Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, November 16, 2026 6:00 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 20
    - 4.5. Student Services & Special Education - Dr. Pechous 22
    - 4.6. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Dr. Marten 24
    - 4.7. Athletics & Activities — Mr. Travis 27
    - 4.8. Financial Report 38
5. **Consent Agenda**
    - 5.1. Approve Minutes 46
    - 5.2. Approve Claims for Payment
    - 5.3. Approve Financial Report
    - 5.4. Approve Classified Staff
6. **New Business**
    - 6.1. Master Planning Board Engagement Session

6.2. DC West 2026-2027 Enrollment Report 52

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
November 16, 2026

AI with Intention: A Collaborative Journey~ Regional Series at ESU3
We have a large team of DC West staff attending a regional series at ESU3 for multiple days this year learning about GenAI literacy and developing safe, ethical, and effective practices within our schools. Several other regional school districts are attending the series with us. Our team is researching and exploring recommendations for how to develop understanding, mindsets, and practices of staff and students. The outcomes of the series will be:

- Establishing a shared understanding of current AI implementation and define next level goals
- Construct and refine AI implementation plans to increase safe, ethical, and effective district-wide AI adoption
- Build ongoing AI skills and leadership capacity
- Acquire new learning, frameworks, and examples from local, regional, and national leaders.

We have attended two days of the series thus far and it has been an excellent opportunity to think about developing vision and strategy, conversations on policy and/or guidance, securing our data and systems, and building capacity. I look forward to the next sessions and bringing the Board the results of our work.

Baby Grand Piano
The music department inquired about purchasing a piano for our performing arts center during this curriculum adoption year. I suggested that we revisit this topic with the DC West Community Schools Foundation as a few years ago it was discussed that a baby grand piano may be a nice legacy gift in collaboration with the school. Dawn Beyl and Dr. Marten attended the last foundation meeting and members were very enthusiastic about partnering with the school in splitting the cost of a baby grand piano. A new one would cost around $26,000. I tentatively agreed that the school would support half of the cost but wanted to notify the Board first of this commitment and discussion. We think this would be a great legacy for the performing arts center that would last years and years!

NASB Upcoming Professional Development for Board
The State Education Conference "Building Strong Futures" will be held in Omaha on November 18-20th. Dawn, Nicki, Jen Mayotte, Allison Johnson and I are attending and would love to have any other Board members join us. Please let me know if you would like to attend and we can get you registered onsite.

Annual Financial Report and Audit Complete
The annual financial report and annual audit are complete. BerganKDV will present the highlights of the audit to the Board at the December Board meeting.

Superintendent Evaluation
The annual Superintendent evaluation is routinely conducted in December. I will be sending out the information to all Board members via email early in December for the Superintendent evaluation per Board Policy 2231.

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:
November 19-20 Education Conference at CHI
November 25-27 No School, Thanksgiving Break
December 2 Special Meeting, Superintendent Finalist Selection
December 5 Superintendent Interviews
December 14 Regular Board of Education Meeting

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Community Schools

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

November 10, 2026
Board Report
Elementary School (Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem)
DC West Community Schools

Contents:

1. **Ornament Decorating Night**
2. **Halloween Parade**
3. **Veterans Day**
4. **1st Grade Music Performance**
5. **New Community Newsletter Format**

1. Ornament Decorating Night

Ornament Decorating Night at DC West was a huge hit! We had so many families join us for a fun evening of creativity, connection, and holiday cheer. It was wonderful to see our students, staff, and families come together for our family engagement night. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make the evening so special! We love seeing our Falcon community come together!








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2. Halloween Parade

Our Halloween happenings at DC West were a blast! We loved seeing all of the creative and fun costumes our students put together. It was so much fun watching each classroom parade and show off their costumes to staff, families, and friends. A great two days full of smiles, excitement, and Halloween fun that involved preschool through 5th grade.



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3. Veterans Day Assembly

We had a beautiful Veterans Day assembly celebrating the incredible community members who have served our country! We were honored to welcome our very own Mrs. Samantha Burke as our guest speaker. Our 4th graders shared heartfelt poems, 5th graders read essays, and students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade proudly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Our very own Miss Beck beautifully sang the National Anthem, and our 3rd–5th grade teachers taught their students the Armed Forces Medley, which they proudly performed.

We also gave each veteran the opportunity to introduce themselves, share which branch of the military they served in, and tell us about their connection to DC West. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate the men and women who have served our country and are part of our Falcon family.









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4. 1st grade music performance:

Ms. Beck led first grade students through a book themed performance from the book The Gigantic Turnip that included singing, dancing, instrument playing, and movement. Students wore costumes and showcased a cross curricular performance combining music education and literacy.





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5. New Community Newsletter Format



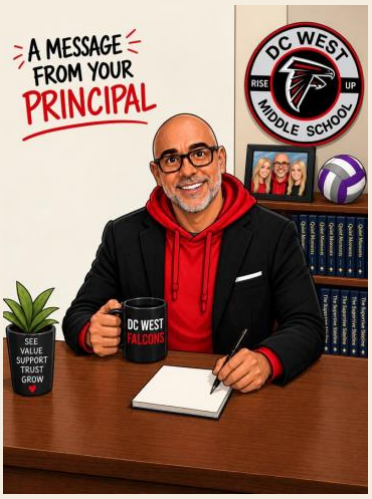
The elementary took staff and parent feedback on the format of our newsletter and created a new format that is easier to read and access information. The elementary included Continuous Improvement information,school specific information, community information, information from the principals, and upcoming events.

DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE FALCON FLYER

NOVEMBER 2026 • ENGAGE, PREPARE, AND EMPOWER

DC West Board Of Education,



Last week I was standing out front before school as students arrived. A seventh grader held the door for a sixth grader who was juggling a trombone case and a stack of books. Nobody asked him to. Nobody saw it but me. He didn't wait for a thank you. He just went to class.

I've thought about that moment all week.

November is the month we talk about gratitude, and I have plenty of it. I'm grateful for teachers who come early and stay late, who notice the kid who is quieter than usual and take the time to ask why. I'm grateful for our support staff, our bus drivers, our cooks, and our custodians, who keep this building running in ways most people never see. I'm grateful for the families who filled our conference tables in October and asked great questions. I'm grateful for students who are learning that kindness doesn't need an audience.

Culture isn't built in assemblies or announcements. It's built in quiet moments. A held door. A kind word. A teacher who notices a kid is having a rough morning. Those moments don't make the highlight reel but they matter more than anything that does.

Here's my ask for this month. At the dinner table or on the drive home, try one question: "Who did you notice today?" Ask who they saw. Who needed help. Who helped them. Give it a few days. The first answer might be a shrug. Keep asking. Over time, you're teaching your child that noticing other people is something your family values.

You might be surprised by what you hear. I usually am.

As we head into Thanksgiving break, I hope you find a few quiet moments of your own. Put the phones down. Sit a little longer at the table. Tell your kids what you're grateful for, and let them hear it in your own words. They're watching how we live more than they're listening to what we say.

Thank you for trusting us with your kids. It's the best part of my job, and I don't take it lightly.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Rise Up,

Dr. Jeffrey Kerns

PRINCIPAL, DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

FALCON PRIDE

Students of the Month

The DC West Middle School Students of the Month Program recognizes students for good character, leadership, citizenship, and effort in the classroom.

A Student of the Month is diligent — completing assignments on time, giving strong effort to learn every subject to the best of their ability, coming prepared, and participating well. They show excellent behavior in and out of the classroom and are well-mannered and respectful to both peers and teachers.

They display excellent citizenship by working cooperatively with classmates, and many serve as leaders and role models for their peers. Above all, they demonstrate exemplary character by modeling the Falcon Way expectations.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

FALCON PRIDE

FALCON MUSICIANS EARN ALL-STATE HONORS



ALL-STATE CHORUS

Congratulations, Zion Clark and Olivia Rehder! We are proud to announce that Zion and Olivia have been selected for the 2026 Nebraska Middle School All-State Chorus! On November 18, they will join 300 of the best middle school singers from across Nebraska for a special performance in Lincoln. What an incredible accomplishment! We are proud of Zion and Olivia for representing DC West and showcasing their musical talents on the state stage!



ALL-STATE BAND

Congrats to Olivia Elworth and Zaid Magaña-Axomulco for being selected for the NSBA 8th Grade All-State Band! They spent the summer and fall preparing their auditions, and were chosen to represent DC West among the best 8th grade band students in Nebraska. They will travel to Kearney in January to experience a day of music making with other talented 8th grade musicians. Congratulations to these Falcon Musicians!

FALCON ATHLETICS

GOLD FOR DC WEST UNIFIED FOOTBALL!



UNIFIED FOOTBALL — STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to our DC West Unified Football Team on bringing home the gold medal! An incredible accomplishment for a group that continues to show us what teamwork, inclusion, and Falcon Pride are all about. We couldn't be more proud of our athletes, coaches, and everyone who helped make this season special. Way to go, Falcons!

FALCON FUN

WHERE'S WALDO?



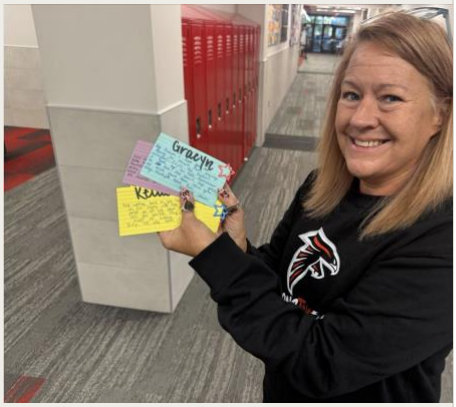
THE FALCON WAY

Our middle school staff had a little fun dressing up as Waldo! The real challenge wasn't finding Waldo… it was keeping track of all the Waldos walking around DC West! We love a staff that doesn't take themselves too seriously and knows how to have a little fun along the way. That's the Falcon Way!

FALCON FAMILY

FALCONS SUPPORTING FALCONS!

Middle School Volleyball Coach Mrs. Reker teamed up with High School Volleyball Coach Mr. Wald to create something pretty special. High school volleyball athletes took time to write words of encouragement and support to our middle school volleyball girls — reminding them that they are part of something bigger than just the team they play on today. That's the Falcon Way: older athletes investing in younger athletes, building confidence, and reminding each other that someone is always in your corner.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Learning Together: Our Staff Dives Into Classroom Management Research

Our teachers spent a recent professional development day doing something our students do every day. They read, they talked, and they learned from each other.

Each staff member was assigned a research-based article on classroom management. These weren't opinion pieces. They were grounded in what studies show actually works in middle school classrooms.

After reading, staff paired up. Each pair worked through a set of prepared questions about their articles. Partners took turns explaining what they read, pushing on each other's thinking, and connecting the research to what they see in their own rooms. A science teacher might be paired with a PE teacher. A veteran might be paired with someone in their second year. That mix mattered — good ideas don't stay in one department.

To close the day, every staff member brought back one key takeaway to share with the whole group. A few that stood out:

> **Greet students at the door.**
> A positive greeting as students enter class increases engagement and reduces disruptions. A name, a smile, and a quick check-in set the tone before the bell rings.

> **Teach routines like content.**
> Expectations work best when they are explicitly taught, practiced, and revisited — not just posted on the wall. Middle schoolers thrive when they know exactly what to do and when.

> **Catch them doing it right.**
> Specific praise ("Thanks for jumping right into your warm-up") is far more effective than general praise or correction alone. Researchers recommend about four positive interactions for every correction.

What struck me most was the energy in the room. Our staff wanted to get better, and they wanted to hear from each other. That's the kind of culture we want for our students, too.

You may notice some of these strategies showing up in classrooms over the coming weeks. If your student mentions something new, ask them about it — I would love to hear what they notice.

ACADEMICS

Grading Practices: The Journey Continues

WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Building Toward One Outcome

The district is building toward one outcome: **a grading system that ensures successful student learning.** That work follows four steps.

1

Mission & Beliefs

Grounded in the district strategic plan.

2

Core Grading Beliefs & Purposes

Built through group development, research, and common themes around shared purpose and impact.

3

Best Grading Practices

Aligned to our core grading beliefs.

4

Grading Framework

Developed collaboratively to support teachers and administrators in decision-making.

HOW WE GOT HERE

The Journey So Far

2022–23 — **Grading Scale**

K–3 used standards-based grading with levels of mastery. Grades 4–12 used a traditional scale (A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69, F 0–59).

2023–24 — **Grounding Work**

The district researched the impact of grades on student learning and held committee training to align grading with evidence-based strategies.

2024 — **DC West Grading Beliefs**

Four beliefs were adopted: Consistent, Accurate, Feedback, and Growth Mindset.

2024–25 — **Focus on Accuracy**

Staff identified which behaviors are worthy of a grade because they have the greatest impact on student success.

2025–26 — **Implementation & Planning**

College & Career Readiness Skills were implemented at the elementary level. Secondary piloted levels of performance tied to CCRS.

2026–27 — **Now**

Secondary levels of performance for CCRS are fully implemented this year.

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

What Comes Next

The day's PD moved staff into the next set of grading conversations:

EXTRA CREDIT	GROUP WORK	LATE WORK	ACADEMIC DISHONESTY	ZEROS

These topics will shape the next phase of the grading framework so that grades are accurate, consistent, and focused on what students actually know and can do.

GRADE LEVEL HOMEWORK

Scan the QR Code for Grade Level Homework

6th Grade
Scan for updates

7th Grade
Scan for updates

8th Grade
Scan for updates

FAMILY CONNECTION

Building the Bridge Between School and Home

On October 2, our staff set aside part of their professional development time for something simple. They picked up the phone.

Every middle school staff member was asked to reach out to three families. No agenda. No problem to solve. Just a chance to say hello, share something good about their student, and ask how the year is going from home.

This work connects to something we care deeply about at DC West. Our partnership with HumanEx has taught us that people do their best work when they feel known and valued. We've seen it with our staff, and we believe the same is true for families. When parents hear from teachers only when something goes wrong, trust is hard to build. When the first call is a positive one, everything that follows gets easier.



Our goal is simple. We want every family to know that someone in this building sees their child — not just their grades or their behavior, but who they are.

If you received a call, thank you for taking the time to talk with us. If you didn't, you may hear from us soon. Either way, our door is always open. If you ever have a question, a concern, or a good story to share, please reach out. Partnerships work best when they go both directions.

— Dr. Kerns


DC WEST Community Schools
Engage, Prepare, and Empower
2026 – 2027
VACATION PLANNER
Planning a family trip? Please consider these natural breaks in the DC West school calendar.
Labor Day
3-Day Weekend
September 5 – 7
September PD Day
3-Day Weekend
September 26 – 28
End of 1st Quarter
5-Day Weekend
October 15 – 19
Thanksgiving Break
5-Day Weekend
November 25 – 29
Winter Break
17-Day Opportunity
December 19 – January 4
MLK Day
3-Day Weekend
January 16 – 18
End of 3rd Quarter
4-Day Weekend
March 11 – 14
Spring Break
9-Day Opportunity
March 27 – April 4
April PD Day
3-Day Weekend
April 17 – 19
DC WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
EVERY DAY IN SCHOOL COUNTS.
Thank you for planning ahead — and Go Falcons!
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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Board Report **Jim Knott**

DC West Community Schools **November 16, 2026**

November is upon us, and although we are between sports seasons, it is a very busy time at the high school. On October 28th, we administered the Practice ACT to our Juniors. It is a full-length ACT test (English, Math, Reading, & Science) without the writing section. I was proud of the effort our juniors gave, considering it is nearly a four-hour test and only used for practice. Our junior class average cumulative score was 18.1. We are hopeful that the added instruction between now and April, targeted review and practice, John Baylor Test Prep, and increased real-test effort will boost our cumulative score upward on the April 6 NESA ACT. On November 20th, we will share the Practice ACT results with staff, along with premade ACT practice questions for use in classrooms.

I have been the Nebraska Capital Conference President for the last four years. Current NCC schools include Arlington, Conestoga, DC West, Fort Calhoun, Logan View, Louisville, Raymond Central, Syracuse, and Yutan. Next year the conference will add Palmyra to take us to 10 total schools. My main goal when starting this position was to increase collaboration between conference schools beyond athletic competition. One of the first steps we took was holding one of our four yearly principal meetings at an NCC School. This site visit includes a tour of the facilities, classroom visits, and dialog on various topics affecting schools at the time. This year we will visit Conestoga in March, tour their new facilities, and discuss topics such as AI usage by students and staff and yearly checklists used by principals.

Another first for our conference is holding a yearly NCC Sportsmanship & Leadership Summit. The Summit was held on November 2nd at Arlington High School. Each NCC school sent eight students with the goal of working together to increase sportsmanship and leadership amongst conference schools. Students attending from DC West were Elsie Flores (9th), Max Steinbach (9), Lillee Zach (10), Beckett Zahourek (10), Haylee Campbell (11), Addison Klawitter (11), CJ Croom (11), and Landon Troy (11). Mr. Travis stated, “This was a great opportunity for student athletes from DC West to collaborate with other student leaders from the other conference schools. We are hopeful this brings NCC schools together with the common goal of making events more enjoyable for everyone.”

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Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Board Report
November 16th, 2026

Shawna Younghans- Administrative Facilitator

Academic Leadership Team

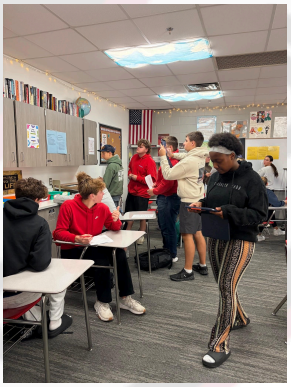
Our second leadership team is the Academic Team, which began the year with an ambitious goal: building a new MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) process. Team leaders Taylor Hyatt and Chip Daehling attended the MTSS conference in Kearney along with Katie Richards and me. The sessions helped the team see that designing a complete MTSS process would require more time than the team has available this year.

That realization led to productive conversations about how the Academic Team could still raise student achievement this year while the larger MTSS work is developed. The leaders brought several options back to the full team, and the team chose to focus on Tier 1 interventions and high-leverage instructional practices. As part of this work, the team will create an efficient way for teachers to document the strategies they have used and share that information clearly with other teachers. This team is passionate and has more great ideas coming soon.

Happy Veteran's Day

This Veterans Day, our students became historians! 🇺🇸 At hands-on stations, they examined primary sources to trace how the holiday changed over time. It started as Armistice Day, marking the end of World War I, and became Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all who have served. Thank you to our veterans!





Go Falcons!
Mrs. Shawna Younghans

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Director of Student Services
November 2026

Hello from the Special Services Department! Here's are some highlights from the past month and the month ahead.

MOEC Attendance Improvement Workgroup:
I attended the MOEC Attendance Improvement Workgroup meeting in October. Districts received information about their 2025-26 chronic absenteeism rates. We had 16.7% of our students in the chronically absent range, up slightly from 14.5% in 2024-25. Chronic absence is defined as missing more than 10% of the school days in session over the course of the year. We continue to focus on reducing chronic absence, as regular attendance is critical to feeling connected and successful at school and to increasing student achievement. All buildings have participated in MOEC Attendance Improvement Cohorts and have developed plans to support improved attendance. We also distributed a Vacation Planner through social media and school newsletters that highlights the natural extended breaks over the school year to encourage families to plan vacations when school is not in session.

Special Education Professional Development
We had a great day of learning in the Special Education Department on our October 19 Professional Development Day. I worked with the secondary staff in the morning and the elementary staff in the afternoon on development related to our Corrective Action from our 2025-26 Focused Monitoring file review. This session focused on Services and Assessment. We developed consistent ways to document student service time, accommodations, and supports in the IEP, prioritizing clarity and transparency for parents and teachers so everyone understands each student's daily services and placement. Teachers reported liking the small group format of the session, which facilitated great conversation and a work-group feel rather than traditional "sit and get" professional learning.

State Reporting
October is always a busy month for state reporting. We currently are serving 173 students in our PK-12 special education program and 11 children in our Birth-3 Early Intervention program. An additional 54 students are eligible for Section 504 protections, and most have active accommodation plans. We are currently fully staffed with teachers, related service providers, and paraeducators/drivers, which helps us meet these students' needs, and we are developing projections for next year to help anticipate any staffing needs or shifts for the 2027-28 school year.

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In addition to student reporting, a large amount of time in October is spent preparing and submitting our special education final financial reports (SPEDFRS) for the previous school year to determine our eligible special education reimbursements from the State. We successfully submitted these on October 30.

District Continuous Improvement
While October is a big reporting month, November always brings many opportunities for professional learning and development. We kicked off the month with a District Continuous Improvement Team meeting on November 2. We engaged in a "Compass Points" activity that helped us understand our own and others' work and communication styles to improve our collaboration and teaming skills. We also reviewed student achievement data to help us set student outcome goals for the year. Building teams shared progress on their improvement goals, and team members continued to refine high-leverage Teacher Actions and Student Actions related to Standard 2 for our Teacher Evaluation System: Learning Environment.

CASE Conference
I'm submitting this report from Providence, RI, representing the Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors (NASES) at the national Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Board Meeting and Conference. I'm grateful to CASE and NASES for sponsoring my attendance and for the opportunity to represent Nebraska, connect with special education leaders from across the country, and engage in professional learning and development that I can bring back to DC West. Thank you for your continued support in our own leadership growth and development.

Have a great month!

Dr. Nicki Pechous
Director of Student Services

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

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

World Language Curriculum

World language teachers participated in the first day of ESU 3's World Language Curriculum Toolbox Process on October 27. This three-day, cross-district collaborative experience supports teachers in reviewing and strengthening world language curriculum. The first session focused on examining instructional beliefs and a shared vision, reviewing the current curriculum, unpacking standards, and developing a checklist to evaluate instructional materials. The remaining sessions, scheduled for January 19 and March 25, 2027, will focus on clarifying learning priorities, organizing standards, developing pacing calendars, and aligning assessments and learning experiences.

DC West Instructional Coaching Program

The DC West Instructional Coaching Program continues to focus on strengthening instructional practices, supporting collaborative decision-making, and using student data to guide teaching and learning. Each building has unique needs and priorities. Mrs. Nabity's coaching efforts are tailored to align with and support each building's specific goals.

Elementary: Strengthening Professional Learning Communities

At the elementary level, Mrs. Nabity's primary focus is building strong, data-driven Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and fostering meaningful collaboration within a targeted grade level. The goal is to establish a consistent cycle of collaboration in which teachers use evidence of student learning to guide instruction, monitor progress, and make adjustments that support student growth.

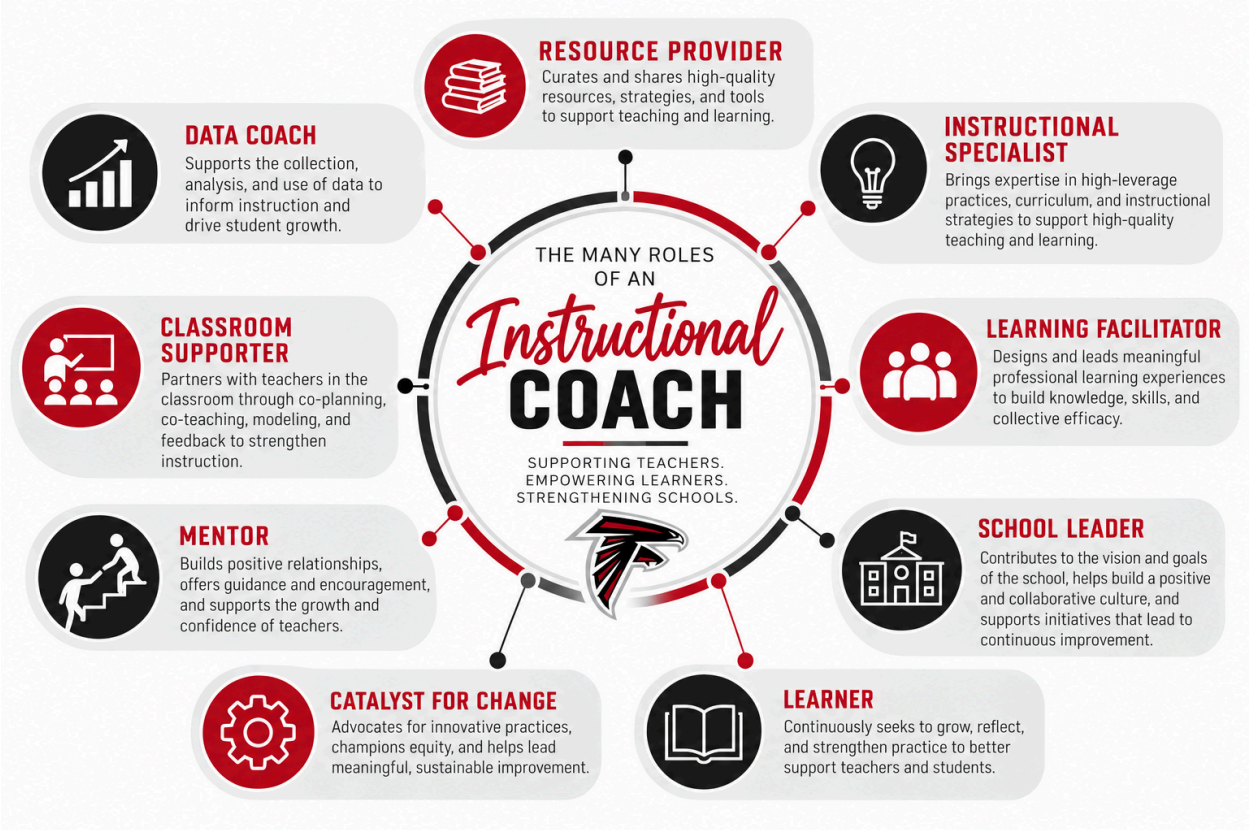
Middle School: Building Data-Driven Instructional Conversations

At the middle school, Mrs. Nabity's coaching efforts center on fostering strong, data-driven conversations through assessment data digs and individualized teacher coaching. Assessment data digs provide opportunities for teachers to look beyond overall scores and examine student performance to identify trends, instructional needs, and opportunities for targeted support.

High School: Supporting Academic Leadership and Teacher Growth

At the high school, Mrs. Nabity's focus includes supporting the Academic Leadership Team and providing individualized coaching for teachers. Support for the Academic Leadership Team centers on strengthening instructional leadership, facilitating conversations around student learning, and helping connect building-level priorities with classroom practices.

Role of an Instructional Coach



ASSESSMENT

Practice ACT

Juniors completed the Practice ACT on October 28, and scores have been shared with students and teachers. Content-area teachers will use the results to identify student strengths and areas for growth, guide instruction, and provide targeted review leading up to the ACT on April 6. This preparation will help students build their skills and confidence before test day.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Grading Best Practices

Teachers continue their work on grading best practices by revisiting DC West's shared grading beliefs that grades should be consistent, accurate, meaningful, and learning-focused. Participants reviewed belief statements on extra credit and group scoring and collaborated to develop practices that emphasize standards-based learning opportunities and individual demonstrations of mastery. Teachers also examined district policies on academic dishonesty, reflected on current and desired classroom practices, and worked to develop aligned statements of practice. This ongoing collaboration supported greater consistency in grading

and a shared focus on communicating student learning. Once the Grading Framework is complete, we plan to share it with the Board.

District Continuous Improvement Team

The District Continuous Improvement Team met on November 2 to review school improvement plans, examine literacy achievement data, and continue aligning district and building goals. Team members shared updates from the elementary, middle, and high schools and reflected on progress toward literacy goals to inform student outcome goals for the current year. The team members continued developing high-leverage instructional practices aligned with the DC West Instructional Model Standard 2: Learning Environment, emphasizing positive relationships, supportive classroom environments, and active student engagement.

District Professional Learning Day

On October 19, the District Professional Learning Day, teachers received targeted training and collaboration opportunities across the district. Select K–3 staff participated in Day 3 of the UNO Early Literacy Workshop, continuing their Science of Reading training in the morning and collaborating with teammates on workshop assignments in the afternoon. Teachers in grades 4–12 engaged in AI training during the morning session, followed by an afternoon session focused on grading best practices. All topics of learning aligned with our District Strategic Plan.

Director of Learning 26-27 Professional Goals

Goal #1: Provide instructional leadership to ensure the consistent implementation of a rigorous, literacy-focused curriculum and effective teaching practices aligned with the DC West Instructional Framework. Emphasize improving reading and writing outcomes across all grade levels by supporting teachers in delivering high-quality literacy instruction, monitoring implementation fidelity, and using student achievement data to drive continuous improvement.

Standard 3: Instructional Leadership - The administrator provides leadership to ensure the implementation of a rigorous curriculum, the use of effective teaching practices, and accountability for results.

Goal #2: Foster a school culture that enhances the academic, social, physical, and emotional development of all students by leading a research-based review and analysis of current grading practices in DC West. Guide the development and communication of a clear, equitable, and student-centered grading framework that supports positive learning environments and student success across all grade levels.

Standard 4: Culture for Learning - The administrator creates a culture that enhances the academic, social, physical, and emotional development of all students.

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

The Fall has finished up for us and the Winter is already upon us. Overall, I believe we had a very good Fall in our Athletics and Activities at both the high school and middle school levels. We qualified for state in two programs (softball and cross country), we we're playing in a district final to get to state (volleyball), and we had the inaugural season of our girl's golf program. Winning doesn't always define whether a program was successful or not, there are lots of factors in teams reaching their potential or not. The level of competition is great and our Falcons rose to the challenge and even went above it most of the time to represent our school.

We have already started practices for Middle School Boys Basketball (39 participants) and Middle School Girls Wrestling (12 participants). We're looking forward to what the winter brings as I know our programs have high expectations and goals for their teams!

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DC West Football

Overall Record (3-6)

Throughout the season, the Falcons were competitive. They were able to get a homecoming win vs Nebraska City and then two other home game wins vs Raymond Central and Concordia. I believe the Falcons were playing their best football at the end of the season as they navigated through injuries and found a way to come together as a team. We appreciate the senior's leadership and are looking forward to the future.

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DC West Softball
Overall Record (20-11)
#5 Seed in Class C State Tournament – (Game 1: Lost 2-1 and Game 2: Lost 2-1)
Finished Ranked #5 in the State Class C
Nebraska Capitol Conference Tournament 3rd Place
Nebraska Capitol Conference Regular Season Champions

What a fun season to be a part of for our Falcons to be a part of. We want to thank our seniors for all of their efforts over their career. We are looking forward to bring some key contributors back for next season. There will be plenty of opportunities for our underclassmen to step into a varsity role.

Some individual postseason honors:
Lillee Zach – 1st Team All-NCC
Whitney Bruckner – 1st Team All-NCC
Peyton White – 2nd Team All-NCC
Talia Walsh – 2nd Team All-NCC
Ericka Murphy – HM All-NCC
Grace White – HM All-NCC

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DC West Volleyball
Overall Record (23-9)
Nebraska Capitol Conference Season Co-Champions
Nebraska Capitol Conference Tournament Champions
#1 Seed in Sub-District C1-6 at DC West
C1-6 Subdistrict Champions
C1-7 District Finals at Aurora

Our volleyball team had a spectacular season. They were able to face some adversity and come together as a team which can be difficult to do. Players got better, they stepped up when called upon, and took the court to win. There were a lot of individual and career school records set throughout the season, which is also great. We had a great group of seniors lead the way for us and we return some impactful underclassmen which is exciting for our future.

Some individual postseason honors:
Ava Newbauer – 1st Team All-NCC * Honorary Captain
Mallory Shaw – 1st Team All-NCC
Kinley Nelson – 2nd Team All-NCC
Grace Lowndes – 2nd Team All-NCC
Brooke Wade – 2nd Team All-NCC
Haylee Campbell – HM All-NCC
Kaylee Green – HM All-NCC

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DC West Boys & Girls Cross Country

The Boys Team ended up 3rd in the NCC Meet at Logan View, which was a good day for the Falcons. The Girls Team competed individually but were unable to field a team score. We qualified two boy's runners for State Cross Country at Kearney Country Club: Jack Steinbach (Jr.) and Harold Maca (So.). Jack medaled and finished in 11th place. Harold finished in 19th place for the Falcons. We had one senior on the team and we appreciated their efforts. We are looking forward to the underclassmen in taking the next step for our program.

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DC West Girls Golf

1st year for DC West Girls Golf was a big success. We had 14 participants on our team and we were able to field a competitive varsity team for districts.

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DC West Unified Bowling

1st Year for DC West Unified Bowling through the NSAA has been a lot of learning and a lot of fun watching our team compete. They have participated in two events so far in Lincoln and Lyons Decatur. They will continue to grow and improve throughout the season as they look forward to participating in districts.

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1st Annual Nebraska Capitol Conference Sportsmanship and Leadership Summit at Arlington!

Each school had representatives chosen by their Administration for the leadership qualities. There were students from all grades and programs that participated today within the Nebraska Capitol Conference.

There were 5 Breakout Sessions:

1 - Leadership - Influencing each other in a positive way.

2 - Sportsmanship - Respect opponents, officials, coaches, teammates, facilities, and the spirit of competition.

3 - Service - Put the needs of others before oneself; impact on the younger generation.

4 - Commitment/Character - The power of commitment.

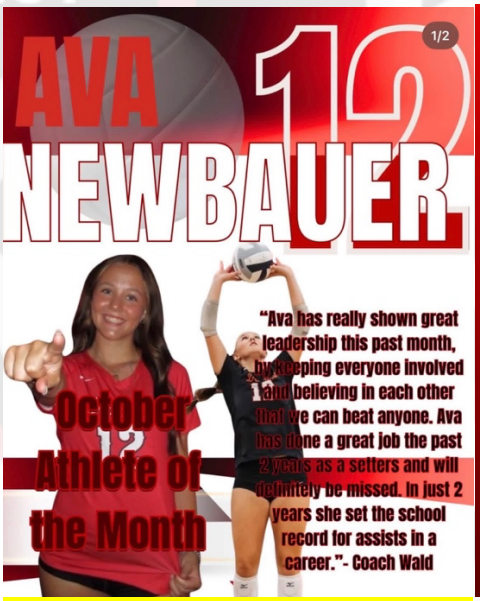
5 - Roundtable with Dr. Jack Stark, psychologist on the mental side of the game.

We are excited to bring back ideas that can have a positive impact on DC West and the NCC. Very proud of the students and their efforts today while working together and with students from the other schools in the NCC.

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Thank you to our October **SALT** guest speakers, DC West Alumni MaeMae Zach and Cam Wiese.





October Students of the Month, Senior-Ava Newbauer and Junior-Jack Steinbach.

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One Act Senior Banners are looking great outside of our Performing Arts Center.



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



Financial Recap October 2026

	10/1/26	Receipts	Expenditures	10/31/26
General Fund	$ 8,584,501.91	$ 573,749.14	$ 1,418,726.04	$7,739,525.01
Depreciation Fund	$ 1,847,984.21	$ 1,503.54	$ 7,454.15	$1,842,033.60
Food Service Fund	$ 92,721.73	$ 69,196.43	$ 551.14	$161,367.02
Qualified Capital Fund	$ 301,680.41	$ 7,580.78	$ 113,123.04	$196,138.15
Bond Fund	$ 2,732,684.07	$ 27,427.73	$ -	$2,760,111.80
Special Building Fund	$ 1,086,892.06	$ 23,537.91	$ -	$1,110,429.97
	$ 14,646,464.39	**$ 702,995.53**	**$1,539,854.37**	**$13,809,605.55**

General Fund Detail

Expenditures	October	YTD	Budgeted
All Instructional Program	$ 678,723.09	$ 1,363,381.58	$ 9,176,597.64
SPED Instructional Program	$ 232,339.62	$ 400,876.52	$ 2,624,131.79
Support Services SPED Related	$ 50,870.17	$ 95,437.34	$ 559,659.96
Support Services Non-SPED Relate	$ 47,558.37	$ 92,488.94	$ 562,526.89
Support Instructional	$ 71,285.11	$ 176,119.65	$ 788,257.16
Board of Education	$ 3,095.99	$ 31,877.57	$ 126,500.00
Executive Administration Services	$ 29,876.82	$ 61,841.15	$ 391,616.76
District Legal Services	$ -	$ 1,634.00	$ 40,000.00
Office of the Principal	$ 85,828.65	$ 176,536.06	$ 1,044,803.59
General Admin - Business Services	$ 20,177.69	$ 45,520.49	$ 376,887.74
Maint & Operation of Building & S	$ 113,509.56	$ 419,608.91	$ 1,800,106.85
Vehicle Acquisition & Maint	$ 22.12	$ 4,587.78	$ 10,000.00
Regular Pupil Transportation	$ 18,607.56	$ 60,384.60	$ 719,500.00
SPED Pupil Transportation	$ 8,045.04	$ 19,019.47	$ 159,503.83
Categorical Grant from Coporation	$ 19,038.57	$ 37,831.90	$ 259,998.60
State Categorical Programs	$ 1,992.29	$ 2,628.22	$ 16,442.00
Federal Programs	$ 37,755.39	$ 75,317.97	$ 414,695.00
Transfer Out			
	$ 1,418,726.04	**$ 3,065,092.15**	**$ 19,071,227.81**

Revenues	October	YTD
Personal and Prop Taxes	$ 127,232.19	$ 498,462.84
Carline Tax		$ 916.81
Motor Vehicle Taxes	$ 125,076.32	$ 271,569.61
Facility Rental		
Tuition Received from Individuals	$ 4,365.00	$ 28,539.70
Interest	$ 3,779.71	$ 7,919.48
Local License Fees	$ 1,890.00	$ 1,890.00
Grants from Corporations/Private		
Other Local Receipts	$ 32.98	$ 684.55
County Fines and License Fees	$ 1,817.62	$ 1,817.62
ESU Receipts		
State Aid	$ 285,106.00	$ 570,212.00
Special Education Programs		
Special Education Transportation		
Homestead Exemption		
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle	$ 4,762.18	$ 4,762.18
High Ability Learners	$ 9,340.66	$ 9,340.66
State Apportionment		
Other State Categorical	$ 3,584.70	$ 20,584.70
Other State Receipts		
Prop & Personal Property Tax Credit		
Title ESSA Programs		
IDEA Programs		$ 400.00
Medicaid	$ 6,761.78	$ 6,761.78
ESSER II & ESSER III		
Other Federal Categorical Receipts		
Sale of Property		$ 6,419.85
Insurance Adjustment		
	$ 573,749.14	**$ 1,430,281.78**

October 2026 Payroll

Net Payroll	$ 727,226.72
Payroll Taxes (District)	$ 75,126.79
Payroll Withholding (Employees)	$ 151,814.29
Retirement (District)	$ 69,587.47
Retirement Withholding (Employees)	$ 68,898.53

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
05 704	INTEREST	5,559.96	0.00	149.52	0.00	5,709.48
05 704 1001	ACTIVITY PASSES	30,835.10	0.00	120.00	0.00	30,955.10
05 704 1002	CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS	10,331.53	2,941.00	0.00	0.00	7,390.53
05 704 1003	INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	(115.35)	354.70	889.00	0.00	418.95
05 704 1005	STAFF LOUNGE	4,463.07	0.00	85.32	0.00	4,548.39
05 704 1007	VALLEY WAY	9,523.64	534.12	0.00	0.00	8,989.52
05 704 1011	PTSA DONATION	4,117.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,117.70
05 704 1023	PROM	4,114.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,114.53
05 704 1102	ARTS & HUMANITIES	550.62	0.00	322.00	0.00	872.62
05 704 1104	ATHLETICS HS	10,522.24	14,184.29	13,813.00	0.00	10,150.95
05 704 1106	BASEBALL TEAM	1,199.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,199.55
05 704 1107	BAND	2,843.33	102.09	206.25	0.00	2,947.49
05 704 1108	CHEER	15,109.51	0.00	244.25	0.00	15,353.76
05 704 1110	SPRING PLAY	3,221.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,221.03
05 704 1111	BBB TEAM	185.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	185.80
05 704 1112	CONCESSIONS	43,924.22	6,354.01	12,018.25	0.00	49,588.46
05 704 1113	CONSTRUCTION TECH	7,106.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,106.79
05 704 1114	DANCE TEAM	300.01	0.00	793.50	0.00	1,093.51
05 704 1115	HS MUSICAL	5,857.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,857.55
05 704 1116	ONE ACT	2,597.71	0.00	2,400.00	0.00	4,997.71
05 704 1117	FBLA	2,558.22	0.00	135.00	0.00	2,693.22
05 704 1118	HIGH SCHOOL	1,369.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,369.26
05 704 1119	DC TECH 1:1	11,147.58	0.00	80.00	0.00	11,227.58
05 704 1120	GBB TEAM	6,193.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,193.20
05 704 1123	HOSA	2,087.77	520.00	0.00	0.00	1,567.77
05 704 1124	STUCO HS	8,333.95	1,515.85	68.75	0.00	6,886.85
05 704 1128	NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	982.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	982.66
05 704 1131	FOOTBALL TEAM	2,713.12	0.00	0.00	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	2,771.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,771.02
05 704 1134	VOCAL MUSIC	5,756.85	0.00	0.00	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	6,741.57	0.00	48.55	0.00	6,790.12
05 704 1141	GOLF TEAM	589.88	0.00	50.00	0.00	639.88
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	10,327.90	156.00	1,230.75	0.00	11,402.65
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	4,690.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,690.74
05 704 1186	WRESTLING TEAM	1,668.67	0.00	85.00	0.00	1,753.67
05 704 1198	SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS	598.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	598.12
05 704 1224	STUCO MS	16,388.77	0.00	759.50	0.00	17,148.27
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	189.67	0.00	0.00	7,327.40
05 704 2112	MS CONCESSIONS	1,106.09	358.94	1,141.50	0.00	1,888.65
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	4,347.81	1,925.00	1,750.00	0.00	4,172.81
05 704 2205	UNIFIED SPORTS	4,349.94	1,291.19	0.00	0.00	3,058.75
05 704 2216	MS DRAMA	42.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.72
05 704 2218	MIDDLE SCHOOL	853.79	0.00	1,669.00	0.00	2,522.79
05 704 2242	MS YEARBOOK	3,145.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,145.79
05 704 3221	PBIS/FALCOIN	5,486.15	0.00	0.00	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	792.28	0.00	7,195.51
	Fund Total: 05	308,178.68	30,426.86	38,851.42	0.00	316,603.24

Fund: 12 STUDENT FEES

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description		Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
12 704	STUDENT PARTICIPATION FEE		40,489.07	0.00	70.00	0.00	40,559.07
		Fund Total: 12	40,489.07	0.00	70.00	0.00	40,559.07

Vendor Name	Vendor Description		Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01	GENERAL FUND	
ABE'S TRASH SERVICE, INC			300.00
ACH BANK FEE	FEE		61.25
CASEY'S BUSINESS MASTERCARD			8.75
CITY OF VALLEY	UTILITIES		1,802.50
COX BUSINESS	SERVICE		200.12
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #2			22,723.92
FIRST STUDENT, INC	TRANSPORTATION		19,823.85
HOMETOWN LEASING	COPIER LEASE		2,648.38
JOURNEYED.COM, INC			6,611.20
JUST FOR KIDS THERAPY INC			4,734.00
LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORE	FUEL		1,957.58
MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO IN	INSURANCE		3,212.45
MAGIC WRIGHTER, INC.	FEE		304.50
MAX I. WALKER UNIFORM RENTAL SERVICE	SERVICE		321.08
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	UTILITIES		26,053.91
USBANK			3,856.35
VALLEY ACE HARDWARE			30.73
VERIZON			105.14
WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC	UTILITES		1,904.41
Fund Number 01			96,660.12
Checking Account ID 1			96,660.12
Checking Account ID 6	Fund Number 06	NUTRITION FUND	
MAX I. WALKER UNIFORM RENTAL SERVICE	SERVICE		551.14
Fund Number 06			551.14
Checking Account ID 6			551.14

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY		4,146.80
Fund Number 01		4,146.80
Checking Account ID 1		4,146.80

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
AWARDS UNLIMITED INC		94.37
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY		1,698.62
BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES INC	SUPPLIES	417.00
BSN SPORTS LLC		740.88
CITY WIDE FACILITY SOLUTIONS	SERVICE	9,100.00
CLEMMER, GARY		135.00
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL & RESORTS		488.85
DAILY RECORD, THE	SERVICE	459.32
DALTON CHIROPRACTIC LLC		100.00
DC WEST ACTIVITY ACCOUNT		180.00
DC WEST FOOD SERVICE		1,142.10
DIETZE MUSIC HOUSE		3,020.88
EAGLE SERVICES INC.	SERVICE	1,124.47
EAKES OFFICE PLUS		1,348.50
EGAN SUPPLY CO	SUPPLIES	1,354.74
ELECTRONIC SOUND INC		950.00
ELKHORN AUTOMOTIVE, INC	SERVICE	1,384.81
ENGINEERED CONTROLS, INC		4,789.00
FIRST STUDENT, INC	TRANSPORTATION	76,581.06
FREMONT ELECTRIC INC		95.00
GOODWIN TUCKER GROUP	SERVICE	1,458.05
GUINN, ELIZABETH		22.02
HALO PRO UNLIMITED, LLC		1,850.00
HAMPTON INN KEARNEY		169.95
HEARTLAND PEST CONTROL	SERVICE	280.00
HY-VEE INC		70.00
JP BOILER SERVICE		3,500.00
JUST FOR KIDS THERAPY INC		4,788.00
JW PEPPER & SONS		47.34
MARK OF DISTINCTION LLC, THE		797.00
MATHCOUNTS FOUNDATION		336.00
MCGRAW-HILL EDUCATION INC		110.79
MENARDS - ELKHORN	SUPPLIES	482.19
METRO OMAHA EDUCATION CONSORTIUM		200.00
NE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADM		6,352.00
NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS		60.00
NEBRASKA DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES		140.00
NEBRASKA RURAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION		2,750.00
NIPPON SANSO MATHESON INC	SUPPLIES	108.98
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD	ADVERTISING	6,644.94
PERRY GUTHERY HAASE & GESSFORD	LEGAL FEES	228.00
PRAIRIE MECHANICAL CORP		39,413.98
PUBLICATION PRINTING		160.45
RAPTOR TECHNOLOGIES LLC		994.97
RAWHIDE CHEMOIL INC		1,184.63
REALLY GREAT READING COMPANY, LLC		30.95
SCHOOL HEALTH CORPORATION		82.25
SHAPE NEBRASKA		360.00
STANZEL'S MOW & SNOW LLC	SERVICE	11,475.00
STAPLES ADVANTAGE		1,683.12
STEPS TO LITERACY		6,954.54
SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION CO	SERVICE	3,615.25
TRU / HOME 2 - BY HILTON		712.00

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
UNITED VOLLEYBALL SUPPLY, LLC		379.24
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY		125.00
VALLEY ACE HARDWARE		256.00
W.W. GRAINGER, INC		80.92
WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBR, INC	SERVICE	1,748.63
WATER ENGINEERING INC	SERVICE	333.50
WEST MUSIC COMPANY INC		19.95
WHC NE, LLC DBA ZTRIP	SERVICE	2,154.46
ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION, INC.		7.08
Fund Number 01		207,371.78
Checking Account ID 1		207,371.78
Checking Account ID 2 Fund Number 02	DEPRECIATION	
SHEPPARD'S BUSINESS INTERIORS INC		24,984.58
Fund Number 02		24,984.58
Checking Account ID 2		24,984.58
Checking Account ID 6 Fund Number 06	NUTRITION FUND	
HOODMASTERS, INC		494.60
Fund Number 06		494.60
Checking Account ID 6		494.60

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
Tuesday, October 6, 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 Tuesday, October 6, 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 2:30 PM.

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

Present: 6.

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

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

2. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jamie Jorgensen.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3. New Business

3.1. Approve the Retirement of Superintendent Poloncic
Superintendent, Dr. Melissa Poloncic intends to retire at the end of the 2026-2027 school year. Her last contract day will be June 30, 2027.

Motion to approve the retirement of Dr. Melissa Poloncic as Superintendent at the end of the 2026-2027 school year. Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jim Tomanek.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3.2. Discuss, Consider, and Approve Superintendent Search Firm
President, Dr. Kelly Hinrichs, reviewed and recommended the selection of a superintendent search firm for

Board consideration. The description of the search process provided by the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) was submitted for Board review and discussion.
Motion to approve Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 2:35pm Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Luke Janke.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

Dr. Melissa Poloncic

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, October 12, 2026

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

Following public notification procedures approved by the Board of Education, February 14, 2011, in adherence to 84-1411, notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting such Notice on the exterior front door of the high school, elementary school, middle school, Valley City Hall, First Nebraska Bank, Foundation One Bank and 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 7:11 PM.

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

Present: 6.
Attendance Update Taken at 7:12 PM.
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
Correspondence and comments from the audience were accepted.
Mandi Becker addressed the Board regarding district curriculum, technology, and staffing considerations.

3. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Cole Groteluschen.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. Administrative Reports
4.1. Superintendent's Report
4.2. Elementary School— Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem
4.3. Middle School — Dr. Kerns
4.4. High School — Mr. Knott & Mrs. Younghans
4.5. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment — Dr. Marten
4.6. Student Services & Special Education — Dr. Pechous
4.7. Athletics & Activities— Mr. Travis
4.8. Financial Report

5. Consent Agenda
Motion to approve Consent Agenda 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

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
Kari West - hire - MS Sped Para
Brianna Scott - hire - Preschool Para
Robert Owens - exit - custodial
Michael Rains - exit - light maintenance

6. New Business

6.1. District Continuous Improvement Plan and Goals
Dr. Marten and Dr. Pechous presented the 2026–2027 District Continuous Improvement Plan aligned with the district's Strategic Plan.

6.2. Elementary Continuous Improvement Plan and Goals
Mr. Sarka and Mrs. Ranslem presented the 2026–2027 Elementary Continuous Improvement Plan aligned with the district's Strategic Plan.

6.3. Option Enrollment Resolution for the 2027-2028 School Year
Per Board Policy 5006, the Board considers a resolution prior to October 15th declaring programs, classes, or schools unavailable to option students for the next school year due to capacity limits, with the option to review again prior to March 2027.

Following discussion regarding enrollment trends, staffing, facility capacity, and growth factors, the Board acted on the proposed guidelines.

Motion to adopt the resolution of proposed capacity for the 2027-2028 school year as presented 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

6.4. Lease Renewal Confirmation Resolution 2026
Per our lease agreement with Nebraska Educational Building Association (NEBA), the Board will annually confirm a resolution for the renewal of the term of the lease for a new seven-year term commencing on November 1, 2026.
This is an annual action by the Board of Education in October of each year.
Motion to adopt the Lease Renewal confirmation Resolution as presented 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

6.5. Sell, Recycle, Dispose of Property
The Superintendent requested authority to sell, recycle or dispose of the following property:

- 2011 Ford Passenger Van that needs repair. The van is no longer school legal per Federal regulations. The Superintendent recommended we sell or dispose of the van instead of repairing.

- The elementary has some play items that are no longer in use. The Superintendent recommended we sell the items that are currently in storage.

Motion to authorize the Superintendent to sell, dispose, or recycle proposed items 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

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

The Board considered a resolution approving a Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement for High School Girls Wrestling with Omaha Concordia and Omaha Mercy for the 2026–2027 school year.

Resolution:

1. Approval of the Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement for High School Girls Wrestling with Omaha Concordia and Omaha Mercy for the 2026–2027 school year.
2. Authorization for the Chair and Clerk to execute the agreement and submit the required application to the Board of Directors of the NSAA.
3. Effective status contingent upon the adoption of a similar resolution by the governing or school boards of the cooperating schools.

Motion to approve the proposed resolution for a cooperative agreement for Girls High School Wrestling with Omaha Concordia and Omaha Mercy for the 2026-2027 school year 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

6.7. Food Service Program Discussion
Dr. Poloncic provided an update regarding the district's food service program following community feedback and concerns. The update covered feedback received to date, items addressed directly with the new food service provider, and upcoming improvements. The floor was then opened for Board discussion. No formal action was taken.

7. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:53 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

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, October 12, 2026

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Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM.

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

Present: 5, Absent: 1.
Attendance Update Taken at 6:06 PM.

Elizabeth Mayer:	Present

Present: 6.

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

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

2. 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, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3. Work Session for Superintendent Search
The Board of Education convened in a work session to collaborate and discuss search strategies with representatives from the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) search firm.

4. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting @ 7:10pm Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jamie Jorgensen.
Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

DC WEST Community Schools
Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Fall 2026 Enrollment
Presented to DC West BOE, November 16, 2026

Current Enrollment Status as of NDE October 1, 2026 Reporting

Grade Level	2026-2027	2025-2026	Difference
PK	83	90	-7
K	71	78	-7
1	81	62	19
2	65	83	-18
3	81	62	19
4	64	63	1
5	62	92	-30
6	90	82	8
7	82	90	-8
8	91	82	9
9	83	60	23
10	65	89	-24
11	99	86	13
12	87	67	20
Totals	**1104**	**1086**	**18**

Membership Comparison with Previous Year

School	2025-26	2026-27	Difference	% Difference
High School (9-12)	302	334	+32	+9.6%
Middle School (6-8)	254	263	+9	+3.4%
PK-Elem (PK-5)	530	507	-23	-4.5%
District	**1086**	**1104**	**+18**	**1.7%**

Historical Data on Total Enrollment for DC West Community Schools

2026-27	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
1104	1086	1096	1116	1053	1039	989	975	970	958	918	876	836

Option Enrollment In/Out District Status as of NDE October 1, 2026 Reporting

Grade Level	Option Enrolled In Students	Option Enrolled Out Students	Net
K	11	-2	+9
1	12	0	+12
2	10	-3	+7
3	11	-3	+8
4	5	-2	+3
5	11	-3	+8
6	9	-4	+5
7	14	-4	+10
8	11	-13	-2
9	14	-13	+1
10	15	-15	0
11	21	-12	+9
12	24	-23	+1
Totals	168	-97	+71

Home District of Option Enrollment In Students

31= Omaha Public Schools	55= Elkhorn	14= Millard
13= Yutan	21= Fremont	6= Arlington
5= Gretna	8= Bennington	7= Mead
2= Cedar Bluffs	1= Blair	3= Oakland Craig
2= Papillon Lavista		

Option District of Enrollment Out Students

4= Bennington	38= Elkhorn	37= Millard
5= Yutan	4= Fremont	1= Ralston
4= OPS	2= Cedar Bluffs	2= Arlington

Historical Data on Number of Option In, Percentage of Option Enrollment, Net Number and Net Option Funding Received

2026-27	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
168	162	166	182	174	172	198	176	164	169	187	180	189
15%	15%	15%	16%	18%	18%	21%	20%	19%	20%	22%	23%	24%
+71	+60	+54	+73	+73	+55	+99	+86	+43	+70	+86	-29	-40
$659,457	$544,400	$727,597	$704,159	$904,557	$584,381	$587,541	$638,245	$453,187	$723,955			