

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 at scott.blum@dcgschools.com or michelle.wearmouth@dcgschools.com

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

Attendance

Voting Members

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

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.

Jen Best and Denise Perez addressed the board regarding the reconsideration committee.

4. Approval of Agenda

Approve the Agenda with the amendment to include addition of spring play contract under consent agenda and the reason for the emergency add is to allow board approval of licensure of materials prior to student use.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

5. Approved Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024, the special meeting on January 6, 2025, and the work session meeting on January 13, 2025.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

6. Presentation of Bills for Approval

Approve the bills as presented.

Motion made by: Nick Fiala

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

7. Consent Agenda

Approve the consent agenda amended including addition of spring play contract under consent agenda and the reason for the emergency add is to allow board approval of licensure of materials prior to student use. .

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

a. Contract Approvals, Resignations and Changes

b. Open Enrollment

c. 2024-25 Winter/Spring Fundraising Activities

d. Inter-Agency Agreements for Special Education

e. Enrollment Agreement with Winterset CSD

f. Student Teaching and Practicum Agreements

g. Edmentum Contract

h. Contract for Mural at North Ridge Elementary School

i. DCG Vendor Contract

j. Musical Theatre, Inc Contract for Oak View spring play

8. Public Hearing Regarding School Calendar

President Carpenter stated, "This is the time and place for the public hearing and for meeting on a days vs hours with a start date of August 25, 2025 for the school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. Are there any questions, comments, or objections from those present?" No one responded. He then asked, "Michelle Wearmouth, Board Secretary, have you had any objections filed in the Secretary's office?" Mrs. Wearmouth indicated that no objections have been filed. President Carpenter declared the hearing on the matter on a days vs hours with a start date of August 25, 2025 for the school calendar for the 2025-26 school year to be closed.

9. Reports

a. Written Reports

b. Building Level Reports

Principal Dr. Pam Dodge and members of the DCG Middle School building leadership team presented to the Board regarding goals for the middle school. One area of focus was the Multiple Tiered Support System process and professional development to focus on this area including student behavior. Discussion was held regarding the middle school's PLC model and the academic improvement work that those groups undertake.

c. Associate Superintendent

i. Professional Development

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

ii. ESSA Update

Associate Superintendent Dr. Greg Carenza noted that Oak View and Dallas Center-Grimes High School have been identified as a Targeted School under ESSA and the Iowa School Performance Profile. The building leadership teams have been working to complete a review of their building data for both the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years and to identify strengths and areas for improvement within their work. The following timeline represents the teams working to develop and begin addressing key performance goals and outcomes.

iii. TAG Program Review and Parent Meeting

Dr. Carenza reviewed our School Improvement Team meeting held on Thursday, January 16th in which our School Improvement Team hosted approximately 30 parents of TAG students as part of our Gifted Self-Audit and Planner (GSAP) and Program Review. The purpose of the evening was to collect important parent perspectives and feedback regarding key aspects of our TAG Program.

iv. 8th Grade Parent Night at DC-G HS

Dr. Carenza reviewed a meeting where Oak View and High School staff hosted an 8th Grade Parent Night on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at DC-G High School for the purpose of helping to welcome students and families to the high school and to review key information about the high school and scheduling practices as part of our focus on successful transitions for students between districts and our District Career and Academic Plan (DCAP).

v. District Goals Mid-Year Update and Review

Dr. Carenza reviewed progress on district goals in a mid-year update and review.

vi. State Reporting Update

Dr. Carenza reported on state and federal reports completed.

1. Applications within State Reporting

2. Applications within Federal Reporting

d. Superintendent

i. Building Permits within the District

Superintendent Dr. Scott Blum reviewed building permits filed within the district, noting nine new building permits for single family homes.

ii. Enrollment

Superintendent Blum reviewed enrollment changes since the certified enrollment count. From the October 1, 2024 certified count, there is a decrease of 19.80 students in the actual enrollment of resident students and a decrease of 5.60 non-resident students attending our district.

iii. Facilities

Superintendent Blum reviewed progress on construction projects in the district, and progress on the OPN facility assessment.

iv. Strategic Plan Updates

Dr. Blum reviewed progress of the Strategic Planning Committee's work with Teamworks, and updates on next steps in the planning process.

v. Day on the Hill

Dr. Blum reviewed the Iowa Association of School Boards annual Day on the Hill which will be held on Tuesday, January 28th. Advocacy for public education will be from 11:00-1:00 at the state capitol.

vi. State of the District Meetings

Dr. Blum presented information about the "State of the District Meetings" held across the district recently.

vii. Review Master Calendar 2025-26

Dr. Blum reviewed the proposed Master Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year in detail. He discussed that if the Legislature allows districts to begin prior to August 25, 2025, DCG would likely still begin school on August 25.

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 January 2025.

ii. Public Budget Comparison

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

iii. Fiscal Audit Report 2023-2024

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth reviewed the fiscal audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

iv. Taxable Valuation January 1, 2025

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth reviewed the taxable valuation information as reported by county auditors for the budget year 2025-2026.

v. FY26 Certified Budget Proposed Timeline

Director of Business Services Michelle Wearmouth reviewed the proposed FY26 Certified budget timeline.

f. Board Members

10. Old Business

11. New Business

a. Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2019, Dated February 26, 2019, Approving a Third Amendment to Escrow Agent Agreement, and Levying a Tax for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Redemption of General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2019, Dated February 26, 2019

Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2019, Dated February 26, 2019, Approving a Third Amendment to Escrow Agent Agreement, and Levying a Tax for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Redemption of General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2019, Dated February 26, 2019.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

b. Third Amendment to Escrow Agent Agreement

Approve the Third amendment to Escrow Agent Agreement for the DCG Surplus Levy for FY26.

Motion made by: Nick Fiala

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

c. Optional Kindergarten Name Change

Approve the name change from Optional Kindergarten to Transitional Kindergarten.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

d. Students Graduating Early

Approve the following students working to graduate early, by term. These students are on track to complete DCG Graduation Requirements.

Shyanne Eiteman: 2nd Term

Dehanna Tweh: 2nd Term

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

e. 2025-26 District Calendar

Approve 2025-26 District Calendar as presented.

Director Vander Velden discussed child care difficulties that families may experience with split secondary/elementary calendar days. Director Baker Curtis reiterated the points made by Director Vander Velden. Director Dickinson asked if there is any consideration to table this item until a future month, and Dr. Blum indicated that we could pivot later if necessary. President Carpenter regarding the timeline for any Legislative action on start day prior to

August 23 each year, and if Dr. Blum had any indication to this action. Dr. Blum stated that the legislator he discussed the topic with stated that, if enacted, the action would likely be a single year action. Director Carpenter asked if the calendar had ever been amended in the past, and it was confirmed that there was a year in which the calendar was amended.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

f. First Reading of Policies

Approve first reading on policies identified.

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: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

g. Consider Contract for Director of Student Services

Approve the contract for Director of Student Services to Alyson Finley in the amount of \$125,000 with standard administrative benefit package for the 25-26 school year.

President Carpenter, on behalf of the Board, expressed gratitude to Interim Director of Student Services Roxanne Cummings for the contribution she has made to the district. Director Dickinson asked for information about pay and form of contract. Dr. Blum provided that information.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

h. VRF System Agreement with Baker Group

Approve the agreement with Baker Group to perform an engineering study on the HVAC systems serving the DCG Administration Building for \$4,200.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

i. Baker Group Preventive Maintenance Agreement

Approve the agreement with Baker Group for Preventive Maintenance for 7 schools in the DCG School District including DC Elementary, South Prairie Elementary, DCG Middle School, Oak View, DCG High School, DCG Auditorium, DCG Admin Office. This agreement is from February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2028 for an annual cost of \$58,538.00 to be paid in installments of \$4,878.15 monthly.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

j. Reconsideration Committee

Approve the listed proposed membership of the Reconsideration Committee based on Regulation 605.03 - R(1).

Administrator: Shana Olson

Staff Member: Lindsay Kasperbauer

Staff Member: Austin Rix
Staff Member: Lacey Sedrel
Community Member: Nicole Baier
Community Member: Jeremy Hamp
Community Member: Gina Mandernach

In advance of the vote, Dr. Blum reviewed questions and concerns shared with him, and the District's policy and practices with regard. He noted that DCG as a district will follow state law and board policy with regard to objections to materials, and any parent has the right to follow this process and ask for a reconsideration of materials. He noted that the proposed action tonight is to set the membership of the reconsideration committee. Dr. Blum discussed the posting of the December scheduled meeting of the reconsideration committee and posting the agenda 24 hours in advance, which is the same as a school board meeting. He noted that any audience for the reconsideration committee has no opportunity to provide input, and are simply observers to the process and then deliberations are done in private. Dr. Blum noted that the meeting was scheduled at 4:00 p.m., and was set for the availability of the committee members. Dr. Blum reviewed the December 2024 meeting which was canceled, and the reasons for the cancelation which will allow the district to take the best steps to ensure that the policy is followed completely.

A synopsis of the discussion follows. Director Baker Curtis asked about the 24-hour notice, noting that she had requested to receive board information further than 24 hours in advance. She respects the fact that our staff are also busy people and want to do the best job possible. Another question she asked at what level most challenges occur, and Dr. Blum noted that in our district it has been at the secondary level in his tenure as superintendent. Director Baker Curtis asked for the role of the teacher librarian on the committee, and Dr. Blum stated that the teacher librarian offers their expertise but is one of six voices on the committee. Director Dickinson asked if committee members do their own research or do they go through Shana Olson for that part of the process; and Dr. Blum stated that committee members would go through Shana Olson for research. Director Dickinson asked how committee members were selected and Dr. Blum indicated that he met with Shana Olson to determine staff members who would do a great job, and parents who would be willing, and he reviewed and determined the selection of the committee members to include those who did not display any initial bias to keep the process as fair as possible. Director Dickinson asked why the initial committee was disbanded, and Dr. Blum indicated that internal practices were not followed. Director Vander Velden asked why the titles of the books were not shared in advance, and Dr. Blum indicated that in an effort to protect the safety and anonymity of the complainant, it was determined that the book titles would not be shared in advance. Director Vander Velden would prefer that the titles be shared in advance. Director Vander Velden asked about the timeline following a challenge, and Dr. Blum reviewed the policy/regulation timeline. Director Dickinson asked if other committees receive this level of protection. Director McNace stated that the Board should be mindful to consider that we want the committee meeting, for staff or parents, to be as safe as possible, and be mindful to follow the law and policy. Director Baker Curtis noted that she requested 48 hours not 72 hours. She reviewed curriculum selection committees and the time involved in their work to select materials. She asked questions about whether the complainant was offered alternative materials, and Dr. Blum indicated that they were offered. The challenge remained following that offer of alternate materials. Director Baker Curtis asked for a work

session to review how committee membership is determined, and if a policy can be established. Dr. Carenza discussed various committees and membership collection processes. President Carpenter stated that the policy was adopted from IASB as written, and that the Board intentionally gives this responsibility to others. He stated that the Board must support the person to whom the responsibility has been given. Director Baker Curtis questioned how often policy is reviewed, and Director Carenza stated that best practice is to review policy every five years.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

k. Deny Open Enrollment IN Application

Deny Open Enrollment IN application for DR from Des Moines due to lack of good cause.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

l. Terminate Open Enrollment Agreement

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

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

m. Sale of Items on GovDeals

Approve the sale of listed items on GovDeal.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace

Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

n. Accept Into Record Bids For The Sale of Lots 1,2, and 3 of Surplus Technology

Accept into record the following 4 bids for the sale of Lots 1,2,and 3 of surplus technology.

Company	Contact	Lots	Bid	Notes/Comments
Secured Tech Solutions	Aislyn Crane	1,2,3	\$5,166.00	*Recommended Vendor
Cornerstone Technologies, Inc		1,2,3	\$5,150.00	
CDM Technologies LLC		1,2,3	\$4,500.00	
Second Life Mac		1 Only	\$1,638.00	

Motion made by: Brandon McNace
Motion seconded by: Nancy Baker Curtis
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

o. Award Sale of Lots 1,2 and 3 of Surplus Technology To Secured Tech Solutions

Award the sale of Lots 1,2 and 3 of surplus technology to Secured Tech Solutions in the amount of \$5,166.00.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson
Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

p. Accept into Record 2023-2024 Fiscal Audit Bergen KDV

Accept into record the fiscal audit for the 2023-24 fiscal year prepared by Bergen KDV.

Motion made by: Shaylee Vander Velden
Motion seconded by: Meg Dickinson
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

q. Financial Statements

Approve the financial statements as presented for December 2024.

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

r. Board Commendations

Approve Board Commendations.

Motion made by: Brandon McNace
Motion seconded by: Shaylee Vander Velden
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

12. Written and Oral Communications

a. Next Board Meeting

Next regular board meeting, Monday, Feb. 24, 2025.

13. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Adjourn. Time: 8:09 p.m.

Motion made by: Meg Dickinson

Motion seconded by: Nick Fiala

Voting:

Unanimously Approved