Turtle Lake-Mercer October Meeting

October 21, 2026

6:00 P.M. Board Room

President Ruffo called the regular meeting of the Turtle Lake-Mercer School Board to order at 6:00 P.M in the Board Room on Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

Roll Call:

Present: Britton, Ravnaas, Ruffo, Sparrow, Wagner

Absent: None

Superintendent: Sheila Schlafmann

Principal: Kurt Zeibarth

Business Manager: Laura Fiedler

Guest: None

Consent Agenda: Consent agenda reviewed. Sparrow moved to approve the following consent agenda:

Minutes of the September 21st, 2026 regular meeting

Financial Reports

Payment Bills as presented.

Britton seconded the motion. Motion Unanimously Carried.

Student Outcomes – Reviewed NDA+ Interim Fall Data

Community Speakers: Comments on Current or Immediately Preceding Agenda Items – if any: None

Committee Meetings: None

2026-2027 Enrollment - October

Kindergarten	5
1st	7
2nd	10
3rd	8
4th	15
5th	7
6th	10
7th	22
8th	17
9th	19
10th	15
11th	22
12th	7
Total	164
K-16th	62
7th-12th	102
PreK	11

Administration Reports

Principal Report

September 23 – Kensley Ruffo, Cooper Kittler, and Zella Anderson! They are the newest members of the Turtle Lake-Mercer Honor Society.

Congratulations to Mrs. Leah Anderson, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Christensen, Mrs. Volochenko, and Mrs. Jessica Anderson. They all completed LETRS Training. This is another great way our teachers are preparing to give Turtle Lake-Mercer students a strong foundation in reading.

Mrs. Voth received a $3500 grant for the TL-M Library. Thank you to Mrs. Voth for always looking for grant opportunities to continue improving our library.

September 30 – Mrs. Schlafmann and I attended Title IX Training virtually

I attended the Region 2 Principal Meeting in Rugby on October 1

Senator Paul Thomas and Representatives Dick Anderson and Daniel Vollmer were in attendance.

We had some great discussions with our District 6 leaders about the challenges facing rural public education

All three have been invited to visit our school

October 2 – We had a great PD day with Marli Sayler. She helped us reflect on our mindset to be intentional and make a positive impact on the people around us. My "I am" statement from the PD was: I am 1)Steady 2) Proactive 3) Energized

TL-M Students brought in almost $900 in loose change to go toward Betty Flemmer and the family of Bob Holtan in support of Pink Night.

Congratulations to Hadley Brewster, Burke Fiedler, Lillian Kuntz, and Tanner Schneider! They attended the Surround the State in Song event.

Parent/Teacher conferences were well attended. If any parents were unable to attend and want to meet with teachers, please reach out to schedule a time to meet.

October 16 – Region 7 JH Honor Band – This is an awesome event that Mrs. Wyman, along with other area band teachers have put together!

We've had pretty great attendance for the start of the school year! Keep up the great work everyone!

ND A+ Interim 1 has been completed. The Data Team had a Data Day on October 9 to analyze results and make decisions for supplemental services for students. Interim 1 Data will be shared at the October Board Meeting.

Superintendent/Activities Director Report

CREA PD Report

Central Dakota Human Services Zone Meeting – October 6th

School District Financial Audit – Rath and Mehrer – October 5th

FFA Auction and Spaghetti Feed is November 8th at 5:30 PM

JH Region 7 Band Festival at TL-M on October 16th

Dessert Music and More is October 20th at 7:00 PM

SWAD Volleyball meeting – October 21st in Hebron

University of Mary Portfolio Review Day – October 27th

Fall Sports

JV/JH Football, JH Volleyball, Girls' Golf and EGBB are all complete

C/JV/V Volleyball still competing – regular season wrapped up October 19th

Pink Night was October 8th in Underwood

Districts are in New Salem this year starting October 29th

Regionals are held in Bismarck at BSC this year starting November 9th

Cross Country – state takes place October 23rd in Jamestown

V Football –

JH Girls Basketball begins October 19th with the first game November 5th

Winter schedules for basketball are ready

GBB practice begins November 16th

BBB practice begins November 30th

Ticket takers, shot clock, book, and announcer are all needed for home games

Officials are requesting a 6% increase in the 2027-28 school year and no increase in the 2028-29 school year.

Positive Reflection/Sharing –

October is National Principals Month – Thank you to Mr. Ziebarth for all you do and for making TL-M a great school to be a part of.

Discussion/Action:

Considered HVAC and Electrical Bids.

Ravnaas moved to approve bids from

RK Electric LLC and Kevin's Plumbing and Heating Inc. Wagner second the motion. Roll Call: Britton-Yes, Ravnaas -Yes, Sparrow-Yes, Wagner -Yes, Ruffo -Yes. Motion Unanimously Carried.

Supt. Evaluation – Due to Board President Monday, November 2nd. Process must be completed by November 15.

NDSBA Superintendent Evaluation CAAB-E1

Adjourned 6:58 P.M.

October Bill Review: Sparrow and Ruffo

Next Regular School Board Meeting: November 16th, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

APPROVED BILLS:

GENERAL FUND

AMAZON CAPITOL SERVICES 2,466.54; CENTRAL DAKOTA FRONTIER 2,757.88; CENTRAL DAKOTA LIBRARY NETWORK 47.77; CITY OF TURTLE LAKE 600.30; COAL CONVERSION COUNTIES ASSOCIATION 269.00; DAKOTA PRINTING & EMBROIDERY BY JAM APPAREL 27.00; ECKROTH MUSIC CO. 181.11; HARDWARE HANK 919.48; HARLOWS BUS SALES, INC 1,356.11; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT 25.83; J.P. MORGAN 1,208.24; JOY OF BEING - COACHING + MENTORING CO 5,300.00; JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD 2,036.00; KLEMISCH, NICK 600.00; KVAMME, KILEY 188.81; MAIN STREET MARKET 133.04; MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC 1,140.00; MARCO 2,479.27; MDU 287.31; ND ASSN SCHOOL BUS MGRS 50.00; ND CENTER FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION 1,374.00; ND COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL LEADERS 525.00; NDACDC-ATTN: ELIZABETH HAUGER 80.00; NORDAK NORTH PUBLICATIONS 794.60; NORTH DAKOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL 43.00; ONLINE DAKOTA INFORMATION NETWORK (ODIN) 89.82; OTTER TAIL POWER 2,613.65; PEPPER & SON INC, J.W. 299.91; POPPLERS MUSIC INC 27.40; RADISSON HOTEL BISMARCK 340.50; REGION VII MUSIC 300.00; RITTENBACH, KAMDYN 210.00; SATHREN, BRITTANY 98.00; SCHLAFMANN, SHEILA 112.70; SHERIDAN COUNTY AUDITOR 23.55; SLAGG, WAYNE 115.00; STAGE RIGHT 345.00; TRU COMMUNITY BANK 20.00; UNDERWOOD SCHOOL CENTRAL MCLEAN COOP 188.10; VOTH, KELLY 60.02; WEBER ELECTRIC INC 5,500.00; WEST MUSIC 215.72; WEST RIVER TELEPHONE CO 321.47; WESTERN LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY INC 111.92; WEX HEALTH INC. 71.00; ZANER-BLOSER REMITTANCE 409.75; Fund Total: 36,363.80

FOOD SERVICE

AMAZON.COM (DO NOT USE-USE CAPITAL SERVICES) 48.10; CAPITAL CITY RESTAURANT SUPPLY 344.02; J.P. MORGAN 78.95; MAIN STREET MARKET 190.41; ND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC 925.78; INSTRUCTION; RHOADS, DEBRA 169.70; STEINS'S INC 510.64; SYSCO NORTH DAKOTA, INC. 2,061.89; US FOODS INC 2,364.11; Fund Total: 6,693.60

ACTIVITY FUND

ACT 108.00; AMAZON CAPITOL SERVICES 86.80; BIRKEMEYER, BEN 111.20; BLUMHAGEN, DELWIN 125.00; COCA COLA REFRESHMENTS USA, INC 1,255.00; CONLEY, STEVE 450.54; DELZER, JAMES 300.76; ECKROTH MUSIC CO. 20.24; FLAAGAN, REID 111.55; GORDON, CHRIS 125.00; J.P. MORGAN 514.36; JACOB, CHASE 204.56; KINDSCHI, KATHY 151.20; KLABUNDE, WYATT 264.96; LUNA, SHAYDEN 111.20; MAIN STREET MARKET 394.36; MULKEY, GRYPHON 50.00; ND CENTER FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION 1,000.00; ND COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL LEADERS 12.00; ND FFA 735.00; ND STUDENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION 115.00; NORDAK NORTH PUBLICATIONS 172.20; RUFFO, SARAH 64.15; SANNES, ALICIA 80.00; SCHLAFMANN, SHEILA 15.00; SIGNS TODAY, INC 90.00; STEVE HARTMAN 181.24; US FOODS INC 401.60; Fund Total: 7,250.92

SPECIAL FUND

ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS 44.55; BEK COMMUNICATIONS INC 14.99; BEST BUY CREDIT SERVICES 9.05; DOLLYWOOD FOUNDATION 21.16; NEUMILLER, NICOLE 133.95; VERIZON WIRELESS 219.85; Fund Total: 443.55

(Nov. 26, 2026)