Ellendale Public School Board Minutes, September 9 & October 14, 2026

EPS Minutes Sept. 9, 2026

The Ellendale Public School Board met on September 9, 2026 **at** 5:30 p.m. for the Public Tax Input Meeting with the following board members present: Michele Thorpe, Kristi Gilbert, Kaitlyn Kinzler and Val Wagner. Absent was Cresta Miller. Others present were Jeff Ringstad, Cindy Rall, and Allison Radermacher.

There were no visitors present for the budget hearing.

The Ellendale Public School Board met on September 9, 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, and Allison Radermacher.

Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed visitors Pam Cook, Barry Trottier and Jason Elliot. There were no communications. Consent Agenda Items 4. Surplus high school social studies curriculum was added to the agenda. There was no public comment.

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

August Payroll DD 425-428, 434-436, 7826-7860, 7878-7893 Ck#16273-16274, 16281-16282 $205,720.07
28094 281 Repair 2,066.67 Repairs/DOT Inspection
28095 Apple Inc 3,294.00 Preschool iPad
28096 John Beckius 150.00 Physical Reimbursement
28097 Central Business Systems 4,504.59 Managed Services/Overage
28098 Cole Papers 1,201.32 Custodial Supplies
28099 DPCU 3,048.23 Supplies
28100 Dickey County Leader 530.10 Publishing
28101 DRN 1,673.17 Hosted Server/Phone
28102 DRN 1,149.71 Playground Prep
28103 DRN 12,293.17 Camera Upgrades
28104 Robert Downie 800.00 Tune Piano's
28105 Ellendale City of 1,802.58 Utilities

28106 Ellendale True Value 1,149.40 Custodial Supplies
28107 EPS Activity Fund 40.00 Background Check
28108 Farmers Union Oil 863.31 Propane/Gas
28109 Farmers Union Service Assn 1,586.00 Mini-Bus Insurance
28110 Kasi Holm 147.00 Reimburse Coaching Course
28111 Elliott Construction 8,100.00 July/August Owners Rep
28112 Johnson Fitness & Wellness 4,725.00 Balance Due-Track Flooring
28113 LEAF 448.00 Copier/Printer Lease
28114 Ross Merkel 675.00 Mowing
28115 ND Center for Distance Ed 12,920.00 Online Coursework
28116 NDCEL 325.00 Workshop/Memberships
28117 NDHSCA 120.00 Memberships
28118 NDSOS 680.00 Dues/Training Fees
28119 NDSC 18,745.00 Full-Scale Threat Exercise
28120 ND Spelling Bee 99.00 26-27 Registration
28121 Oakes Truck & Trailer 2,228.20 Replace Windshield
28122 Olson's Pest Technicians 175.00 Monthly Service
28123 Online Dakota Information Network 158.67 26-27 Database Access
28124 Powerschool Group, LLC 1,605.00 IC Changeover
28125 Scholastic 594.25 News Renewal
28126 School Specialty 172.42 Craft Paper
28127 Scripps National Spelling Bee 206.50 26-27 Registration
28128 SEEC 270.00 ND Counts Reg.
28129 SRCTC 17,350.00 1st Qtr Assessment
28130 Subscription Services 277.69 26-27 Subscriptions
28131 Taylor Music 595.00 Repairs
28132 Carrin Thorpe 540.00 Mowing
28133 University of Oregon 500.00 SWIS License
28134 Verizon Wireless 58.00 Hotspot Billing
28135 Cenex Fleetcard 3,239.66 Gas/Diesel
20260902 MDU 5,296.32 Electricity
20260904 EPS 782.34 Online Payment Fees
20260910 TMS 61.75 Monthly Fee
Total **$117,247.05**

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

EPS Spotlight:

• Louis S, Annah T, Gage M, Urijah F, Drew T, Eli W, and Conner U helped with our Safety Training through NDSC. Paxton Gilbert and Sydney Engesser volunteered to handle the make-up.

• EPS SADD chapter for bringing in "AttaBoy" for an assembly. There was good music and a good message. A follow up evening concert was held with approximately 100 in attendance.

• EHS ranked #4 by US News &World Report

The Collaborative Bargaining as well as the Facility and Transportation committee minutes were in folders.

Ringstad reported on donations for the 2nds meal program, music, backpack program, transportation and farm-to-table meats.

Rall reported on student enrollments and changes to the middle school schedule. NDA+ summative adjusted scores were received and the district continues to work on improving the efficiency of the Infinite Campus implementation.

Radermacher reported on enrollment, attendance and new student numbers. Fall assessments are underway. She

shared upcoming events.

An AD report was given including information on the robot football field painter, coach openings as well as Hudl sponsorships.

Ringstad provided an update on construction progress.

Discussion was held on NDSBA convention attendance.

Ringstad presented information on the 26-27 budget. It was motioned by Wagner, seconded by Miller to approve the 2026-2027 expenditure budget in the amount of $6,522,663. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Barry Trottier provided an introduction and brief overview of the Students First Governance program in which the Board is participating. As EPS's coach, Barry shared information about the program's website and discussed the training day held on September 22.

Motioned by Gilbert, seconded by Miller to approve the open enrollment from Aberdeen School District with no transportation. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Wagner to levy the following amounts for the 2026-2027 school year: General Fund - $1,945,920.00, General Fund Board Discretionary - $324,270.00, Tuition Levy - $20,799.00, Miscellaneous Levy - $266,874.00, Building Fund - $97,281.00 and Sinking and Interest Fund - $360,200.00. Seconded by Kinzler. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Gilbert motioned, seconded by Miller to approve the certificate of compliance as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the EPS Fitness Center, including hours of operation, age limits, costs, fob access, and other procedures. The guidelines will continue to be refined before being brought forward for approval.

Miller moved, seconded by Gilbert, to approve payment of invoices from Co-op Architecture for $500.50 and Foerster Testing for $1,150.00 from the building fund as well as the Olaf Anderson Construction invoice for $413,539.20 using loan proceeds. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular School Board Meeting is Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Lana Norton, Business Manager
Formally Approved by the Board

(November 19, 2026)