NORTH STAR PUBILC SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 21st, 2026

The School Board of North Star Public School District #10 met in regular session on Wednesday, January 21st, 2026.

PRESENT: Jeremiah Halley, Brooks Larson, Chris Doehler, Jeremy Johnson, Jeana Jorde, Michelle Gibbens, and Paul Wagenman. **Administration**: Jeff Hagler, Kim Tschepen, Nancy Reiser, Jacob Hagler. **Guests**: Torie McTaggart.

Board President Wagenman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Review of the Agenda: No Changes

Public Comment: None

MOTION by Jorde, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes of the December 15th, 2025, meeting. **MOTION CARRIED** all responding yes.

Approve the Bills:

November and December 2025 Invoices outstanding/paid since the last board meeting were presented for approval. Gen Fund: $101,084.76 outstanding, $45,261.21 paid; Building Fund: $42,292.50 outstanding; After School Child Care: None; School Lunch Fund: $13,013.40 outstanding; Activity Fund: $2,970.95 outstanding, $8,844.04 paid.

The CC charges for December 2025, paid in January 2026 were presented. GF Charges: $2,144.33; AF Charges: $1,608.90; SLP: $103.33 Total: $3,856.46.

MOTION by Gibbens, seconded by Halley, to approve payment of outstanding invoices and invoices paid as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Halley-yes; Larson-yes; Doehler-yes; Johnson-yes; Jorde- yes; Gibbens-yes; Wagenman-yes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Review Financial Reports:

Cash flow reports for December 2025 were reviewed for the Gen Fund, School Lunch Fund, Activity Fund, and After School Child Care Fund.

GF: Tax Receipts received in January were from Towner and Benson County, December were from Towner and Ramsey County. December DPI Aid payment was $210,222.62. FACS CTE funds of $5,411.18 in January. $45,850.88 Title funds received in December. Current fund balance with CD's and Savings is $1,908,571.32.

School Lunch Program: DPI Claim payments were $7,984,51 for January and $8,950.35 for December. Current fund balance is $53,431.72.

ASCC Billings were mailed on 1/06/26 for a total receivable of $768. Total billed to date is $5,208; Total received to date is $2,127; Outstanding receivables are $3,081. Current fund balance is $4,596.91.

AF: CD was cashed out last month and placed in the AF savings account. Current Fund Balance with Savings is $66,087.70.

Revenue and expenditure reports for December 2025 were available for review. Gen Fund Total Revenue= $244,002.12; Gen Fund Total Expenditures were $321,593.03.

The sweep account at Bravera Bank is now in effect.

First State Bank of Cando is being acquired by First United Bank, scheduled to close the first QTR of 2026. A combined bank asset summary after the combination was available for review. Pledged asset summary for First State Bank of Cando was also available for review.

A fiscal year comparison summary of total expenditures, % of Budget, and Fuel/Coal/Electricity/Sewer costs as of December 31st of each year were available for review.

Principal's Reports:

The current elementary enrollment is 155 (gain of 1): HS enrollment is 124 (No change).

Elementary attendance was 94.94% for the past month and 96.36% year to date; HS Attendance was 94.1% for the past month and 95.2% year to date. The flu is the primary reason for the reduced attendance.

The K-12 Olympic Cultural Event scheduled for the first week of February was discussed.

The Spring Math Pilot Program was discussed which is being funded by an NDCOUNTS state grant.

A potential change from Valedictorian/Salutatorian to Highest Honors and Honors was discussed along with getting rid of the 12-point grading scale (A+, A, A-, B+, B.... vs. A, B, C, D).

A pause on exploring Workplace Readiness or Cooperative Work Experience was discussed due to needing teachers with qualifications in specific areas that we do not currently have.

Upcoming school events were reviewed.

Activities Director Report:

We are still waiting on the High School Activities Association ruling on if we can schedule an extra VB match for 2026.

Basketball schedules for next year are still being worked out.

The boys' basketball game scheduled in Starkweather was postponed due to weather and they were unable to host the day it was rescheduled. They have requested to move the Nelson City game to Starkweather. The discussion was against moving the game due to its importance for the team's placing in the district and because local dancers are scheduled to perform at halftime.

Rolla has contacted us to see if we were interested in sharing the cost for a robot field painter for FB. It would cost around $2,000 and would use 1/3 of the paint. Discussion was around whether we would have enough numbers to have a varsity team next year to make it worthwhile.

Whether or not to continue with HUDL, going back to NFHS or purchasing our own cameras and webcasting on YouTube next year was discussed. The Booster club is looking into webcasting cameras for next year.

We are hosting two college basketball games on January 28th. We get the gate proceeds and concessions money. Lake Region provides and pays for the officials.

Superintendent's Report

How virtual learning days have gone due to weather, how decisions are made to have or not have in person school, and notifications were discussed.

We are waiting on a quote from NW Valuation to conduct an updated inventory/appraisal for our school. They have done this before and keep track of changes with their program.

Open Enrollment and Tuition Waivers:

MOTION by Larson, seconded by Doehler, to approve the open enrollment request for Graber, Ashlyn to attend Rolette Public School next year. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Halley-yes; Larson-yes; Doehler-yes; Johnson-yes; Jorde- yes; Gibbens-yes; Wagenman-yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Gibbens, seconded by Jorde, to approve tuition agreements for Ashlyn Graber to attend Rolette Public School and Tatum Lonier to attend Starkweather Public School next year. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Halley-yes; Larson-yes; Doehler-yes; Johnson-yes; Jorde- yes; Gibbens-yes; Wagenman-yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Title I Review: We have been going through a Title I Monitoring review. All documentation has been submitted, and we are waiting on the results. Appointment of an EL Program Director, Coordinator and Test Administrator are required as well as a Transportation MOU and Best Interest Determination Form.

MOTION by Gibbens, seconded by Halley, to appoint Jacob Hagler as the English Learner (EL) Program Director and Kristen Hillier as EL Coordinator/Test Administrator for the 25/26 School Year. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Halley-yes; Larson-yes; Doehler-yes; Johnson-yes; Jorde- yes; Gibbens-yes; Wagenman-yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Jorde, seconded by Gibbens, to approve the District Transportation Policy/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) form, and the Best Interest Determination (BID) Form as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Halley-yes; Larson-yes; Doehler-yes; Johnson-yes; Jorde- yes; Gibbens-yes; Wagenman-yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Board President Wagenman inquired about the Armory rental and expressed his concern with the poor condition of the gym floor and its propensity to create injury's.

Old Business:

A review of Standards Based Grading was presented by Jacob Hagler, Elementary Principal.

MOTION by Doehler, seconded by Jorde, to approve the 26/27 School Calendar to reflect the quarter ending dates as follows: QTR 1- 42 days ending 10/16/26; QTR 2- 42 days ending 12/23/26; QTR 3- 47 days ending 3/12/2027 and QTR 4- 43 days ending 5/18/27. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Halley-yes; Larson-yes; Doehler-yes; Johnson-yes; Jorde- yes; Gibbens-yes; Wagenman-yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roof Payment: A 50% payment for the roof project was in the bills to be approved (D&D Roofing). The contractor requested copies of the other bidders' bid which were sent.

Discussions regarding the school's heating system have been ongoing. A couple of grants we may qualify for have been identified. The best chance for approval would be to also include the conversion to LED lighting along with the heating system. An Energy Savings Analysis is required for the grants. A person has been identified to complete the analysis and information is being gathered.

We received the bill from Service master for the cleanup of the basement from the sewer break. A summary of the insurance claim and expected payment we available for review. Just waiting on the settlement check.

A Statement of Interest is now due annually by January 31st. Four have been received with statements still due by board members Jorde, Johnson, and Larson.

New Business:

The Superintendent evaluation is due March 15th which is before the March School Board meeting so it will need to be done for the February board meeting.

A long-term planning meeting has not been done in a couple years. It was agreed to hold the next meeting before the April 15th board meeting.

How the school year has gone with the new administration and the superintendent being part time was reviewed and discussed. Consensus is everything has gone much more smoothly with no concerns brought up or recommended changes for next year.

Some time has been spent with our health insurance representative at BCBS, Mindy Swenson, and reviewing different plans and deductible amounts. The grandfathered plans premiums are anticipated (not guaranteed) to decrease next year and switching to a high-deductible plan with the school paying the deductible is felt to be a big risk.

Next meeting is set for Wednesday, February 18th, 2026, at 5:00 pm in Room 101.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Paul Wagenman, President

Kimberly Tschepen, Business Manager