

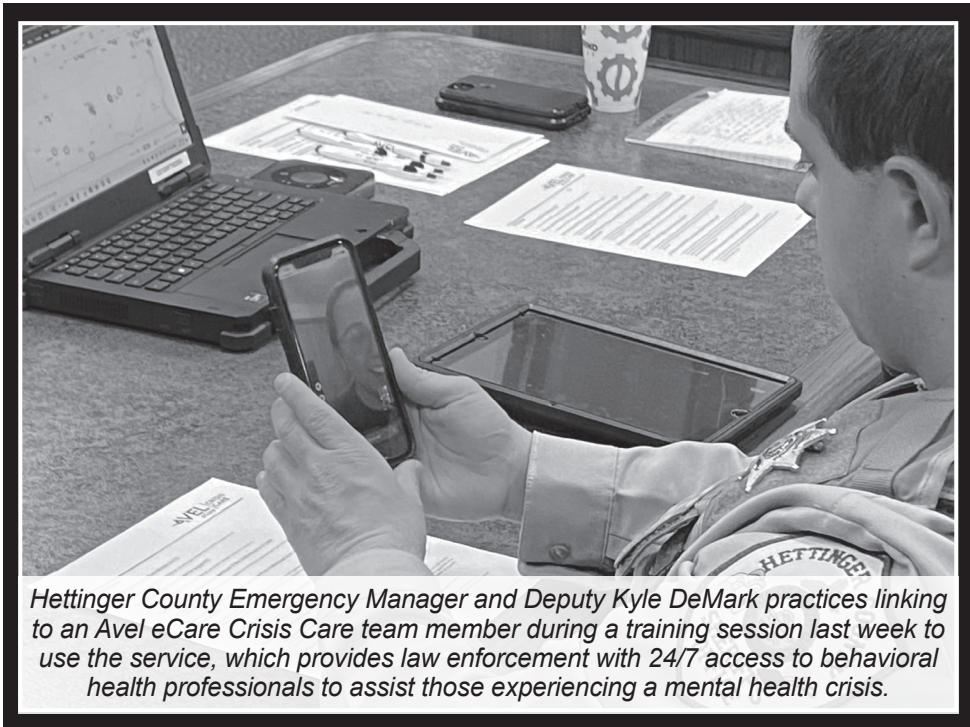
TOOLBOX

From Pg. 1

The crisis response team completes a safety assessment and follows up with law enforcement by phone or continued video session to discuss recommendations.

“A lot of times, individuals who are experiencing those mental health crises want to talk to someone, because they are going through a stressor of some sort or there’s some underlying issue. We’re asking them certain questions that are helping us better understand what is going on with that individual. Then, we are able to call back to that activating officer to give them a recommendation and provide some guidance as to could this individual remain in place or would they need to be placed on a hold. With our services right now, we see eight out of 10 people are able to remain in place. Those other two individuals commonly would be transferred to an emergency room for that next level of care,” Ihnen said.

“We’re also providing documentation back to the activating officer,” she said. If an individual is transported to a hospital that is using emergency services from Avel eCare, the care continues there. “We’re essentially providing continuity of care. So, when that individual is presented to that emergency room, they already know



Hettinger County Emergency Manager and Deputy Kyle DeMark practices linking to an Avel eCare Crisis Care team member during a training session last week to use the service, which provides law enforcement with 24/7 access to behavioral health professionals to assist those experiencing a mental health crisis.

we’ve been activated for a crisis assessment. A lot of times, that same crisis nurse is then getting on camera in the emergency room to continue to talk to that individual,” Ihnen said. Regardless of outcome, a notification is sent to the Badlands Human Service Center in Dickinson, who then contacts the individual within 24 hours to connect the individual with outpatient services on a voluntary basis. The goal is to help law enforcement with decision-making regarding care, she said. “It’s a service that brings professionals into the home. We’re not the professionals for that type of situation. We’re trying to make the best of a bad situation. But bringing someone in who is a professional would have a better result than just hoping these people want to cooperate with law

enforcement, because, at the end of the day, you’re dealing with a cop. If you’re not breaking the law, the cop is just there to try to help you. But a lot of people don’t want the cops to be there,” Christenson said. “This is about making them feel comfortable and safe in the situation,” he said. Avoiding the time and expense of not having to transport someone to the hospital when it’s not needed is a plus for the county as well, he said. The program also offers support for law enforcement with crisis incident stress debriefings. And language interpreters, including sign language, are available. The department doesn’t encounter these types of situations regularly, but Christenson doesn’t anticipate going six

months without one. Avel eCare has a total of 64 sites live in South Dakota, Nevada, Michigan, Montana and North Dakota. The service is new in North Dakota, with 10 live sites in southwestern North Dakota. “It’s nice being that we might be able to be influential in how it is rolled out across the rest of the state in the future,” Christenson said. “I’m excited to give it a try and see how we can use it. If any of the deputies are out there taking these mental health calls and they have the opportunity to have a professional interact with the person, so we don’t have to try and figure out how to make the situation better and we’re just there to keep the peace, I think they’ll be on board with that,” he said.

MASCOT

From Pg. 1

basketball co-op starting with the 2021-22 season and a girls basketball co-op between the districts for the 2022-23 season for grades 7-12. Playing as the Grant County/Mott-Regent (GCMR) basketball

teams without a mascot, the teams currently rotate Wildfire and Coyote uniforms through the season. During a meeting Oct. 16, the committee established a timeline to develop a mascot and team colors for the boys and girls basketball teams, so uniforms could be ordered in

March for the 2024-25 season. For this upcoming season, the teams continue to play as they have, as the GCMR basketball teams, rotating uniforms. Serving on the committee from the Mott-Regent School District are Lucas Greff, Garret Swindler

and Nathan Thomas. Committee members from the E/NL School District are Lamont Gaugler, Randy Fischer and Chris Zimmerman. The next committee meeting is tentatively set for 7 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12, to count the ballots.

CALENDAR

From Pg. 1

Students would not be required to stay the entire four hours and attendance on those days would be a parent’s prerogative. The district would request prior notification from parents about attendance on the achievement days, so teachers can plan, busing can be arranged and meals prepared. Busing would be provided at least for the first year, and a “grab-and-go” breakfast and

lunch would be available for students upon request. At noon, the students will be released and staff would remain to do other work. Those six achievement days in 2025 are Jan. 10, Jan. 24, Feb. 21, March 7, March 21 and April 4. Classes would be held Jan. 3 and 31, April 25 and in May 2025, but all other Fridays would be either achievement days or no class would be held during those months. From August through December, the calendar is more

traditional. The calendar meets the required number of instructional hours set by the N.D. Department of Public Instruction (DPI), with 1,100 hours for K-6 students and 1,086 for 7-12 students. Achievement Friday hours are above and beyond those hours. DPI requires 962.5 hours for K-6 and 1,050 hours for 7-12. During the informational meeting, Board Chairman Lucas Greff listed district concerns that led to the hybrid calendar, including staff and student burnout in the

spring. “The other trends we began to see were our new teachers not receiving the mentorship they were due, not from a lack of caring from our veteran staff, but from a lack of time available in the school day,” Greff said. In addition, requirements for professional education days for staff increased from 11 half-days to nine full days. “The above listed concerns initially made us look at how we could create more time in the day for teaching and learning,” Greff said.

NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL PROCEEDINGS

New England Public School District #9 Regular Meeting December 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the New England Public School Board was called to order on December 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., by Constance Jalbert. Board members present: Constance Jalbert, Amanda Seymour, Shawn Wolf. Board members absent: Daren Rafferty, Jeff Hewson. Also Present: Superintendent Scott Jung, Principal Sandra Ledbetter, Business Manager Tamara Volk. Amanda moved to approve the agenda as amended. Shawn seconded the motion. Amanda aye, Shawn aye, Connie aye. Motion carried 3-0. Shawn moved to approve the minutes from 11/13/23 regular meeting. Amanda seconded the motion. Shawn aye, Connie aye, Amanda aye. Motion carried 3-0. Amanda moved to approve board bills for payment. Connie seconded the motion. Connie aye, Amanda aye, Shawn aye. Motion carried 3-0. Activity Fund #7982 – 8054 18,089.00, Payroll #11113 – 11130 DD13507 – 13541 140,160.67, #11131 – 11146 DD13542 – 13590 119,700.09, #11147 – 11164 DD13591 – 13631 180,800.67 GF 44592 Acme Tools 45.06, 44593 BSN 46.00, 44594 D and E 157.74, 44595 Eckroth 76.09, 44596 HUB 8,840.45, 44597 HUB 122.62, 44598 HUDL 900.00, 44599 Marco 2,233.95, 44600 Mathcounts 50.00, 44601 New England Community Store 86.58, 44602 New England Insurance Agency 187.00, 44603 Pearce & Durick 662.50, 44604 Pineapple Appeal 315.57, 44605 Rebel Welding 50.00, 44606 Smart Computers 21.50, 44607 Topline 428.11, 44608 VISA 420.88, 44609 West River Health Services 220.00, 44610 ZEARN 2,500.00, 44611 Arrow Service Team 13,321.30, 44612 AVI 125.00, 44613 Energy Tech Systems 70.50, 44614 Steven Gussey 87.11, 44615 Kaine Hanson 60.00, 44616 Daryl Jung 32.75, 44617 Marco 2,233.95, 44618 Menards 208.04, 44619 MDU 6,098.05, 44620 New England Community Store 132.86, 44621 NEPS Hot Lunch 262.70, 44622 Rudy’s 142.00, 44623 Smart Computers 125.00, 44624 Topline 671.45, 44625 VISA 444.96, 44626 VISA 223.29, 44627 Wolf Body 4,255.40, 44628 Badlands 300.00, 44629 Bear Tech 74.04, 44630 City 1,542.00, 44631 Consolidated 358.17, 44632 Erika Stanley 892.50, 44633 Steven Gussey 150.31, 44634 Hettinger Co Treasurer 19,090.17, 44635 ITD 160.68, 44636 Literacy Resources 1,115.24, 44637 Menards 287.93, 44638 Midwest Investigation 37,843.00, 44639 NDCEL 250.00, 44640 New England Community Store 238.20, 44641 NEPS 2.60, 44642 Quality Quick Print 57.00, 44643 Runnings 15.16, 44644 Smart Computers 3,762.90, 44645 Swanke Pest Control 75.00, 44646 Tiger Heating 2,540.00, 44647 Topline 976.48, 44648 US Bank 6,750.00, 44649 VISA 1,473.39, 44650 VISA 833.50, 44651 WRSS 8,487.78, HL 7019 DPI 1,665.31, 7020 New England Community Store 152.03, 7021 New England Creamery 999.08, 7022 US Foodservices 1,796.43, 7023 New England Creamery 317.61, 7024 Arlys Schmidt 146.00, 7025 US Food-service 4,656.48. REPORTS 1.Business Manager Report a.Revenue and expenditure reports and balance sheets were presented. b.DPI payment for December presented. c.Auditor Letter of Engagement a.Amanada moved to approve Rath and Mehrer for the upcoming school audit on February 6, 2024. Shawn seconded the motion. Amanda aye, Shawn aye, Connie aye. Motion carried 3-0 2.Superintendent Report

a.Enrollment report - Down 3 students from last month, 251 current enrollments. b.Discussion on students who are in jeopardy for not graduating. c.Personnel Report i.A custodian was hired last week. Welcome to Frank Jorda, the new custodian. ii.We are in contact with a couple of teachers interested in teaching here next year. Discussion held on openings. d.E-Nurse contract will start after Christmas break. 3.Principal Report a.Food drive and winter clothing drive ends tomorrow. Participation has been amazing from students, staff and community. b.The Student Council held a bake sale for the animal shelter, Forever Full, with a total raised of \$350.00. c.12 days of Christmas celebrating students and staff. d.School will celebrate STAR growth; we will be having an elementary and high school party. Celebrating their success and hard work. 4.Transportation Report a.Skid steer – We have information on a skid steer with trade in it comes in at around \$44,000.00. b.Bus Cameras – installed and ready for use. c.Had a conversation with Midwest Investigation about them taking over our door locks and fobs. d.Bus #2 transmission has been fixed by Topline, Schmidt Transmission did not come are get the bus and fix the problem. Discussion was held on how to proceed. Superintendent Jung will contact the lawyer to draft a letter to Schmidt Transmission for the cost of these repairs, since Schmidt Transmission did not pick up bus #2 and do the repairs as they stated they would. 5.Budget/Finance a.ESSER III Annual Report – tabled until January meeting. 6.Negotiations a.No Report 7.Curriculum and Policy a.Exhibit KAAAA-AR – Tabled until next meeting. 8.Buildings and Grounds a.Core Facility Solutions Update – Superintendent Jung has been visiting with City Air about repairs on the new RTU’s. There is an issue with the new fan motors on the RTU’s. Core Facility Solutions will be taking over an representing the school for the repairs. 9.RES P a.January 2, 2024, paras will be attending a para training in Belfield. b.They reached out to Superintendent Jung and asked what our school needs. 10.RACTC a.Leadership Grant is running out. Schools may need to pay a share of this amount. b.Discussion held on classes. OLD BUSINESS 1.Nothing to Report NEW BUSINESS 1.Superintendent Purchasing a.Amanda moved to give the Superintendent the spending limit of up \$20,000.00. Shawn seconded the motion. Shawn aye, Connie aye, Amanda aye. Motion carried 3-0 2.Semester 2 Calendar Changes a.Discussion held on professional development and intervention days. i.Shawn moved to approve the changes to the 2023/2024 calendar for professional development. Amanda seconded the motion. Connie aye, Amanda aye, Shawn aye. Motion carried 3-0. 3.January Board Meeting a.Amanda moved to approve the board meeting be moved to January 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Shawn seconded the motion. Amanda aye, Shawn aye, Connie aye. Motion carried 3-0 Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Constance Jalbert, President

Tamara L. Volk, Business Manager