November 2026 Newsletter

# Wishek Public School

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**EL NIÑO of 1997-1998**

I have fond memories of that winter; it was my first year of teaching. Our family of three moved to my wife's hometown of New Town, where we rented a single-wide trailer. Angel was still finishing college, making the daily commute all the way to Minot for her classes. Having lived my whole life in North Dakota, I don't recall hearing the phrase "El Niño" until that year. I didn't know what to expect, and it seemed nobody else did either.

I do remember getting a good blanket of snow around the second week of October. I thought it was going to be a typical North Dakota winter. Then December came, and there was absolutely no snow on the ground. It was a bizarre phenomenon to experience—I couldn't remember ever having a brown Christmas. January and February passed with still no snow, and it was warm enough to golf almost every day. Golf courses around the state actually opened during those months. It was crazy.

I'm not sure if this winter will follow suit with the El Niño winter of '97-'98, but it certainly makes for good coffee talk.



**MEASURE 2**

There is a major ballot measure up for a vote this November. These topics can be difficult for superintendents to discuss because we are required to remain neutral and avoid taking official positions on ballot measures. However, here are a few objective points to consider when deciding how to vote:

1. **Federal Funding & School Meals:** Federal funding for schools is heavily tied to the Free and Reduced Price Lunch applications that families fill out. If all students receive free meals automatically, could this potentially impact our school's federal funding? I do not have a definitive answer to that at this time.
2. **Regulations & State Economy:** Increased government spending typically leads to more regulatory oversight. This, in turn, could require the state to carefully balance shifting oil prices against the production costs of food.
3. **Parental Financial Relief:** The measure would reduce the immediate financial burden on parents who currently have children enrolled in school.




Have a happy and safe Halloween

Supt. Kuntz

# November: What are you thankful for?

It is very easy for me to answer the question that question....family! Having people that love you no matter what is a great feeling to have. There comes a time when we all just need to stop, look around us, and take the time to be grateful for what we have!

With a grateful heart, I would like to take a moment and give a great big thanks for all the community support throughout the year for everything our students are in from singing and playing at the Sauerkraut Day, to cheering on our athletes on the field and court, to supporting all our fundraiser acts, and to all the staff at Wishek Public School that make our days run smoothly; we appreciate you all. Thank you.

***With that being said, PLEASE make sure that all information regarding students that are in 7th-12th grade, be given to Annabelle in the high school office. Parents need to call (452-2892 ext. 304) or reach out to her through email (a.moldenhauer@k12.nd.us) when your child is going to be gone from school or leaving early. If they are at an appointment, have them return their excuse slips within one week to excuse their absence.

***INFINITE CAMPUS: all families who have an infinite campus login, please make sure that you are checking your student's grades and making any updates that are needed to keep the school informed. If you do not have a login yet, please reach out to Annabelle and she will get that information to you.

Thanks for all the parents that came to Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. As always, the connection between the families, school, and students is what makes a successful child. We want all our students to succeed, and I thank you parents for making the time to

visit with your child's teacher and being the final link in the chain. Remember, if there is ever any issues or concerns that come up from your child, please reach out to your child's teacher sooner than later.

I am pleased with the level of involvement from our students in the extracurricular activities. I know that these activities take up a lot of our student's time, but it is definitely worth it and we have some excellent advisors and coaches that are leading the way.

The One Act Play cast and crew have been working hard to get ready for their performance on November 5th. This competition will take place in Edgeley this year. There will be a community performance on Wednesday, November 4th at 6pm in the gym. Please mark your calendars for an enjoyable night and see the talents of our students shine!

With weather changing, please notice what your child is leaving the house in. Our days of wearing shorts is coming to an end, and warmer clothes are needed, even if the walk is a short one from their car to the door.

Here are some dates that are coming up that you should add to your calendar:

November 4- Career Fair in Bismarck for 9th and 10th graders

One Act Play performance for the community at 6:00pm in the HS Gym.

November 5- One Act Play in Edgeley

November 10- Veteran's Day Program for the community at 2:00pm in the HS Gym

November 11- Veteran's Day- NO SCHOOL

November 23- John-Michael Lander will present Human Trafficking Presentation to the Community at 6:00pm-8:00pm in the HS Gym

Thanks again to all the local support that was given to help fund the cost of bringing this important presentation to our students and community!

Sayler Implement

Tri-County Fair

Central Iron

Wishek Chiropractic

Wald Fencing

Wishek Collision

South Central Health

Wishek Inn

D&B Engraving and Tees

Salon Envy

Kim and Mark Sayler

November 26 and 27- Thanksgiving Break- NO SCHOOL

December 1- HS Concert at 7:00pm in the HS Gym

December 8- Elementary Concert at 6:30pm in the HS Gym

Please continue to remind your child to REACH every day. REACH is our schoolwide expectations for staff, students, and anyone who enters our school. Here are the expectations so you have them at home:

R-Respect: Be kind to myself and others in all I do, think, and say.

E-Effort: Whatever your 100% looks like-GIVE IT!

A-Attitude: Impact others with positivity.

C-Cooperation: Working together = SUCCESS

H-Honesty: Do what is right, not what is easy.

Have a great November and remember, there is always something to be thankful for.
Mrs., Brandner
Pk-12 Wishek Public School Principal

**Wishek Public School**

**Attention: Parents and Guardians of PK–6 Grade Students**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We ask that parents and guardians please notify the elementary office whenever their child will be absent, arriving late, or needing to leave school early.

Whether your child has a doctor or dentist appointment, is home sick, has a family commitment, or will be missing school for any other reason, please contact the office directly. **If your child needs to leave during the school day, we ask that you notify us in advance whenever possible** so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Please contact **Kari Goldade** in the elementary office:

**Phone:** 701-452-2995 ext. 300
**Email:** kari.goldade@k12.nd.us

By keeping the office informed, you help us maintain accurate attendance records, communicate with teachers, and ensure students are accounted for throughout the school day.

We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly!

**Kari Goldade**
Elementary Office Secretary
Wishek Public School

# JOHN-MICHAEL LANDER

EDUCATOR | SPEAKER | SURVIVOR ADVOCATE

*Real Stories. Hard Truths. Hope for the Future.*

## HELP BRING JOHN-MICHAEL LANDER TO WISHEK!

John-Michael Lander is a powerful and engaging speaker, educator, and advocate who shares his own story of survival and recovery from human trafficking. Through his raw, honest, and hope-filled message, he educates, inspires, and empowers students, families, and communities to recognize the signs, make safer choices, and stand against exploitation.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Human trafficking is happening in our communities, and our students need to be informed. North Dakota's Century Code (NDCC 15.1-43.2) makes human trafficking education a mandatory part of the curriculum for K-12 students. This event will help fulfill that requirement while giving our students and community life-saving awareness, tools, and resources.

- **KNOW THE SIGNS**
- **KEEP OUR YOUTH SAFE**
- **BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY**

## COMMUNITY EVENT

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

## 6:00 - 8:00 PM

## WISHEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

**EDUCATE / EMPOWER / PROTECT**

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

# Building a Reader At Home

**Explore Books!**
Give your child an opportunity to explore books. **Visiting a library or bookstore** gives your child a chance to find topics and books that interest them.

**Read, Read, Read!**
Make sure to read for at least **30 minutes per day**! Children can read independently, aloud to an adult, or back and forth with a partner.

**Ask Questions!**
- Predictions
- Characters
- Main Idea
- Problem
- Solution
- Retell Story
- Genre
- Moral

**Make it Fun!**
**Reading shouldn't be a chore.** Intentionally read with your child/discuss books but also research topics and do book activities together.

**Be an Example!**
Children learn by example, so **let your child see you read** whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.

Pick Good Fit Books!

**A book that is a good match for your child should meet the following requirements:**
- Purpose for reading
- Interest
- Can they understand what they are reading? Can they retell the story?
- Do they know most of the words?

**For Beginning Readers:**
- Point out and read words in natural settings – stores, streets, etc.
- Memorize sight words
- Visualize the story in your head
- Ask questions before, during, and after

**Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your child.** Instead, ask them to:
- Sound out the word
- Break the word into parts
- Try a different vowel sound (long/short)
- Use illustrations for clues
- Skip the word, re-read sentence, and go back – what word would make sense?

**For Advanced Readers:**
- Notice interesting, new vocabulary words, and make it a challenge to use them in conversation
- Read with expression
- Explore non-fiction books and their text features (diagrams, table of contents, etc.) along with other genres as well
- Compare and contrast books
- Discuss connections to literature
- Think of new titles for books
- Explore multiple books from the same author

© PRIMARY JUNCTION

# LIBRARY NEWS

I have had several parents inquire about how to access audio books for their children. These are available to our library via the Libby App through the North Dakota State Library. If you are interested, please contact me and I will be happy to get you set up.

The Wishek Public Library will be celebrating it's 100th anniversary on Sunday, February 7th. The Wishek Public Library was started by the Civic League and opened in the basement of the City Hall on Feb. 3, 1927. We are going to incorporate this celebration in conjunction with "Take Your Child to the Library". More details to follow in January.

The Library Board recently purchased new books and the book title and summaries of these books is posted outside the library. I have had numerous requests for books regarding the Holocaust and specific authors as well. If there is something you are looking for, please let me know.

A sincere "Thank you" to Betsy Vetter for the collection of "Ask me about" and "Explore and Learn" books that she donated to the library. These books contain a lot of information and the beautiful colorful pictures make them fun to read.

2026

# NOVEMBER



**Salad Bar offered every day**

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 Cereal, toast, juice, fruit<br>Hamburger/bun, smiley fries | 3 Scrambled eggs, toast, cereal, fruit, juice<br>Ham & Scalloped potatoes vegetable | 4 Grilled Ham & Cheese, Cereal, juice<br>Beef or chicken fajita, vegetable | 5 taquito roll-up, cereal, juice<br>Turkey with bread/croissant, potatoes or noodle salad | 6 cinnamon roll, cereal, juice, fruit<br>Elem: Noodle soup & Crispito<br>HS: Chili w/cornbread muffin | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Cereal, toast, juice, fruit<br>Dakota Nacho's w/ cheese sauce, vegetable | 10 Pancake, links, cereal, juice, fruit<br>BBQ Pulled Pork with baked beans | 11  NO SCHOOL | 12 Egg n cheese biscuits, cereal, juice<br>Elem: Chicken Nuggets<br>HS: Chicken Strips<br>Hashbrown patty | 13 cake doughnut, cereal, juice, fruit<br>Hamburger noodle hotdish, vegetable, breadstick | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Cereal, toast, juice, fruit<br>Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, vegetable, breadstick | 17 Fried eggs, toast, cereal, juice, fruit<br>Knepfla Soup<br>Elem: sausage HS: Ham Sandwich | 18 Bacon egg rollup, juice fruit<br>Teriyaki chicken, Eggroll, Vegetable | 19 ham & cheese crescent roll, juice, fruit<br>Chicken Fried Steak<br>Elem: Mashed Potatoes<br>HS: Hashbrown Bake | 20 French toast, cereal, juice, fruit<br>Pizza burger & french fries | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Cereal, toast, juice, fruit<br>Chicken burger/bun with buttered noodles | 24 Yogurt, Granola, cereal, fruit, juice<br>Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable | 25 Biscuits & Gravy, cereal, juice, fruit<br>BBQ McRib, Tater tots, Vegetable | 26 NO SCHOOL<br> | 27 NO SCHOOL | 28 |
| 29 | 30 Cereal, toast, juice, fruit<br>Taco (Hard or Soft), Vegetable | | | | | |

# Wishek Public School District No. 19 Board Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:30 pm
(ITV) Room, Wishek Public School, Wishek, North Dakota

1. The regular meeting of the Wishek Public School District Board of Education was called to order by President Curtis Meidinger at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Board members present were Curtis Meidinger, Rocky Brown, Trina Schilling, Danielle Goebel, and Neil Horner. Also present were Superintendent Shawn Kuntz, High School Principal Renae Brandner, Elementary Principal Joshua Wiest, Athletic Director Phil Weldele, Transportation Coordinator Brent Vetter, Business Manager Bethany Vilhauer, Technology Coordinator Keith Sayler, Teacher Ann Bettenhausen, Teacher Amber Goebel, and community member Alissa Bechtle.

**2. Agenda Additions and Approval:** No additions were requested.
Rocky Brown moved, and Trina Schilling seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comment:** None.

**4. Approve Minutes:** Trina Schilling moved, and Danielle Goebel seconded, to approve the August 11, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Invoices:** Danielle Goebel moved, and Neil Horner seconded, to waive the individual reading of the invoices. Motion carried unanimously.

Neil Horner moved, and Rocky Brown seconded, to approve the invoices as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

| | |
|---|---|
| **GENERAL FUND** | |
| ADV BUS METH | 2,446.52 |
| AFLAC | 1,079.79 |
| BEK | 298.39 |
| BETTENHAUSEN, A | 810.00 |
| BCBS | 30,222.70 |
| BRANDNER, R | 148.31 |
| CENGAGE LEARN | 988.94 |
| DFC | 36.00 |
| CITY OF WISHEK | 575.20 |
| COLEPAPERS CO | 116.63 |
| CRABTREE, C | 221.80 |
| CURTS SERVICE | 1,779.50 |
| DAKOTA ASSEMBLIES | 550.00 |
| DELTA DENTAL | 1,479.76 |
| DUCHSCHERER, C | 114.80 |
| E & H COMM | 815.48 |
| FCCU | 2,628.06 |
| FISCHER, D | 593.16 |
| FLAAGAN, R | 114.80 |
| GAME ONE | 3,070.34 |
| GERRELLS SPORTS | 1,823.00 |
| GOEHRING, TROY | 156.40 |
| HARLOW'S BUS SALES | 92.33 |
| HOUGH MIFF HARCRT | 4,051.63 |
| JACOB, C | 247.10 |
| KUNTZ, A | 184.20 |
| KUNTZ, S | 1,083.33 |
| LEARNWELL | 154.50 |
| LIMINEX INC. | 2,768.30 |
| LINDE GAS | 517.35 |
| LUNA, S | 114.80 |
| MARC | 8,703.06 |
| MARTELL'S | 143.52 |
| MDU | 2,489.51 |
| MEARS, N | 114.80 |
| ND BCI | 40.00 |
| NDCEL | 2,174.00 |
| ONE GREEN APPLE | 3,000.00 |
| ODIN | 2,016.31 |
| PFEIFLE'S | 1,231.53 |
| RAMSEY SOLUTIONS | 699.60 |
| REL STAND VISION | 456.40 |
| SCHMITT, A | 751.24 |
| SCHOLASTIC | 571.87 |
| SIMONSON, D | 57.00 |
| SCH | 300.00 |
| S CENT PRAIR SPECED | 27,382.00 |
| SPORTS DECALS | 260.00 |
| STAN'S | 16.74 |
| STATE HIST SOCIETY | 1,300.00 |
| TEAMVIEWER GMBH | 1,057.03 |
| TMS | 156.51 |
| TRUE VALUE | 2,935.73 |
| TWIN CITY ROOFING | 952.00 |
| TWOTREES TECH | 1,709.42 |
| VILHAUER, B | 145.00 |
| WIEST, J | 506.34 |
| WISHEK HL FUND | 225.00 |
| WOLFF, J | 587.00 |
| **Fund Total:** | **119,264.73** |
| **BUILDING FUND** | |
| HOUSE OF GLASS | 32,560.00 |
| **Fund Total:** | **32,560.00** |
| **HOT LUNCH FUND** | |
| BERNARD FOOD | 542.82 |
| BCBS | 1,155.20 |
| CAP CITY RESTAURANT | 280.75 |
| DELTA DENTAL | 227.67 |
| MEIDINGER, A | 145.00 |
| ND DPI | 915.16 |
| PETE'S DIST | 1,674.60 |
| REL STAND VISION | 39.92 |
| STAN'S | 847.87 |
| U.S. FOODS | 5,674.92 |
| **Fund Total:** | **11,503.91** |
| **ACTIVITY FUND** | |
| BETTENHAUSEN, A | 227.47 |
| DACOTAH PAPER | 335.71 |
| FCCU | 2,377.95 |
| MISSOULA CHILD THTRE | 500.00 |
| MORENO, V | 332.20 |
| STAN'S | 138.92 |
| TRI-COUNTY EXHIBIT | 150.00 |
| U.S. FOODS | 563.56 |
| **Fund Total:** | **4,625.81** |

**6. Reports**

(a) **Technology Report presented by Keith Sayler:** The new Promethean interactive displays are operational, and student and staff devices have been distributed. New parts are beginning to be installed on the Promethean boards. Annabelle Moldenhauer and Kari Goldade will assist with technology needs while Keith Sayler is away for the winter.

(b) **Policy Committee Report presented by Shawn Kuntz:** Several recommended policy updates from the North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) will be reviewed. Updated policies will be brought to the Board after the review is complete. Most district policies are current.

**(c) Transportation Report presented by Brent Vetter:** There were no major concerns, although two bus breakdowns occurred. One was repaired on the Zeeland route, and Bus 2 had an antifreeze leak in the heater box. The buses have high mileage, and tire wear was discussed, including local options for purchasing and installing new tires. The Board discussed buses that may be sold. Recommended retaining the current buses because they remain useful. The Board also discussed the timeline for ordering a new bus, the appropriate bus size, and the district's average annual mileage of approximately 15,000 miles per bus. A new bus was quoted at $124,795 in June 2023.

(d) **High School Principal Report presented by Renae Brandner:** Kari Goldade has provided significant assistance with the high school implementation of Infinite Campus (IC). The final IC support session was held today. Annabelle Moldenhauer was designated as the primary IC contact, with Joshua Wiest, Bethany Vilhauer, and Kari Goldade also serving as contacts for support. First-grade checks were completed, and Joshua Wiest worked on grading percentages. Renae Brandner completed recertification for the Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool (ELEOT) 3.0 through Cognia. Improvement plans had been entered in the previous platform and are being transferred to the new system with assistance from Arlene Wolff. ELEOT observations and teacher observations will begin soon. Teachers submitted their IXL plans. Juniors completed the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), and Principal Bootcamp is scheduled for September 15. Joshua Wiest and Renae Brandner also discussed the 31:8 Project and a proposed assembly featuring an Olympic presenter. Stacy Schaeffer is also expected to speak. Sponsors have been contacted, and the tentative date is November 23, before Thanksgiving. Approximately $7,500 is needed for the assembly.

(e) **Elementary Principal Report presented by Joshua Wiest:** Teacher In-Service: In addition to reviewing required information, discussed expectations as principal, with an emphasis on student engagement and how he can best support teachers. Staff discussed more intentional professional development and the legacy they want to create. Has been working with the Central Regional Education Association (CREA) representative on a professional development roadmap that can be implemented without paying CREA to present. He noted that hiring CREA for one professional development day could still benefit teachers. Staff also discussed attending CREA's after-school professional development opportunity on September 25. The Board discussed additional board training and the possibility of a board member attending the NDSBA Convention, which Bethany Vilhauer typically attends. A significant portion of time has been devoted to implementing Infinite Campus. Although he would prefer to spend more time in classrooms, he recognizes that the implementation work is necessary. Developing parent information and activation instructions for the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to improve access to grades, attendance, schedules, messages, and food service information. The district is also considering whether to outsource the printing of student, staff, and substitute identification cards or purchase an in-house printer. Outsourced cards cost approximately $1 each. Created an administrator fire-drill protocol and checklist covering staff notification, State Radio communication, alarm procedures, student accountability, and post-drill documentation. Also created a Cognia account to begin tracking data. Must complete ELEOT 3.0 training before conducting observations. Revised the nonteaching staff survey to make it more relevant to employees who are not teachers. All Cognia surveys were distributed by the meeting date. Working with Kalli Scherbenske on a recognition ceremony for an English Learner (ELL) student who officially graduated from the ELL program. The district would like to recognize this significant accomplishment appropriately. Began updating staff education and career-path posters to highlight postsecondary experiences and expose students to a variety of educational and career pathways. The district is exploring a consistent way to improve communication with patrons and parents and make better use of its website. A question was raised about student-first governance and what participation involves. Additional information will be emailed to Board members. Neptune Radio was discussed as a software option for music programming. The system could also provide a potential athletic revenue source by allowing business advertisements and could be used to play music in hallways or during lunch. It would provide an option when John Kosiak or Joshua Wiest is unavailable to announce lineups or play music. The Board expressed interest, and he will move forward with the program.

(f) **Athletic Director Report presented by Phil Weldele:** Phil Weldele participated in a Zoom meeting with Arbiter representatives. Arbiter does not allow junior high events to be entered, although middle school events can be entered. The state is considering a transition to Bound, and some districts use Google Calendar for athletic scheduling. The Board discussed past and current scheduling methods and Bound's features. Arbiter does not allow leave times to be entered for athletic events. Any platform change would also require discussion with Ashley Public School. Bound would cost approximately $1,000 to $3,000, while Arbiter is purchased by the state. C-Team Tournament: Seven teams

will participate in the tournament on Saturday. Football Field Lights: Several lights were out during the first game. Some have been repaired, but additional lights have since gone out. A technician is scheduled to complete repairs. The Board also asked about holding Senior Night on September 18, the final home game in Wishek. Additional planning will be completed. Football Scoreboard: The home-team lights are considerably brighter than the remaining lights. Daktronics advised that the scoreboard is 21 years old and replacement parts are no longer available. A new scoreboard is estimated to cost between $22,000 and $25,000. Activity Fees: Most activity fees have been paid, with a limited number of outstanding fees remaining. The district is considering placing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on activity buses.

(g) **Superintendent Report presented by Shawn Kuntz:** Open Position: A custodian advertisement will be placed in the next edition of the Wishek Star. Enrollment: Current enrollment is 247, including a few students who have not yet been removed from Infinite Campus. The final consolidated application for federal Title funds has been approved. The administrative team met on Tuesday, September 1, and plans to meet every other week. Building Issues: Heavy rain and strong winds revealed two areas that tend to leak. Twin City Roofing addressed both areas. The connection between the new shop and the school remains the more troublesome location. The connection between the gym and the hallway has also had minor leaks during the past year. Asked Twin City Roofing to inspect the remaining area that has not been updated in recent years. The company has completed an initial review and will conduct a further inspection to determine needed repairs. The district has unclaimed insurance proceeds related to last year's water leak in the concession area. The cost of new cabinets, shelving, and repair labor will be submitted for final payment. The fall reporting process has begun. A maintenance process has been established, reported that it is working well.
An additional route driver was added to meet the transportation needs of two patrons located far east of the district. This route is typically needed two mornings per week, with occasional after-school trips. Met with Brent Vetter and Keith Sayler to adjust the larger routes and accommodate far-south pickups on the green and red routes. After driving the northeast green route with the far-east pickup, it is determined that the route was too long. Because the district covers a large geographic area, an additional driver may be needed in future years. South Central Transit expressed interest in assuming this responsibility. The Board discussed how routes may continue to lengthen over time. Debbie Goebel has been assisting the new cooks with the transition, particularly with reporting responsibilities. The Board also discussed letters sent to landowners following the Zeeland school closure regarding the district they wish to join.

(h) **Business Manager Report presented by Bethany Vilhauer:** Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI): The reporting discrepancy has been resolved. Corrections were made to several pay and deduction codes, and a WSI class override was added. All reporting is now current, and no penalties were assessed. The review and correction process took approximately one and one-half weeks. Infinite Campus and Meal Eligibility: The free and reduced-price meal module has been established in Infinite Campus. The system has experienced glitches, including meal eligibilities changing without manual updates. Eligibility will be reviewed regularly to ensure students are charged correctly for meals. Staff Benefits: Staff benefit records are being updated, including enrolling new employees and terminating benefits for former employees. Colonial Life enrollment has been successful, and staff members have responded positively to this additional option, which may be less expensive than Aflac. Activity Fund: The Activity Fund is being reconfigured in the accounting system to correct discrepancies and accurately reflect current revenues, expenditures, and balances. The goal is to discontinue the separate spreadsheet and reduce the possibility of missed transactions. The Board will need to consider reimbursing the General Fund from the Activity Fund certificate of deposit (CD) for the previous $15,000 transfer and transferring an additional amount to Activity Fund checking. Based on last year's activity, the checking account may not remain positive through the end of the school year. Will be reviewing the financial activity and will provide a recommended transfer amount. Local Education Agency (LEA) Financial Report: The final submission deadline is October 26. Audit: The auditor will contact Bethany Vilhauer in a few weeks to schedule an on-site district visit and begin addressing the audit.

**7. Old Business**

a) None.

**8. New Business**

a) 2026-2027 Budget - The auditors clarified that they will not be responsible for monitoring the district's budget cap. Wind-tower revenue is included in the budget. The Board discussed revenue estimates and how the district's taxable valuation directly affects the current year. The Board also discussed increasing the published budget amount and reviewed health insurance premiums. On average, approximately 80% of the budget is allocated to salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes, leaving limited flexibility for reductions. Trina Schilling moved, and Rocky Brown seconded, to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Seventh-Hour Program - The Board discussed concerns that the program could negatively affect the school by encouraging students to enroll in online courses so they can complete custodial work and leave school early. Students participating in the program may leave at approximately 3:00 p.m. with parental permission. Other students have expressed interest in dropping classes to participate in the program and receive the same privilege. The program is a short-term response to the custodial vacancy and will end when a custodian is hired. Participating students must remain current in their classes and complete all assigned work duties before leaving. The Board also discussed adding eligibility requirements to the program. Trina Schilling moved, and Danielle Goebel seconded, to approve the seventh-hour program as presented. A roll-call vote was taken: Neil Horner – No, Danielle Goebel – Yes, Trina Schilling – Yes, Rocky Brown – Yes, Curtis Meidinger - Yes. Motion carried, 4-1.

c) Local Education Agency and School Compliance Report Approval - Annual Action Item: Rocky Brown moved, and Trina Schilling seconded, to approve the School Compliance Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The Policy Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment: Trina Schilling moved, and Neil Horner seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Curtis Meidinger, President

Bethany Vilhauer, Business Manager