

School Board Meets:

Board Discusses Hiring New Business Manager

By Mary Kilen

Stanley School Board held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 22. Highlights of the meeting included building updates, discussion on bus routes and discussion on hiring a new business manager.

Financial Reports

The board reviewed financial reports with Superintendent Tim Holte reporting that the district has put \$390,000 from the special reserve fund and \$375,698.98 from the technology donation into 9 month CDs at Bravera Bank at 4.2% interest as requested at last month's meeting. They left roughly \$6,000 in the treasury account to protect that account if they want to use it in the future.

Holte also reported that part of the expenditures for the Title V grant were not in the final budget. They have now added that \$32,107 in the budget. The board moved to adjust the budget to reflect those expenditures.

Building Updates

Superintendent Holte reported that work on the greenhouse is progressing. The issue with odor in the new addition seems to have been corrected. He reported there are still some items left to address in the new addition. They are also waiting for a few change proposals including the meat rail revisions, electrical changes for the greenhouse and credit for the countertops.

The street repairs were completed on the east side of the new addition. The district will submit a bill to the city for 50% of the costs as agreed upon by both entities.

Tuition Agreements

The board approved the tuition agreement for two students that live in the district and attend school in Powers Lake.

Transportation Committee

The transportation committee met. Deanna Kukowski attended with questions about how some of the routes work. There is one bus that goes through the Rian Addition twice. Her children were moved to this route and it has impacted how long they spend on the bus, including the possibility of up to an hour and a half if they ride after school.

She was wondering if there was a way to find another driver that would just handle the number of students in the Rian Addition. She pointed out that this could affect other students as well and felt it was unfair for any child to spend that amount of time on a bus. She was also concerned about how weather could make those children late for school in the mornings and even later at night.

The board discussed the need for more bus drivers, saying that they would need more drivers to add to the number of routes. The district will advertise for additional drivers and look at ways they can address some of the route concerns.

Building Committee

The building committee met to discuss options for either a skid steer or mini-payloader at the high school. As they looked at the speed, capacity and capabilities, the committee recommended upgrading the existing tool cat with a 330P JD skid steer at a cost of \$80,011.38. The budget had \$110,000 for equipment upgrades, which would leave money left to explore other options for more winter maintenance if necessary.

The board moved to approve the purchase. The tool cat will then go to the bus barn for use, with the elementary still having their machine.

Policy Recommendation

The policy committee met and had one new policy for consideration at this meeting. The board held first reading on policy ABBA Comprehensive Tobacco Policy. This policy will give administration more power to enforce laws and rules as relates to tobacco with clear definitions. Second reading and adoption of the policy will be held at the November meeting.

Banking Changes

The board moved to approve the necessary changes at both Bravera and BNC to update the list of approved signers for the district ac-

counts.

Unpaid Leave Request

The board moved to approve the unpaid personal leave request for Michelle Davis for November 14 through 16.

Financial Audit

Rath and Mehrer will be at the school on October 27 for the annual audit for 2024-2025 financial year.

Business Manager Position

The district has received applications to fill the open business manager position. The committee will go through the applications and narrow the list down to the top two or three candidates for the board to interview. There may be a special meeting to do this or it will be part of the next regular meeting.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Holte reported that he has been taking on duties from the business manager's office and is hoping they will fill that position as soon as possible.

Enrollment numbers were up one from last month at 787 with 450 students at the elementary school and 337 at the junior/senior high school.

Holte discussed the oil and gas revenue, saying that the district has received \$394,640.71. They would need to average \$113,000 per month to get to the \$1.3 million in the budget. Last year, they averaged \$112,000 and so far this year they are averaging \$98,000 per month. The district allocates \$454,000 of that income to the building loan repayment yearly.

Holte reported that the total of the school debt of \$13.543 million will go down as that building loan repayment is made. It will then remain unchanged until they make the principal payments in June.

Steffes Auctioneers was slated to return on Friday to take the last pictures with the auction set to go live in November.

Principal Reports

High School Principal Alecia Pulver reported on the flex time at the high school. She reported on a recent training where they learned about what Grand Forks is doing that is very similar to what Stanley has implemented this year. There are some differences that they may want to consider.

She said that as for the flex time, it is working well and that they are getting positive feedback on what is being done. They will meet next week and look at some of the things that Grand Forks is doing to see if those could also be implemented. However, she said they are on the right track and making a difference.

Assistant High School Principal Paula Brown said that a lot of time has been invested to make this the most effective method to help students succeed.

She also reported that administration has had some training on Infinite Campus, which will replace PowerSchool next year. She said they are learning more about the steps that will need to be taken to roll over for that transition.

Parent teacher conferences are underway with Brown saying they have been well attended.

Red Ribbon Week will be observed in Stanley Schools the last week of October.

Elementary Assistant Principal Jenn Tronset reported the first night of parent teacher conferences went well. The book fair is running along with those conferences. She said that they continue to research the math and reading curriculum with staff.

Tronset reported that Cognia surveys went out to staff and parents. Superintendent Holte said that next year is the district's accreditation external visit and they are working to do as much this year as possible to prepare for that.

Elementary Principal Brooks

Stafslieen reported the elementary Halloween Parade will be held on Friday, Oct. 31 at 1:30 p.m. They will watch the weather reports to see if that can be held outside.

North Dakota Weekly Gas Price Update

Average gasoline prices in North Dakota have fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.78/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 493 stations in North Dakota. Prices in North Dakota are 6.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 21.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 4.7 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$3.638 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the least expensive station in North Dakota was priced at \$2.34/g Sunday while the most expensive was \$3.79/g, a difference of \$1.45/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 2.5 cents in the last week, averaging \$3.00/g on Monday. The national average is down 10.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 7.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in North Dakota and the national average going back ten years:

October 27, 2024: \$2.99/g (U.S. Average: \$3.07/g)

October 27, 2023: \$3.53/g (U.S. Average: \$3.47/g)

October 27, 2022: \$3.60/g (U.S. Average: \$3.75/g)

October 27, 2021: \$3.18/g (U.S. Average: \$3.39/g)

October 27, 2020: \$2.04/g (U.S. Average: \$2.14/g)

October 27, 2019: \$2.55/g (U.S. Average: \$2.58/g)

October 27, 2018: \$2.83/g (U.S. Average: \$2.81/g)

He also reported the elementary held the bus evacuation drills.

Superintendent Holte also spoke about the transfer to Infinite Campus, saying that they will need to hold training for staff and they will follow up on how that process will occur.

October 27, 2017: \$2.45/g (U.S. Average: \$2.46/g)

October 27, 2016: \$2.24/g (U.S. Average: \$2.22/g)

October 27, 2015: \$2.38/g (U.S. Average: \$2.19/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices: Sioux Falls- \$2.61/g, down 8.0 cents from last week's \$2.69/g. Fargo- \$2.61/g, down 3.5 cents from last week's \$2.64/g. South Dakota- \$2.76/g, down 1.8 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.78/g.

"The national average saw a slight rise over the last week, as gas prices surged in parts of the Midwest after a refinery fire pushed wholesale gasoline prices sharply higher in the region," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "While the spike in prices in affected areas was significant, relief is likely in the weeks ahead as the situation stabilizes. For now, the possibility of a U.S.-China trade deal could lift oil prices on optimism that it would increase trade and reduce tariffs, potentially keeping the national average slightly above the \$3-per-gallon mark for a couple more weeks before slipping back below \$3 ahead of Thanksgiving."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

Mountrail Community Food Pantry November Hours

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry, located at the Memorial Building, 18 2nd Ave SE, is open Mondays, 12:30-3:00 p.m. Our door is in the southeast corner of the building. Please come no later than 2:30 p.m. so that the volunteers can go home at 3:00. Mountrail County residents are welcome to visit once a month. The Food Pantry will be open all Mondays in November. Please check out our Facebook page at Mountrail Community Food Pantry for closings due to weather this winter.

Watne Calls On Congressional Delegation To Act

North Dakota Farmers Union President Mark Watne directly challenged North Dakota's Congressional delegation to proactively engage in finding solutions to the economic situation family farmers and ranchers face, largely due to rampant input costs and reckless decisions by the Trump Administration.

"We are feeling the pain and being thrown to the sidelines to fail," Watne said of tariff wars that have decimated soybean and other export grain markets, and a recent announcement by President Trump to quadruple the amount of beef imported from Argentina. "Our cattle ranchers are finally getting a fair price for the work they do and the investments they've made, and the Administration responds by undermining that effort rather than investing in solutions that put more American beef on consumers' plates."

Calling it both a short-term and a fundamental long-range issue, Watne pushed North Dakota's congressional delegation to step up. "We appreciate their efforts, but it simply isn't enough to address the

multifaceted issues that are hitting us from all sides," he said.

Watne urged the delegation to educate the White House on production agriculture and share their plan for how the current situation benefits North Dakota producers, as well as identify long-term solutions instead of quick fixes.

"We need proactive solutions that include trade expansion, more value-added projects, biofuel development, infrastructure improvements, stricter antitrust enforcement, truth in labeling, and a vision to keep us ahead of the world in producing food, fiber and energy," said Watne. "Our protectionist approach will only make the U.S. a residual supplier to the world."

Also hanging over farmers and ranchers right now, Watne said, is the expiration of Affordable Care Act premium tax credits. "If those credits aren't extended, roughly seventy percent of farm families in North Dakota will see their health insurance premiums double. How much more can we take?" he said.

STANLEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
at 7:00 p.m.

in the MBH Executive Conference Room

AGENDA FOR SCH ANNUAL MEETING

1. Call To Order
2. Presentation and Approval Of The Minutes Of The Last Meeting and Of Any Special Meetings That May Have Been Held.
3. Presentation Of The Report Of The Board Of Trustees.
4. Transaction Of Other Business That May Be Properly Brought Before The Meeting
5. Election Of Members Of The Board Of Trustees
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Review and Approval of updated SCH Bylaws
9. Report Of The Hospital Auxiliary
10. Report Of The Mountrail County Health Foundation
11. Adjournment

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JOIN US FOR ONE
OF OUR UPCOMING
VISION NIGHTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
Online Meeting | 7:00-8:30 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
6161 Hwy 8, Stanley, ND | 7:00-8:30 PM

RSVP HERE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING- MOBILE FOOD PERMIT

Take notice that Carlos Delgado has applied for a Mobile Food Permit to allow a mobile food unit at 606 Westview Lane (A Plus Properties LLC property).

The public is hereby notified that the Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission will hear comments on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 4:35 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota. The Stanley City Council will then hear comments on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota.

All persons who would object to the mobile food unit should be present at the meetings or submit any objection in writing before the date of the meetings to Amanda Dennis, Planning & Zoning Administrator, PO Box 249 Stanley, ND 58784.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - REZONE REQUEST

Take notice that the A Plus Properties LLC has made a request to the Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission to change the use of the property from R4 Medium-Density Multi-Family District to R2 Single Family District.

The property is described as:

Lots 1-24 Block 001 Annabelle Stanley Rodeo

The public is hereby notified that the Stanley Planning and Zoning Commission will hear comments on the proposed zoning change on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 4:40 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota. The Stanley City Council will then hear comments on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota.

All persons who would object to the proposed zoning change should be present at the meetings or submit any objections in writing before the date of the meetings to Amanda Dennis, Planning & Zoning Administrator, PO Box 249 Stanley, ND 58784.

Amanda Dennis, Stanley Planning & Zoning Administrator



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You may be eligible for a Lifeline discount if you currently participate in a qualifying public assistance program or otherwise satisfy the federal income requirements. The Lifeline discount is limited to a single line of service per household. Eligible customers may apply the Lifeline discount to either one landline or one wireless number, but you cannot have the discount on both services. Other service providers may use terms other than "Lifeline" to describe the Lifeline discount. The Lifeline service may not be transferred to any other individual. Applicants may be required to present documentation of household income or participation in qualifying programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment, or may be barred from the program.

To apply for Lifeline service, you must use the National Verifier. To see if you qualify, go to: lifelinesupport.org. You can also print and mail a copy of the application. Once you have applied and been approved, call us at 800-417-3849. Lifeline is only available in limited areas in Iowa, New York, North Dakota and Wisconsin where Verizon Wireless has been designated to offer these programs.

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