

New Salem-Almont School Board Minutes

February 9, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
High School Conference Room

President John called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. John, Miller, Hoovestol, Feland, Reiner-Pletan, and Lausch were present.

Superintendent Christopherson, Business Manager Dukart, and Principals Bennett and Olson were in attendance. Richard Mendoza from the Morton County News Journal, and teachers Mr. Mosbrucker and Miss Heupel were also present.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miller moved to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes from the January 19 regular meeting, as well as bills and financial reports for January. Hoovestol seconded the motion. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

Additions to the agenda were #4. Co-op Committee and #5. PVE Windows.

There was no public comment and no unfinished business.

In New Business, Mr. Mosbrucker and Miss Heupel presented to the board about adding eSports to the schools extra curricular activity offering for students. Discussion was had. Lausch made a motion to add eSports to the schools extra curricular activities, with a second by Feland. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

Four open-enrollment applications from three households were presented to the board for consideration.

Student A – Reiner-Pletan made a motion to approve the open enrollment application for "Student A." Seconded by Hoovestol. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

Student B – Lausch made a motion to approve the open enrollment application for "Student B." Seconded by Feland. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

Students C and D (same family) – Miller made a motion to approve the open enrollment application for "Students C and D." Seconded by Lausch. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

Business Manager Dukart presented the 2025 financial audit report completed by Rath & Mehrer, P.C., to the board. Reiner-Pletan made a motion to approve the 2025 financial audit with a second by Miller. All members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

The Board was informed that the Glen Ullin School District has notified the New Salem-Almont School District of its interest in exploring a sports/extra-curricular activity co-op. Reiner-Pletan made a motion to form a co-op committee comprised of two board members, coaches, administration and a few students and parents. Hoovestol seconded the motion. All members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed. The two board representatives will be Lausch and Feland.

The building committee recommended that the board accept a quote to replace exterior windows at the elementary school, as it is one of the top priorities from the district's facility assessment. Motion to accept the quote was made by Miller, with a second by Feland. All members present voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

A brief update from the building and grounds committee meeting held prior to the school board meeting was provided.

In his report, Supt. Christopherson shared an update on the Almont Gym status. He plans to work with the board to establish a date and time for an upcoming board retreat. He thanked the American Legion Post 91 for the donations to support various activities by providing funds to purchase needed equipment. Supt. Christopherson also shared that he and Business Manager Dukart have been looking closely at some of the school's bank accounts and investment options. He also indicated he plans to hold a policy committee meeting before the next board meeting. He also provided the board with a refresher on the district's bus rules.

Principal Olson shared that the middle and high school students are almost done with winter testing. NAEP will be at the school next week to administer tests with the 8th graders. He will also have students complete the engagement survey this month. He is preparing for teacher evaluations and scheduling students for next year. He has been attending Infinite Campus meetings to prepare for that change as well.

Principal Bennett shared in her update that the elementary is also almost completed with NDA+ winter testing. She has started MTSS meetings and will also be completing the student engagement survey with students. The new IXL curriculum is up and running for students in 4-8th grades. She shared she will also be starting evaluations with teachers soon and that February is kindness month so the elementary has some special things planned.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 16th at 6:00 pm in the high school conference room.

Feland moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m., seconded by Reiner-Pletan. All members voted, "Aye." The meeting was adjourned.

Austin John, President

Annie Dukart, Business Manager