

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

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

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 Carezza, 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.

Tara McCaffery
Leslie Irlbeck
Tanya Foster
Brad Davison
Amy Strutt
Megan Bennett

4. Approval of Agenda

Approve Agenda with changes to first reading of policies and two additional bills.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson
Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

5. Check Presentation - Polk County/Prairie Meadows

Polk County Supervisor Jill Altringer along with a Prairie Meadows representative will present a check to the school on behalf of Polk County Prairie Meadows.

6. Approved Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on Monday, January 27, 2025.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace
Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

7. Presentation of Bills for Approval

Approve the bills as presented.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson
Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

8. Consent Agenda

Approve the consent agreement as presented.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson
Motion seconded by: Brandon McNace
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

a. Open enrollment

b. Contract Approvals, Resignations and Changes

c. Interagency Agreements for Special Education

d. Student Teaching and Practicum Agreements

e. Musco Sports Lighting/Iowa Sports Turf Management Service Contract for Oak View

f. Bookshare Agreement

g. Fundraising Activities for 2024-2025

h. Updated Job Description

9. Reports

a. Written Reports

b. Building Level Reports

Elementary principals, Debra Cale, April Heitland, Patty Morris and Diann Williamson discussed school and family partnerships utilizing "Countdown to Kindergarten".

Curriculum Facilitator Adam Tjeerdsma to present an application for a Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant for technology.

c. Associate Superintendent

i. Professional Development

Associate Superintendent Greg Carenza presented information to the Board regarding recent and planned professional development activities.

ii. 2025-2026 Professional Development Planning

Associate Superintendent Greg Carenza presented information to the Board regarding professional development plans for the 2025-26 school year.

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

Planning for the Spring, 2025 administration of the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) test is well underway in the district with Dr. Carenza noting that the spring window for ISASP is March 31 through April 25, 2025.

iv. School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) Update

Dr. Carenza reviewed the second School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) Meeting of the school year was held on Monday, February 3, 2025 at Dallas Center-Grimes High School.

v. MTSS-B Goal Work Update

Dr. Carenza said that one of our key school improvement goals for the district is the study of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in the area of behavior. Dr. Carenza reviewed a report "*DCG MTSS-Behavior Summary and Recommendations*" provided by Ms. Donovan of Emily Donovan Consulting. The information in this report represents an overview of our current state with regard to MTSS-B implementation in our district and also provides us with recommendations for steps that will help us to improve our work in this area.

d. Superintendent

i. Building Permits within the District

Superintendent Dr. Scott Blum reviewed building permits filed within the district, noting six new building permits for single family homes in Grimes and zero building permits in Dallas Center.

ii. Staffing

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.

iii. Enrollment

Dr. Blum reported that since the October 1, 2024 certified enrollment count, there is a decrease of 19.80 students in the actual enrollment of resident students but a decrease of 5.60 non-resident students attending our district.

iv. Registration Process

Dr. Blum stated that the 25-26 school registration opened on February 1st and will continue throughout the summer. He reviewed the estimated enrollment numbers as of Feb 20th for each grade, noting a decline in elementary students district-wide of 104 students, while middle school and high school have an increase in students, and a decline of 13 students at Oak View. A five-year history spreadsheet of the number of students transferred to another building due to capacity was reviewed. Director Dickinson stated she appreciated this information.

v. Strategic Planning Updates

Dr. Blum gave an update on the Strategic Planning process currently underway with Teamworks.

vi. Facilities

Dr. Blum provided an update on facility updates and construction throughout the District.

vii. Review of Parent Forum Held February 4, 2025

Dr. Blum reviewed the parent forum meeting held February 4, 2025 at Dallas Center Elementary, thanking so many families for engaging and showing up. He thanked several DCG staff members for their work getting the data for the questions asked and presented. Dr. Blum stated that he wants accurate information shared and is working to visit with as many families as possible.

Director Malmberg asked what the retention rate at Dallas Center Elementary and Dr. Blum reported that we had one retiree, and three other teachers left for other opportunities. He noted that 92% of teaching staff were retained district-wide last year and is currently at 96% for this year as of February. Director Vander Velden reported that it was difficult to see and hear in the lunchroom setting. Director Dickinson felt positive about the turnout of both parents and community members, and the feedback received fell into two categories, which ranged from gratitude for questions answered and some feedback that wanted to know what steps were next.

Director Vander Velden asked when we would discuss what the next steps might be and Dr. Blum addressed various information included in the email from a community member. Director Baker Curtis asked for clarification on SSA, and Dr. Blum discussed the proposed SSA and budget guarantee. Dr. Blum discussed the difficulty to plan long term with one-time funds allocated by the Legislature. Dr. Blum encouraged parents to visit with their Legislators to support schools in Iowa.

Director Carpenter addressed the inaccurate topic of the possible closure of Dallas Center Elementary, and he stated that Dallas Center has 60 residential homes platted, and Grimes has

up to 5000 additional planned. He stated that he feels it does not make sense for our district to close that building. Director Dickinson played the devil's advocate discussing financial issues and that reasonable assumption that it becomes too expensive to continue to keep that building open. Director Carpenter stated that he disagrees with Director Dickinson's thoughts on that model, and it would be very short sighted for the district to divest itself of a building only to need another in the near future.

e. 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 February 2025.

ii. Public Budget Comparison

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

iii. Revised FY26 Proposed Certified Budget Timeline

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth reviewed an updated FY26 Proposed Certified Budget Timeline.

iv. Budget Guarantee Impacting the FY26 Budget

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth reviewed the impact of budget guarantee on the FY26 certified budget, and the calculation of the amount of budget guarantee at various SSA levels.

v. March 4, 2025 Election considering renewal of Voted PPEL and Revenue Purpose Statement for SAVE (Secure Advanced Vision for Education)

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth stated that the Voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy expires June 30, 2026 and the Revenue Purpose Statement for SAVE local option sales tax dollars is in need of renewal and both require a vote of the public. The Board took action to set an election to be held on March 4, 2025 to consider renewal. Ballot language for each question was reviewed. Uses of each fund within our District in the past years was reviewed.

f. Board Members

10. Old Business

a. Second Reading of Listed Policies

Approve second reading of listed policies.

Administrative Updates (policies with suggested changes)

701.04-R(1) Free or Reduced - Costs Meals Eligibility

702.10 School Bus Safety Instruction

710.01 Nutrition Program Sales and Account Balances

IASB Primer Updates

102 Equal Educational Opportunity

401.01 Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmation Action

401.06 Limitations to Employment References

501.09 Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy

710.01-R(1) Nutrition Program Sales and Account Balances - School Nutrition Program Civil Rights Complaint Procedure

710.01-E(1) Nutrition Program Sales and Account Balances - School Nutrition Program Notices of Nondiscrimination

710.01-E(2) Nutrition Program Sales and Account Balances - Child Nutrition Programs Civil Rights Complaint From

Annual/Mandatory Review (no changes recommended)

501.09-R(1) Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy

701.04 Free or Reduced-Costs Meals Eligibility

702.01 Local and State Transportation Regulations

702.05 Transportation of Non-School Groups

702.06 Transportation Insurance Program

702.09 Special Convenience Bus Stops

702.11 Inclement Weather

Rescind

701 School Food Program

702.10-R(1) School Bus Safety Instruction

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

11. New Business**a. 1st Reading of Listed Policies**

Approve first 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

607.02-R(1) Student Health Services - Regulation

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

Discussion followed to table 607.03 -R(1) Student Health Services - Regulation.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Not Approved

b. Table 1st Reading of Listed Policies

Move to approve the amendment of the 1st Reading of Listed Policies and Table the discussion of 607.02-R(1) Student Health Services - Regulation

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Brandon McNace

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

c. Students Graduating Early

Approve the list of students working to graduate at the end of Term 3. These students are all on track to complete DCG Graduation Requirements at the end of the noted term.

Kaden Miller - Term 3 Grad

Peyton Rohde - Term 3 Grad

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

d. Consider Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant Application for Sphero technology

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVING THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANTS FROM PRAIRIE MEADOWS

WHEREAS, Prairie Meadows has Community Betterment grant funds available that target Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Education and Health and Human Services, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is supportive of these applications for the betterment of their district, and

WHEREAS, all applications from the School District will be submitted to Prairie Meadows by the February 28, 2025 deadline,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Dallas Center-Grimes Board of Education that the following Community Betterment Grant Applications are to be submitted to Prairie Meadows for

the February 28, 2025 deadline:

1	Expanding STEM Exploration: Bringing Indy Spheros to K-6 Learning	21,129.06	Adding STEM exploration at K-6 level
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Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

e. Consider Contract for Middle School Principal

Approve the contract of Jason Snow, Middle School Principal, in the amount of \$123,000.00 with standard administrative benefit package for the 25-26 school year.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

f. Accept Bids for FY25 E-Rate Projects

Approve and accept E-Rate bids for fiscal year 2025 into record.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

g. Award Low E-Rate Bids for FY25 E-Rate Project

Award the following E-Rate bids for fiscal year 2025 and authorize the district to apply for all available discounts under the federal E-Rate program.

- Communication Innovators: \$124,636 for Wireless Access Points & Licensing
- Sterling Computers: \$69,272.90 for Firewalls and Licensing
- Howard Technology Solutions: \$46,664 for Lithium Universal Power Supplies (UPS)

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

h. Accept Bids for North Ridge LED Lighting Project

Accept all bids into record for the North Ridge LED Lighting project.

NORTH RIDGE LED LIGHTING RETROFIT 2025	
Bidder	BID PRICE
Vision Electrical and Plumbing	31,088.00

MB Electrical LLC	38,248.00
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Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

i. Approve Bid for North Ridge LED Lighting Project Vision Electrical \$31,088.00

Approve bid for North Ridge LED Lighting project with Vision Electrical \$31,088.00

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

j. Set the Public Hearing Date for the FY26 Certified Budget Public Hearing "A" as March 31, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Approve publishing certified budget 25-26 public hearing notice in the Dallas County News and to set the public hearing date as March 31, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

k. Accept Bids for North Ridge Heat Pump Replacement (Equipment only) into record

Accept Bids for North Ridge Heat Pump Replacement (Equipment only) into record.

North Ridge Heat Pump Replacement Project Summer 2025

This bid is to secure equipment only for summer installation of HVAC replacement at North Ridge.

Vendor	Bid
Baker Group	280,978.00
AJ Allen	273,124.00
VHF Sales	261,536.00

Motion made by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

l. Approve Bid for North Ridge Heat Pump Replacement (Equipment only) awarding low bid to VHS Sales \$261,536.00

Approve bid to VHF Sales for North Ridge Heat Pump replacement (equipment only) for \$261,536.00.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

m. Budget Guarantee Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES community school district, will levy property taxes for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

n. Consider Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee identifying programs and resources that will both attract and retain teachers and students to Dallas Center Elementary

Approve a resolution creating an Ad Hoc Committee identifying programs and resources that will both attract and retain teachers and students to Dallas Center Elementary

Director Dickinson stated that constituents requested that the constituents work together and present to the District a plan to resolve problems through the formation of a committee. This committee would address resource allocation review. She states that there is a lot of research and a lot of examples in other districts to find solutions that work for everyone. She feels that it is important to fulfill our community interaction goal in the strategic plan. She suggests that Debra Cale serve as the chair, but welcomes other suggestions. She wants the purpose of the committee to serve the entire district through proposing getting team members to work together to solve district problems and, by doing so, serving Dallas Center Elementary.

Director McNace asked about board policy 208, and if there is anything preventing the community gathering without formally forming an ad hoc committee. Director Dickinson feels it is important for optics. Director McNace notes that IASB guidelines indicate that representation should be the entire district. When you look at population history, 1986 to 1990 is the last period that the communities were equal in population. He suggests that we be careful to include representation of the district as a whole, reflecting the population percentage. He would be interested in the makeup of the committee to reflect equality including both sides represented. He wishes to have everyone at the table to represent the entire district and make a district-wide goal and impact.

Director Dickinson would also like district-wide representation and diversity in all committees. Director Malmberg expressed that enrollment is down at all elementary buildings. She feels that this is a housing issue and no building permits have occurred in Dallas Center, and she doesn't feel this is a district issue. Director Dickinson suggests possibility to change the resolution to Dallas Center - Grimes instead of Dallas Center Elementary. Director VanderVelden feels that creation of the committee does not bind the board to anything, but it allows ideas to come to the board. Director Carpenter feels the scope presented is too narrow, feels that this is a district issue and lots of other ideas can be presented. Director Dickinson stated that pilot programs are occurring in other buildings. Director Carpenter discussed the NEA framework it is to be built upon, and does not feel that it fits. Director Carpenter feels that the resolution needs to be broadened. Director Carpenter feels that there should be collaboration from the Board to create the resolution, and it should be in the context of the entire board. Director Carpenter notes that we'll need adequate time to give notice to the public.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Ryan Carpenter - No

Monica Malmberg - No

Brandon McNace - No

Nancy Baker Curtis - Yes

Nick Fiala - No

Shaylee Vander Velden - Yes

Meg Dickinson - Yes

o. Consider Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee identifying programs and resources that will both attract and retain teachers and students to Dallas Center-Grimes CSD

Approve a resolution creating an Ad Hoc Committee identifying programs and resources that will both attract and retain teachers and students to Dallas Center Grimes CSD.

Discussion was had and determined to move this item to the board work session on Monday, March 3rd to reconvene to develop the content of a resolution for review for the creation of the ad hoc committee.

Motion made by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Not Approved

p. Financial Statements

Approve the financial statements as presented for January 2025.

Motion made by: Monica Malmberg

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

q. Board Commendations

Approve Board Commendations.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

12. Written and Oral Communications

a. Next Regular Board Meeting

Next regular board meeting is Monday, March 31, 2025.

13. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Adjourn. Time: 8:27 p.m.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Monica Malmberg

Voting:

Unanimously Approved