November 8, 2023, (the **"Lease"**) with Nebraska Educational Building Association, a Nebraska interlocal agency, (**"NEBA"**) for the acquisition, construction, improvement, equipping and/or furnishing of facilities for use by the District, including new baseball and softball fields, 8-lane running track, full-size soccer playing field, softball and baseball press box, concession and restroom, bleachers for track and field with press box, a parking lot and related improvements to such facilities (collectively, the **"Project"**), with a term of seven years which automatically renews each year for a new seven year term pursuant to Section 4.01(b) of the Lease.

Section 2. **Confirmation of Renewal.** The Board hereby ratifies and confirms renewal of the term of the Lease for a new seven-year term commencing on November, 1, 2026 as provided in Section 4.01(b) of the Lease, together with all other terms and provisions of the Lease. No further action by the Board shall be necessary to effect such renewal, and all actions heretofore taken by the officers, officials, employees and agents of the District with respect to the Lease are in all respects hereby authorized, adopted, specified, accepted, ratified, approved and confirmed.

Section 3. Contract; Repeal. The provisions of this Resolution shall constitute a contract between the District and NEBA, enforceable by mandamus, accounting, mandatory injunction or any other suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity that is presently or may hereafter be authorized under the laws of the State of Nebraska (the **"State"**) in any court of competent jurisdiction. Such contract is made under and is to be construed in accordance with the laws of the State. This Resolution and any supplemental resolution shall not be subject to repeal, but shall be subject to modification or amendment only to the extent and in the manner provided for in the Lease.

Section 4. Severability; Effect. If any provisions of this Resolution shall be held or deemed to be or shall, in fact, be inoperative or unenforceable or invalid as applied in any particular case in any jurisdiction or jurisdictions or in all jurisdictions, or in all cases because it conflicts with any constitution or statute or rule of public policy, or for any other reason, such circumstances shall not have the effect of rendering the provision in question inoperative or unenforceable or invalid in any other case or circumstance, or of rendering any other provision or provisions herein or therein contained inoperative or unenforceable or invalid to any extent whatsoever.

Section 5. Force and Effect. Any resolution of the Board inconsistent with this Resolution is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption according to law.

ADOPTED this 12th day of October, 2026.

_____
President

_____
Secretary

Lunchtime Solutions Implementation

Report to the Board of Education from Melissa Poloncic

October 12, 2026

On **August 27, 2026**, Board member, Cole Groteluschen, notified me that he had been hearing concerns of our food service program provider, Lunchtime Solutions. Since that time, I have taken the following actions:

- **September 2, 2026**~ Met with the administrative team to solicit their feedback of the implementation. General concern areas they brought to my attention were:
    - Portion Size
    - Students needing 2nds due to portion size and the cost of the seconds being high
    - Running low on food for 2nds
    - Large amount of a la carte being purchased instead of a reimbursable meal
    - Choices and selection on the fruit and veggie bar being limited
    - Overall taste
- **September 3rd**~ I requested a meeting with the food service director and area director from Lunchtime Solutions to address the concerns.
- **September 9th**~ Received the first parent email with concerns. I have received five parent emails with concerns to date. The common complaints are included in the identified list above.
- **September 9th**~ I met with the food service director and area director and addressed the listed concerns. Outcomes from that meeting were:
    - Explanation that the portion size comes from Federal guidelines that must be followed and cannot be altered.
    - Lunchtime Solutions would look at the cost of the 2nds and see if they could make an adjustment in price.
    - Encourage students to get the required nutrition base for a reimbursable meal instead of just a couple of a la carte items.
    - Add more fruits and vegetables to the offerings
    - Implement a seasoning bar at the middle and high school for additional taste
- **September 15th**~ Received an email from Lunchtime Solutions with contract information regarding 2nds and a la carte costs. Inquired again about a reduction in price for 2nds.
- **September 22nd**~ Nebraska Department of Education Food Service Program Audit and Review was conducted. During the review, we continued the conversation of concerns and solutions. At that time, an advisory committee meeting was discussed to be held with our required Wellness committee meeting in October. Lunchtime Solutions also discussed conducting a survey with students.
- **October 2nd**~ I asked for a confirmation on the date we would hold the Wellness Committee meeting and advisory.
- **October 6th**~ I met again with the area director to discuss my inquiry on the pricing of 2nds. We also discussed the amount of a la carte that was being purchased in lieu of a reimbursable meal.
- **October 7th**~ I met with the food service director to confirm a date for the upcoming meeting. We confirmed that the meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 21st at 2:30pm in the

Board room. The parents that have contacted me with concern were personally invited to the meeting. We will also have staff and student representatives in attendance as well.

- **October 8th**~ Board member, Cole Groteluschen, requested that an agenda item be included on the October 12th Board agenda for discussion of the concerns with the current state of the Food Service program.
- A discussion of this timeline, implementation, and possible solutions will be discussed at the October 12th Board meeting.