



MEETING MINUTES

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

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 5:30 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. No one requested to speak.

4. Approval of Agenda

Approve Agenda as published and add one additional bill to the bills listing.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Brandon McNace

Voting:

Unanimously Approved



5. Approved Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 21, 2025 and special meeting on August 12, 2025.

Motion made by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

6. Presentation of Bills for Approval

Approve the bills adding one bill payable to Woodman Controls to the listing of bills.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

7. Discussion on Receipt of Public Petition

Business Manager Michelle Wearmouth shared information on the receipt of a petition to the Board with 711 signatures with the purpose of calling a special election.

8. Consent Agenda

Approve the consent agreement as presented.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

a. Open Enrollment

b. Contract Approvals, Resignations and Changes

c. Student Teaching and Practicum Agreements

d. Classroom Clinic Agreement for 25-26 School Year

e. Schirmer Consulting LLC Agreement

f. Trademark License Agreements

g. Secondary Instrument Fee

h. 25-26 Hudl Agreement Renewal for Athletic Software

i. Title 1 Coordinator (2025-2026 School Year)

j. Accept into Record Arbitrage Rebate Report

k. Willis Automotive Sponsorship Contract

l. Student Handbook Addition

m. Annual Approval of Continued District Plans

9. Reports

a. Written Reports

b. Director of Communications

A.J. Ellingson, DCG Schools Director of Communications, presented to the school board regarding district communications, including social media, newsletter, podcast, video board, and ParentSquare communications.

c. Associate Superintendent

i. Back-To-School Meetings/Trainings

1. New Teacher Orientation

Dr. Carenza discussed that on August 12th, the administrative team welcomed 27 new teachers to the district and held trainings.

2. All Staff Back-To-School Pre-Service Days

Dr. Carenza reviewed training held prior to the start of the school year for all staff members.

ii. Professional Development Update

Dr. Carenza reviewed upcoming professional development to be held.

iii. Edmentum EdOptions Academy Online Learning

Dr. Carenza reviewed the Edmentum EdOptions Academy Online Learning for DCG students.

iv. Anti-Bullying and Harassment Trainings

Dr. Carenza reviewed the work that the School Improvement office has been busy doing to prepare new Bullying and Harassment training for a variety of stakeholders in our district.

v. State Reporting Updates

Dr. Carenza reviewed state reporting for the Fall 2025.

1. State Reports for HS this Week

2. CASA/CSIP Reporting

d. Superintendent

i. Building Permits within the District

Dr. Scott Blum reviewed building permits filed within the District for the month of July 2025.

ii. Enrollment

Dr. Scott Blum reviewed enrollment as of August 2025. From the October 1, 2024 certified count, there is a decrease of 30 students in the actual enrollment of resident students which is an increase of 13 students since last month. This figure will continue to be finalized as we approach the enrollment count date.

iii. Facilities/Construction Update

Dr. Blum gave an update on district-wide facilities and master planning. Dr. Blum commended all the staff of the operations department for the work completed over the summer. Dr. Blum discussed facility plans as petitioned by the public for an upcoming election and thanked Kim Praska, Julie Quant, and Matt Austin for their service on the facility committee.

iv. IASB Convention and Delegate Assembly

Dr. Blum discussed the upcoming IASB Convention and Delegate Assembly.

v. Future Meeting Presentations

e. Business Manager

i. Fiscal Audit

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth discussed the upcoming fiscal audit scheduled on September 10 & 11, 2025 with initial test audit work August 28 & 29, 2025 which coincides with all fiscal reports to the Dept of Education (state and federal).

f. Board Members

10. Old Business

a. Second Reading of Listed Policies

Approve the second reading of listed policies:

New Policies

501.12 Pregnant Students

505.04-R(1) Testing Program - Test Security Regulation

Administrative Updates (policies with suggested changes)

102 Equal Educational Opportunity

106-R(1) Discrimination and Harassment Based on Sex - DCG Procedures Manual

106-R(2) Discrimination and Harassment Based on Sex - DCG Title IX Form Bank

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

b. Call for 2025 Legislative Action Priorities

Select and approve the top four 2025 legislative action priorities to be submitted to Iowa Association of School Boards, which include:

1. TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND LICENSURE
2. TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
3. SUPPLEMENTAL STATE AID
4. SCHOOL FUNDING POLICY

Director Vandervelden remarked her disappointment that only three board members completed this item.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

11. New Business

a. 2025-2026 Teacher Quality (TQ) Committee Members

Approve the 2025-2026 Teacher Quality (TQ) Committee members as presented.

Motion made by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

b. Activity Trips that Cross State Line

Approve the request to leave the state and cross state lines for the following activities to participate in out-of-state competitions during the 25-26 school year:

- Girls Cross Country – Roy Griak Invitational, Minnesota (September 2025)
- Girls Soccer – Competition vs. Skutt Catholic, Nebraska (Spring 2026)
- Show Choir – Winter competition at Bellevue East, Nebraska (helps accommodate overlap with Speech)

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Brandon McNace

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

c. FFA Trip that Crosses State Line

Approve the DCG FFA to cross state lines to attend the National Leadership Convention in

Indianapolis, IN on the following dates:

Dates: October 28th through October 31st

Location: Indianapolis, Indiana

General Activities Planned: General leadership sessions, leadership workshops, agriculture tours, networking events, and invaluable experiences.

Motion made by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

d. Resolution Ordering an Election on the Issuance of \$88,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds

Approve Resolution Ordering an Election of the Issuance of \$88,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Director Dickinson asked a question about election costs as this is paired with the regular election.

President Carpenter asked how community members may ask questions about this bond in advance of the election. Dr. Blum indicated that he will be speaking to several community groups to share facts, and the District will have communications as well. Director Carpenter asked about property tax rate for Debt Service levy and overall property tax levy if the election should pass in November 2025, and Mrs. Wearmouth indicated that the Debt Service Levy is and will remain at the maximum levy rate of \$4.05/\$1000. Dr. Blum also discussed the question of auditorium upgrades and future plans for a possible auditorium. Director Baker Curtis discussed playground plans and any opportunities for feedback on playground improvements. Dr. Blum indicated that he has already met with PTO representatives about playground improvements and will continue to visit with stakeholders and parents about inclusive playground ideas and plans. Director Baker Curtis asked what is the best way for a parent to be included in planning, and Dr. Blum encourages patrons to reach out to him on this. Director of Communications AJ Ellingson discussed different venues for communication that will be available regarding bond issue information.

e. Financial Statements

Approve the financial statements as presented for July 2025.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden



Regular Meeting
08/25/2025 - 05:30 PM
Administration Center-Board Room
Grimes, Iowa 50111

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

f. Board Commendations

Approve Board Commendations.

Motion made by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

12. Written and Oral Communications

a. Next Regular Board Meeting

Next regular board meeting is Monday, September 22, 2025.

13. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Adjourn. Time: 6:25 p.m.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved