

New Salem-Almont School Board Minutes

April 20, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
High School Conference Room

President John called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. John, Hoovestol, Feland, Reiner-Pletan, Gilstad, and Lausch were present in person; Miller was present via phone.

Superintendent Christopherson, Business Manager Dukart, and Principals Bennett and Olson were in attendance. Richard Mendoza from the Morton County News Journal, NSA Athletic Director Mr. Slag, coach Marty Doll, and Hannah Wolf were also present.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reiner-Pletan moved to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes from the March 16 regular meeting and policy committee meeting, and the April 13 special board meeting minutes. As well as bills and financial reports for March. Feland seconded the motion. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

No public comment.

In unfinished business, the activity co-op with Glen Ullin was discussed. Feland made a motion to accept the activity co-op with Glen Ullin as written and presented, with a second by Lausch. Roll call vote was taken:

Reiner-Pletan: Yes	Feland: Yes	John: Yes
Gilstad: Yes	Hoovestol: No	
Lausch: Yes	Miller: No	

Motion passed with a vote of 5 Yes, to 2 No.

In New Business, the first reading of policy DEBH – Employee Use of Social Media was reviewed. Reiner-Pletan made a motion to approve, with a second by Hoovestol. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

The first reading of policy DEBH- BR – District Social Media Accounts was reviewed. Gilstad made a motion to approve, with a second by Feland. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

The quarterly pledge of securities was presented to the board and reviewed. Reiner-Pletan made a motion to accept, with a second by Feland. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

With the transition to Infinite Campus, it is an ideal time to formally update the building reconfiguration to include Prairie View Elementary, serving Kindergarten through 5th grade. And High School serving 6th through 12th grades. Hoovestol made a motion stating, " I move that Prairie View Elementary be designated as serving Kindergarten through 5th grade, and the high school be designated as serving 6th through 12th grades." Lausch seconded the motion, all members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

Business Manager Dukart shared an update on certificates of deposit (CDs) and asked the board for a motion to allow her to invest as discussed. Lausch made a motion to give Business Manager Dukart permission to invest in the CDs, with a second by Reiner-Pletan. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

The negotiations committee met before the regular board meeting to discuss wages for hourly/non-certified staff. The committee recommended that the board approve a 3% wage increase for hourly/non-certified staff. Miller made a motion to approve the committee's recommendation, with a second by Gilstad. All members voted, "Aye." The motion passed.

In his report, Supt. Christopherson shared an update on the discussion about parent-teacher conference and spring break dates for 2026-2027. He updated the board on the Almont Gym's progress and upcoming summer projects. He also updated the board on important upcoming dates and summer school, the TLA Group wrapping up for the year, and the new activity bus. Discussion was had.

Principal Olson shared an update on current events around the school, including the band trip that just returned from Branson, MO, spring sports, upcoming prom, and preparations for the end of the year. He shared that teacher evaluations are complete, he is finalizing the schedule for next year, and he updated the board on the changes that will take place. Mr. Olson shared that state testing is taking place for 6th, 7th, 8th, and 10th graders. He and Mrs. Bennett will find time for the 5th graders to visit the high school and shadow current 6th graders in preparation for the 5th graders coming to the high school next fall.

Principal Bennett shared that PVE is currently working on ND A+ testing and will be completing math and reading fluency testing for spring. STAR testing is complete for the spring. She gave an overview of what summer school will look like at the elementary level. Shared some curriculum renewals that will be coming up in the next few years. She shared the plans for Administrative Professionals Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Lunch Hero Day. She also continues to work on the switch to Infinite Campus. Mrs. Bennett also shared that the spring PVE Family Engagement movie night was a success with 85 people in attendance. She thanked the PTO for their help with the event.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 18th at 6:00 pm in the high school conference room.

Lausch moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m., seconded by Hoovestol. All members voted, "Aye." The meeting was adjourned.

Austin John, President

Annie Dukart, Business Manager