Valley City Public School District #2 Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 7:00 AM

Call to Order:
President Sherri Horsager called the regular school board meeting of the Valley City Public School District #2 to order at 7:00 AM on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Attendees:
-Board Members Present: Sherri Horsager, Darin Anderson, Ryan Mathias, and Phil Hatcher
-Board Members Absent: Tommy Bergan

-Others Attending: Superintendent Joshua Johnson, Business Manager Jackie Cordie, Travis Peterson, Chad Lueck, Becky Goven, Sarah Lerud, Dallas Dockter, Nicole Powers, Summer Burchill, and Alecia Killoran

Pledge of Allegiance:
-President Horsager led the board and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Students and/or Staff Members:

-Mr. Johnson recognized Mrs. Nicole Powers, kindergarten teacher at Jefferson Elementary, as the 2026 Barnes County Teacher of the Year and will go on to be considered for ND Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Powers has been a teacher for 19 years and of those 17 years in the VCPS district. Mr. Johnson thanked her for service and commitment to education.

Public Comment:
In accordance with North Dakota Century Code 15.1-09-33, the Board provided an opportunity for public comment. Community members were invited to address the Board on any topic from the current agenda or the preceding agenda.

-No public comments.

Approval of Agenda:
-Mr. Johnson asked the board to add 9D – Teacher Negotiation Strategy – under Items for Discussion and Possible action.
-Motion: Anderson motioned to approve the agenda as amended.
-Second: Hatcher seconded the motion.
-The board approved the agenda as set – all in favor, none opposed.

Consent Agenda:
-Bills totaling $307,414.96 (page 5) and the minutes from the April 15, 2026, regular meeting, and April 30, 2026, May 1, 2026, and May 12, 2026, special meetings, the 04.26 General Fund, and 04.26 Health Fund.
-Motion: Hatcher motioned to approve the consent agenda.
-Second: Mathias seconded the motion.

-The board approved the consent agenda – all in favor, none opposed.

Continuous Improvement (i.e. Accreditation, Board Development, District Goals, and Strategic Plan):
-Mr. Johnson shared that this year the district went through a full accreditation review and received positive feedback and the district is accredited through 2032. We are working on professional development with the district goals and strategic plan in mind – specifically student behaviors and engagement. Mr. Johnson said that the PD plan will be brought back to the board in July with more detail and formal approval.

Reports:
-Activities Committee, discussions around Cheer/Spirit Team, VCPR Facility Use Contract, Video Board for HAC, Field Turf at Hanna Field, VCSU Summer Use of VCPS Facilities, Recognition Banners for the HAC, Sports Meeting with Essentia Physicals, Fine Arts Banquet
Recommendation: N/A.

-Negotiations Committee, discussions around Teacher Negotiations
Recommendation: N/A.

Superintendent Report:
-Mr. Johnson provided the board an update on the Last Day of School – Friday, May 20, 2026, Upcoming Events and Activities at VCPS, Summer Programming, Employment Posting for the 2025-26 School Year, and the Enrollment Report.

School Facility Project 2028 Report:
-Mr. Johnson provide the board on update on the school facility project. He thanked the board, staff, principals, teachers, and students for participation in the Groundbreaking ceremony. He shared there will be weekly construction meetings on Thursdays at 1:30 PM. The turf is scheduled to be complete in mid-August. There is an Auditorium planning group, Tommy Bergan, will be the board representative, and they will begin having exploratory discussion on the concept, timing, and funding.

Elementary Principals Report:
-Mrs. Goven and Mr. Lueck shared elementary updates with the board. Mrs. Goven discussed the pre-K program at Jefferson, she shared they had 25 students, there was a strong emphasis on socialization, peer interaction, and readiness for academic expectations in kindergarten. Mrs. Goven said they have 27 pre-K students registered for next year. She also provided the board an overview on Standards and Standards-Based Grading.
-Mr. Lueck discussed moving 6th grade to a more departmentalized structure, one of this year's challenges was received 12 new students which made for very full classes. He stated next year they will adopt a schedule resembling a JH block schedule. He shared that this would help balance class sizes and support academic programming and will be communicated to parents.

Secondary School Counselor Report (BARR Program):
-Mrs. Burchill and Mr. Peterson shared how the BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) program is a schoolwide framework focusing on whole student support, social-emotional learning (SEL),

improved relationships, and school climate. Mrs. Burchill shares that BARR uses eight core strategies that range from focusing on the whole student to active engagement of administration. There are three main meeting formats: small block, large block (both are teacher driven student review meetings), and community connect.
-Mr. Peterson shared a focus this year was student attendance and shared that there has been significant improvement in absenteeism – especially in grades 9-12, they have seen a reduction in course failure rates, and stronger student-teacher relationships (including more student-to-student interaction. Next year a focus will be family engagement with a goal to strengthen family connections to the school using BARR aligned strategies.

Items for Discussion and Possible Action:
-District Facility Maintenance Plan for 2026-27 (Second and Final Reading):
-Motion: Hatcher motioned to approve the second and final reading of District Facility Maintenance Plan for 2026-27 as presented.
-Second: Mathias seconded the motion
-Vote: Upon poll (Bergan – absent), all present approved, motion carried

-Review RFP on Copier Machine Lease:
-The district issued an RFP for a five-year copier lease for initially seven copiers dropping to four after year two in years three through five when the district consolidates buildings. We received proposals from Marco Technologies, Advanced Business Solutions, Liberty, and Advance Business Methods. With assistance from Bryan, VCPS IT Director, the recommendation is to select Marco. Marco offered competitive and predictable monthly pricing, lowest cost per black and white copy, high monthly volume allowances, strong service and support, and will donate three copiers back to the district after year two. The district also already works with Marco for our printers.
-Motion: Mathias motioned to approve accepting the Marco Technologies proposal for the five-year copier lease.
-Second: Anderson seconded the motion
-Vote: Upon poll (Bergan – absent), all present approved, motion carried

-Issuing Administrative Contracts for 2026-27:
-Mr. Johnson recommended tabling the issuance of Administrative Contracts pending teacher negotiations.
-Motion: Mathias motioned to table issuance of administrative contracts.
-Second: Anderson seconded the motion
-Vote: Upon poll (Bergan – absent), all present approved, motion carried

- Teacher Negotiation Strategy (Executive Session Per NDCC44-04-19.1 (9)):
-President Horsager Read the Following Statement:
- The next item on the agenda is the teacher negotiation strategy. This item may be discussed in an executive session only when an open meeting would have an adverse fiscal effect on the bargaining or litigating portion of the board. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC Section 44-04-19.1(9). The topic or purpose of this executive session is teacher negotiation strategy.

At this time, a motion would be in order to discuss the next item in executive session rather than in an open meeting. Is there such a motion? Mathias motioned, Hatcher seconded. Any discussion on the motion? All present polled (Bergan – absent), motion carried.

The executive session will be recorded. All members of the governing body are reminded to limit their discussion during the executive session to the announced topic. The prohibition on taking final action during the executive session does not apply to providing guidance or instruction to our negotiators.

We will now ask the members of the public who are attending the meeting to leave the room. We anticipate adjourning the executive session and reconvening the open portion of the meeting at approximately 8:30 AM.

The minutes will show that the executive session began at 8:03 AM and was attended by: Sherri Horsager, Phil Hatcher, Darin Anderson, Ryan Mathias, Josh Johnson, and Jackie Cordie.

Executive Session to discuss Teacher Negotiation Strategy

The minutes will show that the executive session was adjourned at 9:07 AM. The public has been invited to return to the meeting room, and we are now back in open session.

Next Meetings Date/Time:
- Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, June 22, 2026, at 5:30 PM

Adjournment:
- Time: Horsager declared the meeting adjourned at 9:08 AM

Signatures:

President Sherri Horsager

Business Manager

Date 06-22-26

May 2026 Bill List

Entity Name	Amount	Entity Name	Amount
ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	$ 206.00	MADISON WILHELMI	$ 30.00
ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	$ 198.00	MARCO, INC.	$ 2,455.28
AMAZON Capital Services	$ 3,179.49	MARCO, INC.	$ 2,443.28
BEK COMMUNICATIONS	$ 1,156.91	MIDAMERICA BOOKS	$ 567.83
BITZ TIRE & SERVICE INC	$ 160.60	MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	$ 2,679.41
BLAIR'S AUTO BODY, LLC	$ 624.50	MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	$ 465.72
BradyMartz	$ 232.50	MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	$ 1,809.97
Caden Belgarde	$ 30.00	NAPA AUTO PARTS, INC	$ 275.77
COLE PAPERS	$ 751.11	NASCO	$ 50.60
DACOTAH BANK	$ 9,545.65	ND ATTORNEY GENERAL	$ 78.00
DAKOTA BOYS & GIRLS RANCH	$ 6,900.00	ND CENTER FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION	$ 1,145.00
DECA INC.	$ 175.00	ND DECA	$ 900.00
DOCU SHRED INC	$ 59.66	ND SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION	$ 1,716.00
ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION DIV.	$ 722.12	NDSOS	$ 500.00
Elan Financial Services	$ 12,231.48	NORTHLAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES	$ 5,514.03
Ella Schmidt	$ 26.25	NOVA FIRE PROTECTION INC	$ 126.00
Essentia Health	$ 6,433.75	O'Reilly Auto Parts	$ 305.51
EVERSPRING INN AND SUITES	$ 341.88	PEARCE DURICK PLLC	$ 285.00
Fargo Freightliner	$ 1,243.13	Petro Serve USA	$ 8,860.99
FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	$ 1,992.84	PIZZA CORNER	$ 71.00
FEDEX	$ 207.00	POPPLERS MUSIC INC.	$ 447.56
GILLE AUTO	$ 450.00	Quadient - Leasing	$ 342.42
HANDY HARDWARE & RENTAL	$ 1,457.52	Quadient- Postage Funding	$ 1,000.00
HARLOW'S	$ 12,957.83	QUALITY ALIGNMENT AND BRAKE CENTER	$ 365.80
HIGH PLAINS WATER TREATMENT IN	$ 102.90	RJ'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC.	$ 23.90
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, LLC	$ 168.91	Sadie Olson	$ 26.25
Interstate Towing and Recovery	$ 881.37	Seon Design USA Corp	$ 504.00
JACQUELINE CORDIE	$ 624.00	SHEYENNE VALLEY AREA CAREER TECH	$ 107,827.58
Jessa Kock	$ 52.50	SHEYENNE VALLEY MULTIDISTRICT SP. ED.	$ 57,814.08
JOSTENS INC.	$ 22.75	SMITH LUMBER CO	$ 20.00
Kailee Nielson	$ 52.50	SOFTWARE UNLIMITED, INC.	$ 12,636.00
KATIE GORDON	$ 242.23	SOUTH CENTRAL ADULT SERVICES	$ 1,113.00
KEITH'S INC	$ 458.66	VC PUBLIC WORKS	$ 16,426.65
LEAF	$ 1,418.45	VC PUBLIC WORKS	$ 4,597.25
LearnWell	$ 1,300.38	VC TIMES-RECORD	$ 511.70
LEEVERS	$ 180.71	VERIZON WIRELESS	$ 513.74
LISA RINEHART	$ 134.41	VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER	$ 5,000.00
Loffler	$ 493.24	WESLEY KING	$ 549.41
Total:	$ 307,414.96		