EPS Minutes Oct. 14, 2026

The Ellendale Public School Board met on October 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. with the following board members present: Michele Thorpe, Kristi Gilbert, Kaitlyn Kinzler, Val Wagner and Cresta Miller. Others present were Jeff Ringstad, Cindy Rall, Lana Norton, Brian Vance and Allison Radermacher.

Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed visitor Pam Cook and Jason Elliot. There were no communications or changes to the agenda. There was no public comment.

The consent agenda included the minutes, financial reports and bills as presented. Miller reviewed the bills and the following bills were presented for payment:

September Payroll DD 437-443, 7894-7960 Ck#16283-16296 $321,948.74
28136 LEAF 448.00 Copier/Printer Lease
28137 NDACDA 50.00 Audition Fee
28138 NDACDA 300.00 Audition Fee
28139 Quadient Finance 200.00 Postage
28140 Verizon Wireless 83.00 Hot Spot Billing
28141 Aberdeen Insider 132.75 26-27 Renewal
28142 Amplify Education 986.78 MS MClass Dibels
28143 Blumhardt Chevrolet 726.03 Repairs
28144 Samantha Carruth 60.90 Mileage
28145 Cenex Fleetcard 6,832.68 Gas/Diesel
28146 Central Business Systems 944.66 Managed Print Services
28147 Chad's Electric 4,143.18 Repairs/Parking Lot Lights
28148 Chris Waldner & Sons Construction 11,055.00 Balance Due Parking Lot
28149 Cole Papers 2,240.81 Supplies
28150 Dakota Business Solutions 299.99 Postage Meter Ink
28151 DPCU 527.27 Supplies/Memberships
28152 Dickey County Leader 486.00 Publishing
28153 DRN 1,708.92 Phone/Hosted Server
28154 Edgeley Public School 400.00 26-27 Fine Arts Dues
28155 Ellendale City of 1,958.70 Utilities
28156 Ellendale Grocery 2.99 eNurse Supplies
28157 Ellendale True Value 341.71 Supplies
28158 EPS Activity Fund 166.00 Background Check Fees
28159 Farmers Union Oil 2,303.36 Tires/Gas/Diesel
28160 Follett Software 213.93 26-27 Renewal
28161 Amy Goehring 119.00 Brainpop Renewal
28162 Inbody USA 14,500.00 Zero Hour Grant-Scale
28163 Elliott Construction 5,400.00 September Owners Rep
28164 JW Pepper 1,325.69 Music
28165 James River Special Ed 31,985.50 1st & 2nd Quarter Billing
28166 Jaymar Business 221.17 General Fund Checks
28167 Kelly Krege 150.00 Physical Reimbursement
28168 Mathcounts 168.00 Registration
28169 Ross Merkel 405.00 Sept Mowing
28170 Mertz Lumber 68.98 Supplies
28171 Microbric, LLC 95.00 EdRemotes
28172 Colette Middlestead 1,050.00 Tuition Reimbursement
28173 NDCEL 1,645.00 Trainings/Dues
28174 NDSBA 1,395.00 NDSBA Convention Reg
28175 NDUC 397.04 3rd Quarter Premium
28176 LeRoy Nelson 299.00 Coursework
28177 Olson's Pest Technicians 175.00 Monthly Service
28178 OpenEd, Inc 55,833.11 Student Tuition
28179 Performance Oil 154.13 Bulk DEF 28180 Petty Cash 31.32 Postage
28181 Quadient Leasing 174.63 Postage Meter Lease
28182 Allison Radermacher 39.00 Teacher Bundle Reimb.
28183 Jeff Ringstad 369.20 Mileage/Lodging
28184 School Specialty 43.88 Supplies
28185 SEEC 1,000.00 Membership
28186 Stage Partners 11.00 Script Sample
28187 Taylor Music 1,949.99 Music/Repairs
28188 Carrin Thorpe 360.00 Sept Mowing
28189 UND 150.00 Music Audition Fees
28190 US Foodservice 152.32 Supplies
28191 Michele Vance 46.46 Supplies Reimb.
20261002 MDU 6,404.11 Electricity
20261010 TMS 61.75 Monthly Fee
20261012 Farmers Union Service Assn 1,782.00 Auto/Liability Ins Updates
20261013 EPS 324.40 IC Payment Fees
Total $164,99.34

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It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Wagner to approve the items on the consent agenda. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on Students First Governance Goals. Wagner motioned, seconded by Miller to set the Students First Governance Goals as 3rd Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math and that 92% of graduates, calculated over a 5 year rolling average, be Choice Ready. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Wagner moved, Miller seconded, to establish a 5% annual growth target for third-grade reading for the Student First Governance Goal by the 2030–2031 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted yes.

Wagner motioned, Miller seconded to set a 5% annual growth with a goal of 80% by completion of their 8th grade

year for the Student First Governance Goal by the 2030–2031 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

EPS Spotlight:

- EHS band for playing in the Ellendale Days parade.
- Riggin S named honorable mention for player of the week in Class A Football
- EPS Homecoming court: Mackenzie G., Natalie S., Shaya S., Annah T., Michaela B., Ethan M., Landon S., Walker M., Drew T., John B., and Madeline T. and Eli W. as Queen and King. The Court also walked the halls of the Benedictine Living Center to share a nice welcome with the residents.
- Pack Your Bags students from TBC for being Friday lunch buddies in with the elementary students at EPS.
- Ellendale Vision Zero students participated in the Stronger Together Telethon.
- Mrs. Radermacher for coordinating the schedule and logistics for recess in the park for our K-5 students while the playground project is completed.
- Kinsey M for getting her 1,000th dig in VB.
- Eli W for placing 14th at the Regional Cross-Country Meet, earning All Region honors. The Cardinal boys' cross-country team has qualified a full team for the state meet.
- Kendra B was voted the District FCCLA Vice President.
- Mrs. Radermacher and Mrs. Rall were recognized National Principals month; thank you for your hard work.

Ringstad reported that playground improvements are underway, with new equipment and turf installation beginning the week of October 12. He provided an OpenEd update. Meetings have continued with staff groups. The district has seen an increase in students with IEPs and is working with the special education cooperative to secure additional support for students and staff. Fall state reporting is almost complete.

Radermacher's report highlighted improved attendance at both EES and MRC, the successful launch of the Lunch Buddies program, and completion of fall NDA+ interim testing. Students enjoyed a field trip to the pumpkin patch, and parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for October 22. She also reported on behavior health services and upcoming events.

Rall reported on upcoming events. Interventions are in place and adjustments to the 6–8 grade homeroom schedule to support consistent skill review. ND Counts training is underway for grades 4–8 teachers and principals. Infinite Campus implementation continues to present challenges due to limited direct support. Stage lights are currently operational but require a replacement part to improve stability.

Vance provided an AD report that included coaching openings and upcoming events.

Jason Elliott provided an update on construction progress.

Wagner provided an update on CTE; Thorpe, Miller, and Kinzler shared highlights from the NDSBA Convention.

Ringstad presented potential designs for bus graphics and building signage.

The Ellendale Public School District Wellness Center Community Use Agreement was reviewed. Gilbert motioned, seconded by Wagner to approve the agreement with the discussed changes to 3. Hours and Priority Use. On a roll call vote, Miller-No, Thorpe-Yes, Wagner-Yes, Gilbert-Yes and Kinzler-Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Wagner, to remove Val Wagner and add Kristi Gilbert as an authorized signer on the district's bank accounts. Motion carried.

Completed superintendent evaluations are due to Mrs. Thorpe by 11/1.

Miller motioned, seconded by Gilbert to approve RFP #28 as presented for the North Entrance Roof in the amount of $26,987. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Gilbert motioned, seconded by Kinzler to table action on the illuminated sign.

Wagner motioned, seconded by Miller to declare the designated weight room equipment as surplus property and authorize the district to sell the items through a competitive bidding process. Motion carried.

Gilbert moved, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of invoices from Co-op Architecture for $1,235.25 from the building fund and the Olaf Anderson Construction invoice for $238,194.00 using loan proceeds. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular School Board Meeting is Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Lana Norton, Business Manager
Formally Approved by the Board

(November 19, 2026)