

School Board Meeting (Reg)

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 7:00 AM

Public Library, 104 1st St NE, Crosby, ND 58730

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	Speaker(s) : President Reistad
2. Determine if a Quorum is Present--Note Any Absent Members	Speaker(s) : President Reistad
3. Approval of Agenda	Speaker(s) : President Reistad
4. Be Legendary Governance	Speaker(s) : President Reistad
4.a. Cognia (Student Engagement Results)	Speaker(s) : President Reistad & Dr. Vandal
5. Audience Recognition	Speaker(s) : President Reistad
5.a. Visitors Present (Public Comment)	Speaker(s) : President Reistad
5.b. Student Recognition	Speaker(s) : President Reistad & Dr. Vandal
5.c. Tell Me Something Good	Speaker(s) : President Reistad
6. Open Enrollment/Tuition Agreements	Speaker(s) : President Reistad & Barb King
7. Consent Agenda: Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval	Speaker(s) : President Reistad & Dr. Vandal
7.a. School Board Meeting Minutes	Speaker(s) : President Reistad & Dr. Vandal
7.b. Monthly Financial (Bill Sets)	Speaker(s) : President Reistad & Dr. Vandal
7.c. Teacher Contract	Speaker(s) : President Reistad & Dr. Vandal
7.c.i. Tiffaney Vigness, \$32,389.80	
7.d. Extra-Curricular Agreements	Speaker(s) : President Reistad & Dr. Vandal
7.d.i. Dylan Kolstad, Elem BBB \$2,500; Matt Kruger, JH BBB Ass't \$1,760 and Elem BBB Ass't \$1,200; Allison Muncaster, Amended GWN ITV Art \$15,000 and Amended ITV Class \$5,000.	
8. Superintendent's Recommendation for Board Action	Speaker(s) : Dr. Vandal
8.a. Policy 1st Reading	
8.a.i. DEAD —Staff use of Electronic Devices	
8.b. Policy 2nd Reading	
8.b.i. AAC-BR2 —Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure	
8.b.ii. ABEC —School Meal Charging Policy	
8.b.iii. ACCB —Protection for Student Victims of Sexual Offences	
8.c. School Calendar 2026/2027	Speaker(s) : Dr. Vandal

9. Reports	Speaker (s) : Dr. Vandal, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Haugenoe
9.a. Superintendent Report	Speaker (s) : Dr. Vandal
9.a.i. Superintendent Report	Speaker (s) : Dr. Vandal
9.b. Elementary Report	Speaker (s) : Mrs. Brown
9.c. MS/HS Report	Speaker (s) : Mrs. Haugenoe
10. School Board Committee Meetings: (<i>Meetings will start following the conclusion of the regular school board meeting—8:15 am is a guideline</i>)	Speaker (s) : President Reistad
10.a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation	Speaker (s) : President Reistad
10.b. Finance & Personnel	Speaker (s) : President Reistad
10.c. Policy & Curriculum	Speaker (s) : President Reistad
10.d. BASC (Bakken Area Schools Consortium)	Speaker (s) : President Reistad
11. Board Comments	Speaker (s) : Dr. Vandal
12. ADJOURNMENT	Speaker (s) : President Reistad

REGULAR MEETING –December 9, 2025

President Reistad called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m. with Adams, Jacobson, Nystuen, Pulvermacher and Wehrman present and Verlinde absent. Others present were Superintendent Vandal, Secondary Principal Haugenoe, Elementary Principal Brown, Business Manager, King, a member of the press and several staff members. It was noted that a quorum was present. This meeting was held virtually due to inclement weather and no travel advised.

Motion 26-12-01: Moved by Nystuen, seconded by Adams to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Yes-Adams, Jacobson, Nystuen, Pulvermacher, Reistad and Wehrman. Absent: Verlinde. MC: 6-0.

Be Legendary Governance

Motion 26-12-02: Moved by Pulvermacher, seconded by Nystuen to approve Board self-evaluation with a score of 66. Roll call vote: Yes-Adams, Jacobson, Nystuen, Pulvermacher, Reistad and Wehrman. Absent: Verlinde. MC: 6-0.

Student Outcome Goal Report – The percentage of students scoring proficient or above on ND State Assessment ELA and Math decreased from 45% and 29%, respectively, in spring of 2025 to 32% and 22%, respectively, in fall of 2025.

Student and Staff Recognitions

High School

- Congratulations to the following students on auditioning and making the UND Honor Band. Emma Hay, Ailyn Ordonez Guayamis, Samantha Smith, Easton Tibbs, and Gracie Rowse (alternate)
- Congratulations to the following DC football players for being selected to the 2025 All State football team: Mavrick Wolf (1st Team), Stockton Nelson and Trayven Head (2nd Team)
- Congratulations to Paige Smithberg and Audrina Fortier for being selected to the 2025 All Region Volleyball Team.

Consent Agenda

Motion 26-12-03: Moved by Nystuen, seconded by Pulvermacher to approve the Consent Agenda to include the following: Roll call vote: Yes-Adams, Jacobson, Nystuen, Pulvermacher, Reistad and Wehrman. Absent: Verlinde. MC: 6-0.

- a. November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. December 9, 2025 Bill Set
- c. Business Manager Evaluation and Job Description (Final Draft)
- d. Extra-Curricular Agreements for Approval: Lauryn Heide, JH GBB @ \$1,800
- e. Rescinding Policies: (See attachment for Narrative)
 - a. **ACEC** Vandalism
 - b. **BEB** New Member Orientation
 - c. **DBBB** Physical Examinations
 - d. **DCAB** Fringe Benefits
 - e. **DCAC** Salary Adjustments for Certified Employees

Action Items

Motion 26-12-04: Moved by Pulvermacher, seconded by Nystuen to approve second reading and adoption of policy FFI-Personal Electronic Communication Devices Prohibition During Instructional Time. Roll call vote: Yes-Adams, Jacobson, Nystuen, Pulvermacher, Reistad and Wehrman. Absent: Verlinde. MC: 6-0.

Motion 26-12-05: Motion by Nystuen, seconded by Pulvermacher to approve first reading of policies **AAC-BR2**-Title IX Sexual Harrassment Grievance Procedure; **ABEC**-School Meal Charging Policy and **ACCB**-Protection for Student Victims of Sexual Offenses. Roll call vote: Yes-Adams, Jacobson, Nystuen, Pulvermacher, Reistad and Wehrman. Absent: Verlinde. MC: 6-0.

Motion 26-12-06: Motion by Pulvermacher, seconded by Nystuen to approve policy amendments on first reading for policies **AACA**-Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; **ABDA**-Website Accessibility for People with Disabilities; **ABDA-BR1**-Website Accessibility Complaints; **ABEA**-Wellness Policy; **BCBA**-Public Participation at Meetings; and **BCBA-BR**-Rules of Decorum at Board Meetings. Roll call vote: Yes-Adams, Jacobson, Nystuen, Pulvermacher, Reistad and Wehrman. Absent: Verlinde. MC: 6-0.

Motion 26-12-07: Motion by Pulvermacher, seconded by Nystuen to approve extra-curricular agreements for Kristen Ator, Website Scheduler/Reporter \$1,200; Allison Muncaster, GWN ITV Art Instructor \$12,000 and ITV Class Stipend \$4,000. Roll call vote: Yes-Adams, Jacobson, Nystuen, Pulvermacher, Reistad and Wehrman. Absent: Verlinde. MC: 6-0. Superintendent Vandal reported to the Board the following:

-Mowbray has been working on piping. With the timing of the discovery of the problem and the logistics of the bidding process and mobilizing of the work force, the work will result in some time with no heat in portions of the high school. All efforts are being taken to minimize the discomfort of students and staff.

-Harlow's is working with route drivers to obtain their CDL so they can be moved out of the District's 14-passenger buses and into Harlow's fleet.

-Technology team has been busy with preparations for the switch to Infinite Campus, which will replace PowerSchool as North Dakota's Student Information System beginning July 1, 2026 as well as implementation of the districtwide safety platform, Raptor Technologies beginning after the new year.

President Reistad declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21 am

Draft 1
**DIVIDE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2026-2027
OFFICIAL CALENDAR**

SUBJECT TO WEATHER & CIRCUMSTANTIAL REVISIONS, which may require vacation days to become days in session.

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

(7 days)

- 14** New Teacher Orientation
17-19 Teacher In-Service (Welcome back)
20 First Day of Classes (1:30 dismissal)

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

(21 days)

- 7** No School - Labor Day
16 Early Out PD (1:30)
22 Elem/MS/HS. P/T Conferences (3:30 - 6:30)
Early Out (1:30 pm) Elem/MS/HS-P/T Conf.
23 (2:00-5:30)

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

(20 days)

- 14 & 28** Early Out (1:30 pm)
21 Quarter One Ends
22 No School - Teachers Convention
23 No School - Teachers Convention
Early Out (1:30 pm)

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

(17 days)

- 11** No School - Veterans Day
18 Early Out (1:30 pm)
25 No School - Thanksgiving Break
26 No School - Thanksgiving
27 No School - Thanksgiving break

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

(16 days)

- 16** Early Dismissal (1:30 pm)
22 Early Dismissal (1:30 pm)
23 Holiday Break Starts
25 Christmas Day

APPROVED: JAN. 2026

		(19 days) January 2027						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	New Year's Day						1	2
4	Classes Resume						8	9
8	Quarter Two Ends	3	4	5	6	7		
18	No School - MLK day	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
13 & 27	Early Out (1:30 pm)	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		24	25	26	27	28	29	31

		(19 days) February 2027						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
15	No School - Presidents Day* Early Out (1:30 pm)		1	2	3	4	5	6
10 & 24	Early Out (1:30 pm)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		28						

*possible weather emergency make-up day

		(17 days) March 2027						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
19	Quarter Three Ends		1	2	3	4	5	6
22-26	No School Spring Break*	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
26	No School - Good Friday	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	Elem/MS/HS-P/T Conf. (3:30-6:30)	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31	Early Out (1:30 pm) Elem/MS/HS-P/T Conf. (2:00-5:30)	28	29	30	31			

*possible weather emergency make-up day

		(21 days) April 2027						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
9	Storm/Make Up					1	2	3
14 & 28	Early Out (1:30 pm)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		25	26	27	28	29	30	

*possible weather emergency make-up day

		(18 days) May 2027						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
12	Early Out (1:30 pm)							1
23	Graduation	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	Last Day of School (1:00 pm dismissal) Maroon Credit (Summer Symposium for Teachers)	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
27-28		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- 1/8** End of 1st Semester **5/23** Graduation
5/26 End of 2nd Semester **5/27** Teachers' Summer symposium
& 28

Signifies early dismissal at 1:30 for professional development per NDCC: 15.1-06-04

(*) denotes If make-up days are required due to use of all five virtual days, all vacation days scheduled after Jan. 1st could potentially be the make-up days

- 175** Instructional Days + 2 parent/teacher conferences in Sept. & Mar.



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SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

January 13th, 2026 School Board Meeting

Overview

December has been a productive month for the Divide County School District, with continued focus on maintaining safe and reliable facilities for students and staff. Work on the HVAC system has remained ongoing throughout the month, with steady progress being made to address long-standing concerns. In particular, the heating system in the gymnasium has been successfully addressed, improving both comfort and functionality during instructional time, activities, and events. These improvements reflect the district's commitment to providing well-maintained learning and activity spaces, especially during the winter months.

In addition to facility upgrades, district leadership has remained actively engaged in monitoring progress, coordinating with contractors, and ensuring minimal disruption to daily operations. December has also provided an opportunity to reflect on the collective efforts of staff and partners who have worked diligently behind the scenes to support these improvements. As the district moves into the winter break, this continued work positions Divide County School District well for a smooth transition into the new year, with a strong emphasis on safety, efficiency, and readiness for students and staff.

Business Office

The Divide County School District office continues to play a vital role in ensuring our schools operate smoothly, efficiently, and with careful preparation for daily and long-term needs. From managing purchasing and ordering to overseeing transportation, payroll, and financial reporting, the district office staff works diligently behind the scenes to maintain accuracy, compliance, and readiness in all operational areas. Their professionalism, dedication, and proactive approach allow our schools to remain well-supported and focused on what matters most—student learning and success.

Buildings & Grounds

Our current projects at the high school continue to move forward steadily, and I am pleased to share several important updates. At the recent Building and Grounds Committee meeting, discussion continued regarding the potential construction of an additional gym. This remains a long-term initiative, and we are currently in the process of collecting and analyzing the necessary data to determine feasibility, projected costs, and possible funding sources to support this effort. While no decisions have been made, this information-gathering phase is an important step in determining how such a project could benefit our students, programs, and community.



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With the arrival of winter, the district has contracted with a locally-owned snow removal company (Brittain Thorne; Tailor Made Solution) to support our snow and ice management needs. Given the current weather conditions, we have been extremely satisfied with the quality, responsiveness, and reliability of their work, which has helped ensure our campuses remain safe and accessible for students, staff, and visitors. Meanwhile, work with Core Facility Solutions continues as they address heating and plumbing concerns throughout the high school. Following preliminary assessments and walk-throughs earlier this fall, implementation began in mid-October and has continued despite some weather-related challenges. While the project encountered a temporary roadblock in late November, work has resumed and progress remains steady. The team is also continuing to investigate and develop a long-term solution to the persistent gym fan noise, with the goal of improving comfort and functionality.

Additionally, the district has experienced some challenges with the high school roof due to the significant snowfall followed by rapid temperature changes. These conditions have caused isolated areas of the roof to leak. We are actively monitoring the situation and documenting affected areas to ensure a comprehensive plan can be developed. A more permanent solution will be addressed in early spring when conditions allow for a thorough assessment and repair. Overall, we remain encouraged by the progress being made across our facilities and are committed to maintaining safe, functional, and well-supported learning environments for our students and staff.

Transportation Department

Transportation operations within Divide County School District continue to benefit from strong coordination and consistency between our district office transportation director and Harlow's Bus Service. Communication has remained clear and effective, particularly as we navigate winter weather conditions. This year, we have experienced several late starts due to unsafe road conditions. Whenever the North Dakota Department of Transportation issues a "No Travel Advisory," district buses will not run their routes, necessitating a late start. Historically, road conditions tend to improve once daylight and sunlight allow for safer travel, making late starts the most appropriate and safety-focused option for our students and staff.

We did encounter some bus-related issues again this month; however, it is important to note that these types of occurrences would likely happen regardless of whether transportation services were contracted or district-operated. The key difference is that, under our partnership with Harlow's, the district does not assume additional costs associated with towing, repairs, or maintenance. Harlow's currently has two buses on standby for immediate use if needed; however, at this time, we do not yet have enough licensed (CDL) personnel available to operate them. Following our first late start, we identified a few minor communication gaps, which have since been addressed with clear protocols and solutions moving forward.

As we progress through the winter months, the challenges that accompanied the initial transition to Harlow's Bus Service have become far less frequent. Overall transportation operations



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continue to run smoothly, and the partnership remains steady and effective. Harlow's continues to actively recruit and train CDL drivers, further strengthening their service capacity. We are also pleased to share that one current district staff members has begun the CDL certification process and scheduled to take their permit in January. This training is provided at no cost to the district, as Harlow's conducts certification through its own qualified trainers. These efforts support the long-term sustainability of our transportation services while helping build a stronger local workforce to meet the needs of our school community.

Here are the meeting dates & times:

- ~~Tuesday, August 12, 2025—8:15 am~~
- ~~Monday, November 10, 2025—8:15 am~~
- **Tuesday, February 10, 2026—8:15 am**
- Tuesday, May 12, 2026—8:15 am

Technology Department

The Divide County School District Technology Team continues to make meaningful progress in strengthening our digital systems, with a renewed and focused emphasis on two major initiatives: the transition to Infinite Campus and the launch of Raptor Technologies. While work on the district's comprehensive Technology Plan remains ongoing, it is not currently the team's top priority, as the majority of time and resources have been appropriately dedicated to Infinite Campus training and implementation. This transition represents a significant shift as North Dakota moves away from PowerSchool, and it requires extensive data preparation, system configuration, and professional development to ensure a smooth experience for staff, students, and families. Multiple training sessions have taken place, and the team remains fully committed to supporting users throughout this transition.

In addition, the Technology Team is actively preparing for the Raptor Technologies launch, which will enhance districtwide safety, visitor management, and emergency communication. This system will support more efficient accountability procedures and improved coordination among staff, students, and families. While progress on the Technology Plan will continue in the background, the current focus on Infinite Campus and Raptor is essential to maintaining operational readiness and compliance. Through these efforts, the Technology Team is laying a strong foundation for secure, efficient, and well-supported systems that align with the district's operational needs and long-term vision.

Our next Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026.

Personnel & Finance

The December Personnel and Finance Committee meeting was postponed due to a "No Travel" advisory issuance that morning. This meeting will occur in January at a date that best



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accommodates committee members. Updated meeting details will be shared once a new date is confirmed.

Looking ahead, the committee will continue its work at the January meeting, where additional job descriptions will be presented for review and approval. The committee will also continue refining evaluation processes and the updated chain of command. These efforts represent an important step in strengthening accountability, transparency, and organizational coherence, ensuring district operations remain aligned with board priorities and that staff have clear expectations and the support necessary to perform their roles effectively.

Here are the dates and times:

- ~~Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025—8:15 am~~
- **Tuesday, December 9, 2025—8:15 am**
- Tuesday, March 10, 2026—8:15 am
- Monday, June 15, 2026—8:15 am

Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development

The Divide County School District continues to advance its commitment to high-quality instruction through intentional curriculum work and meaningful professional learning. The Let Them book study, facilitated by Dr. Vandal, has now concluded and provided staff with valuable opportunities to reflect on mindset, professional growth, and student-centered practices. In addition, the district has completed the Explicit Instruction professional development, which represents one of three focus areas in this instructional series. The remaining components—Active Engagement and Classroom Management—will complete the series and are scheduled to conclude by April 2026, ensuring a cohesive and sustained approach to strengthening instructional practices across the district.

The district is also engaging in important work related to grading practices and policies. Following conversations with the Student Advisory Cabinet, several concerns and thoughtful recommendations were shared regarding current grading procedures. In response, Dr. Vandal has met with Mrs. Haugenoe, who will continue this dialogue with students after winter break. Moving forward, the district will also seek input from teachers and parents to ensure a collaborative and transparent process. Instructional coaches are preparing to support this work through a book study on grading practices as the district begins a comprehensive review of its grading policies to ensure alignment with North Dakota State Standards, consistency across classrooms, and clarity for students and families. Recommendations resulting from this work will be brought to the School Board and Curriculum Committee after the new year. Collectively, these efforts reflect Divide County's commitment to instructional excellence, continuous improvement, and decision-making that prioritizes student learning and success.



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Policy

Mrs. Barb has diligently completed the updates and cross-referencing of the School Board Policy Manual. This comprehensive work ensures that all district policies are current, aligned with North Dakota Century Code, and reflective of best practices in school governance. The revised policies are now ready for board review and approval, providing both the Board and administration with a more accurate, accessible, and reliable tool for informed decision-making.

Here are the dates and times:

- Tuesday, October 14, 2025—8:15 am
- Tuesday, January 13, 2026—8:15 am
- Tuesday, April 14, 2026—8:15 am

Communication

The Teacher Advisory Cabinet (TAC) has changed its meeting times and frequency. This is due in part to the lack of substitute teachers in both buildings. It is suggested to have the meetings in the morning and provide Beyond the School Day as compensation. A schedule of this change will be in the February Superintendent Report.

The monthly superintendent section in *The Journal* will continue to happen throughout the school year.

Administrative meetings will be conducted every week on Wednesdays. This time is designated to collaborate and support each other.

Celebrations

There is much to celebrate in the Divide County School District, and this season has been filled with moments that highlight the talent, dedication, and pride of our school community. One such highlight was the phenomenal music and band concert, led by Mrs. Grace and Ms. Kayla Pulvermacher. The performance showcased the remarkable growth, musicianship, and confidence of our students, filling the space with the powerful sounds of voices and instruments alike. The packed audience and enthusiastic response from families and community members reflected just how meaningful these programs are to our district. We are incredibly grateful for the leadership, passion, and high expectations that Mrs. Grace and Ms. Pulvermacher bring to the music and band departments, as well as the opportunities they create for students to shine.

Of course, no celebration would be complete without acknowledging our incredible teachers and staff, whose dedication forms the foundation of everything we achieve. Whether they are teaching, serving meals, driving buses, maintaining our buildings, offering support services, or guiding students through daily challenges, they consistently show up with professionalism, compassion, and commitment. Their unwavering focus on student success is what makes the



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Divide County School District a place where students feel supported, families feel welcomed, and excellence is possible. We are deeply grateful for their work and proud to celebrate all they do to make our district shine.

School Board Appreciation Month

January is School Board Appreciation Month, and the Divide County School District is proud to recognize and celebrate the dedicated service of our school board members. Their commitment to public education, thoughtful governance, and unwavering focus on student success play a critical role in shaping the direction of our district. Serving on a school board requires countless hours of preparation, difficult decision-making, and a deep sense of responsibility to students, staff, families, and the broader community.

Our board members lead with integrity, collaboration, and a clear vision for the future of Divide County School District. They balance fiscal responsibility with educational priorities, provide strategic oversight, and support policies that strengthen teaching and learning while maintaining safe, welcoming schools. We are grateful for their willingness to listen, ask thoughtful questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue that keeps students at the center of every decision.

On behalf of our students, staff, and community, thank you to our Divide County School Board members for your service, leadership, and dedication. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we deeply appreciate the time, care, and commitment you invest in ensuring our schools continue to thrive.