



MEETING MINUTES

Please contact Superintendent Dr. Scott Blum or Michelle Wearmouth if you would like to speak about items appearing on the agenda @ scott.blum@dcgschools.com, michelle.wearmouth@dcgschools.com

Link to meeting details: <https://tinyurl.com/DCGSimbl>

Attendance

Voting Members

Ryan Carpenter, President
Monica Malmberg, Vice-President
Brandon McNace, Board Director
Nancy Baker Curtis, Board Director
Nick Fiala, Board Director
Shaylee Vander Velden, Board Director
Meg Dickinson, Board Director

Non-Voting Members

Scott Blum, Superintendent
Mr. Greg Carenza, Associate Superintendent
Michelle Wearmouth, Board Secretary

1. Members Present/Acknowledge Quorum

Board President Ryan Carpenter called the regular meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. A roll call was taken by the secretary and a quorum was acknowledged.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Ryan Carpenter led the Pledge of Allegiance for those present.

3. Receive Visitors and Read Miscellaneous Communications

President Carpenter welcomed visitors and asked if there were any visitors who wished to speak to an item on the agenda.

Mr. Jonathan Fransen addressed the Board regarding staffing.

Ms. Shellie Flockhart addressed the Board regarding an appeal for decision of reconsideration of instructional materials.

Ms. Angela Wenell addressed the Board regarding an appeal for decision of reconsideration of instructional materials.

Ms. Brooke Pfaltzgraff addressed the Board regarding staffing.

Ms. Amy Strutt addressed the Board regarding staffing.

4. Approval of Agenda

Approve Agenda as published.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

5. Approved Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025, special meeting on March 3, 2025, budget workshop on March 3, 2025, strategic planning workshop on March 10, 2025, and special meeting on March 10, 2025.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

6. Presentation of Bills for Approval

Approve the bills as presented.

Motion made by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

7. Consent Agenda

Approve the consent agreement as presented.

Director Dickinson questioned the placement of open enrollment students at specific buildings. Director Baker-Curtis questioned the Edmentum contract and the number of students utilizing this service.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

a. Open Enrollment

b. Contract Approvals, Resignations and Changes

c. Interagency Agreements for Special Education

d. Edmentum Contract for 25-26

- e. Varsity Group Marketing Contract
- f. Trademark License Agreements
- g. Oak View Fundraising Activity for 2024-25 School Year
- h. DCG HS Baseball Fundraiser
- i. Accept Casey's Cash for Classrooms Grant

8. Reports

a. Written Reports

b. Building Level Presentations

Principal Patty Morris and the South Prairie kindergarten staff addressed the Board regarding a plan titled Kickstart. It includes mixed classes instead of a single teacher for the first two days of school, followed by a work day on Wednesday to place students into their Kindergarten classroom. Benefits included connections with multiple teachers at the beginning of school. Planned protocols were reviewed as well as plans for open house.

c. Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program Updates

Associate Superintendent Dr. Greg Carenza and the TAG team presented regarding the Talented and Gifted Program and the TAG program reviewed.

d. Presentation by Communications Director

Director of Communication AJ Ellingson presented to the Board regarding public notifications of board meetings and committee meetings.

Board members asked questions about the timing of public notifications and the timing of the release of Board agendas. They also remarked about the power of the ParentSquare tool to connect with families, students, and staff.

e. Associate Superintendent

i. State Reporting

Associate Superintendent Greg Carenza presented information regarding state reporting completed and upcoming.

ii. Professional Development

Associate Superintendent Greg Carenza presented information about recent professional development held in the District.

iii. Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) Updates

Associate Superintendent Greg Carenza discussed Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) testing currently occurring within the District.

iv. Conditions for Learning Survey

Associate Superintendent Greg Carenza discussed the 2025 Conditions for Learning (CfL) Survey that will be administered to students in grades 3-12 between April 1-30, 2025.

f. Superintendent

i. Building Permits within the District

c noting seven new building permits for single family homes in Grimes and zero building permits in Dallas Center.

ii. Enrollment

Dr. Blum reported that since the October 1, 2024 certified enrollment count, there is a decrease of 21.80 students in the actual enrollment of resident students but an increase of 16.80 non-resident students attending our district.

iii. Staffing Update

Dr. Blum provided an update on staffing for the 2025-26 school year. At this time, we have four retirees and nine resignations for certified staff. Dr. Blum discussed the timing of staffing and a listing of replacements and hiring of both replacement and new positions. He reviewed enrollment at Dallas Center Elementary as well as discussions about possible changes that were held with the principals at Heritage Elementary and Dallas Center Elementary and the possible scheduling of a shared counselor.

Dr. Blum then reviewed specific information with regard to the 2025-26 budget revenue. He discussed social media information shared that was inaccurate and reviewed administration position additions in the last few years. He reviewed the funding streams of newly constructed facilities and their use of SAVE funds, as well as the general fund, which supports the salaries and benefits of staff. Dr. Blum encourages families and staff to reach out to him with their questions.

Director Baker-Curtis asked the funding stream for the CTE position. Director Malmberg asked whether preschool students were included in the counselor ratio information shared. Director McNace complimented Dr. Blum on his willingness to communicate with parents whenever they reach out. Director Dickinson asked about possible additional information sharing to avoid communication issues. She also asked whether Principal Cale would determine whether the additional section will be Kindergarten or First grade, and Dr. Blum stated that he wished to have her expertise in this decision. Director Dickinson feels there are moves to be made to foster district wide reporting such as reporting on building permits. She asks for neighborhood school boundaries to be uploaded to the website.

iv. Reunification Training Information

Dr. Scott Blum presented information regarding upcoming reunification training to be held in the District.

v. End of School Year Plans

Dr. Blum discussed the plans to conclude the school year for both students and staff. As of today, the last day for students will still be May 30th and the last day for staff will be June 4th.

g. Business Manager

i. Revenue and Expenditure Summary Report

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth reviewed the revenue and expenditure summary report for the month of March 2025.

ii. Public Budget Comparison

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth reviewed the public budget comparison report for the month of March 2025.

h. Board Members

9. Old Business

a. Second Reading of Listed Policies

Approve the 2nd Reading of listed Policies:

NEW Policies

403.06-E(3) Drug and Alcohol Testing Program - Written Consent to Share Information

503.03-R(1) Fines-Fees-Charges-Student Fee Waiver and Reduction Procedures

706.03-R(1) Reduction in Employee Pay - Regulation

Administrative Updates (policies with suggested changes)

603.04-R(1) Multicultural/Gender Fair Education

605.06-R(1) Internet and Digital Devices - Appropriate Use by Students

Annual/Mandatory Review (no changes recommended)

506.02 Student Directory Information

506.04 Student Library Circulation Records

Rescind

603.14 Weeding of Instructional and Library Materials

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

10. New Business

a. Consider Publication of Certified Budget 25-26 Public Hearing Notice in the Dallas County News and to Set the Public Hearing Date as April 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Approve publishing the proposed certified budget 25-26 public hearing notice in the Dallas County News and to set the public hearing date as April 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

b. Teacher Election List for the 2025-26 Contracts

Approve the Teacher Election List for the 2025-26 contracts.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

c. Students Graduating Early

Approve the lists of junior and senior students who are on track to complete all DCG Graduation requirements early.

Senior students on track to complete DCG Graduation requirements by term.

- Ayden Beck - Term 3
- Aidon Fuller - Term 3
- Terrance Hart - Term 3
- Nicholas Hawbaker - Term 3
- Delainey Schwartz - Term 3
- Rose Walsh - Term 3
- Jordyn Green - Term 3

Junior students are on track to complete DCG Graduation requirements.

- Edin Suljic
- Gretchen Ratterree
- Tayvon Garner

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

d. Consider Appeal of Objection to Instructional Materials Decision

Move to set a meeting to consider the appeal of the decisions of the Reconsideration Committee issued following the 2/19/2025 and 3/11/2025 meetings.

Director Vander Velden asked what the appeal meeting would entail. Director Dickinson asked for further clarification of the proposed meeting regarding the appeal, and President Carpenter and Dr. Blum shared their perceptions of the review of the process.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Brandon McNace

Voting:

Ryan Carpenter - Yes

Monica Malmberg - Yes

Brandon McNace - Yes

Nancy Baker Curtis - No

Nick Fiala - Yes

Shaylee Vander Velden - Yes

Meg Dickinson - No

e. Terminate Open Enrollment Agreement

Approve the termination of the open enrollment agreement for R.G. and prohibit the student from re-enrolling in the receiving district, DCG.

Motion made by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

f. Amendment to T-Mobile Contract for Six Hotspots

Approve contract with T-mobile for six hotspots.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

g. Scope of Services Agreement with Garland Company Inc.

Approve the Scope of Services Agreement with the Garland Company for the re-roof project at Dallas Center Elementary with an estimated cost of \$1,300,000 to \$1,450,000.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

h. Financial Statements

Approve the financial statements as presented for February 2025.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

i. Board Commendations

Approve Board Commendations.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

j. Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i)

Motion to enter into closed session under Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) of the open meetings law to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session during March 31, 2025 school board regular meeting during the hours so designated by the Board. Time: 8:11 p.m.

The Board arose from closed session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Ryan Carpenter - Yes

Monica Malmberg - Yes

Brandon McNace - Yes

Nancy Baker Curtis - Yes

Nick Fiala - Yes

Shaylee Vander Velden - Yes

Meg Dickinson - Yes

k. Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(1)(a)

Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(1)(a) of the open meetings law to review or discuss settlement agreement terms contained in a confidential personnel document. Time: 8:27 p.m. The Board arose from closed session at 9:31 p.m.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Ryan Carpenter - Yes

Monica Malmberg - Yes

Brandon McNace - Yes

Nancy Baker Curtis - Yes

Nick Fiala - Yes
Shaylee Vander Velden - Yes
Meg Dickinson - Yes

I. Separation Agreement

President Carpenter asked if there was a motion to consider a resignation and separation agreement for an employee. There was no motion made.

11. Written and Oral Communications

a. Next Regular Board Meeting,

Regular Board Meeting is April 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Motion to adjourn. Time: 9:35 p.m.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Brandon McNace

Voting:

Unanimously Approved