

PUBLIC NOTICES

approve School Board pay at \$75.00/ meeting. Haselue-yes, Ness-yes, Robinson-yes, Charging-yes, and Heger-yes. MC.

Charging/Robinson made a motion to approve School Board Committee Assignments as follows:

Building, Grounds, Transportation: Charging & Ness

Finance & Budget: Haselue & Robinson

Negotiations, Personnel, Administration, and Evaluations: Heger & Charging Policy, Curriculum, Multi-Tiered System of Support, Health/Safety: Robinson & Ness.

CMC: Heger.

Roll call vote: Charging-yes, Robinson-yes, Haseleu-yes, Ness-yes, and Heger-yes. MC.

Superintendent Benson presented the 2025-2026 budget summary.

Superintendent Benson touched base on cashing out one of the CDs in the special reserve fund and transferring the amount into the general fund. Superintendent Benson stated the goal is to cushion the general fund from the expenses of improving the school. With the cashing of the CD the district would then levy 3 mills into the Special Reserve fund for the 25-26 school year to replenish what was transferred. The amount of the CD would be \$60,000. This was approved at the June 26, 2025 meeting based on minimal fees withdrawing the CD.

Superintendent Benson requested that the Board transfer \$75,000 from the building fund to the general fund to assist in covering the costs of the parking lot repairs, FACS classroom renovation and the greenhouse construction. Haseleu/Charging made a motion to approve the transfer of \$75,000 from the building fund to the general fund. Roll call vote: Haseleu-yes, Charging-yes, Ness-yes, Robinson-yes, and Heger-yes. MC.

Superintendent Benson is requisition that the Board set the 2025-2026 budget hearing date between -October 7, 2025. Robinson/Haseleu made a motion to set the budget Sep 7, 2025hearing date to Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Roll call vote: Robinson-yes, Haseleu-yes, Ness-yes, Charging-yes, and Heger-yes. MC. Business Manager Hoffert will notify Mercer and McLean county of the budget hearing.

Superintendent Benson presented the board adopt the FFI NDSBA Electronics Board Policy. The Board decided to add additions to the policy and change verbiage. Superintendent Benson and the Policy Committee will schedule a meeting to make additions. Without the approval of the FFI NDSBA Elections Board Policy with additions the staff and student/parent handbook will be pushed to a special board meeting for approval. Superintendent Benson requested the board approval entering a contract with CREA to cover Business Manager duties. Robinson/Haselue made a motion to enter a contract with CREA. Roll call vote: Robinson-yes, Haseleuyes, Ness-yes, Charging-yes, and Heger-yes. MC.

Robinson presented information regarding NDSBA policy management on the benefits for the Board and the school. Superintendent Benson will reach out to Patty Verdouw.

President Heger discussed the investigation of Superintendent Benson in a variety of areas brought to the Board's attention. Heger worked collaboratively with an attorney with the NDSBA to assist with the situation.

1. Unauthorized payment of rental security deposits for some employees. These payments were made with District funds without the Board's knowledge or approval. These payments violate the Negotiated Agreement with the Underwood Education Association.

2. Authorizing information rental agreements with one or more employees without Board approval. This is an employee benefit in violation with our Negotiated Agreement with the Underwood Education Association and was made without knowledge or approval by the Board. Being the tenant on an employee's lease creates serious and unnecessary risk for the district. The leases need to be addressed as soon as time allows. Superintendent Benson should make sure rental property leases are maintained separately between the employee and the landlord, any lease listing the District as the tenant receives Board

approval, or that no employee reside in the rental property in which the district is the tenant without Board approval to sub-lease.

3. Unauthorized loan directly to an employment candidate without Board approval. Said loan was not approved

by the Board and involved unauthorized and inappropriate transfer of District funds. Although the loan was repaid by that individual, there are very few circumstances under which the Board would approve such a loan. Superintendent Benson must refrain from this type of behavior going forward.

President Heger recommended that the Board begin with directing Superintendent Benson to review the District's required policies and procedures including Cognia policy HCAA which discusses the District's required purchasing system, requirements, and thresholds, policy HCAE which discusses disbursement of monies, which only authorizes the Business Manager to dispense money in the District's name, HCAB which discusses bidding requirements and procedures, HEAA, HEBB, HEBB, and HEDB.

President Heger recommended that Superintendent Benson attend additional training focusing on the financial controls unique to Public Schools. The specifics will be discussed between Heger and Superintendent Benson.

President Heger also recommended that the Board issue a Verbal Reprimand to Superintendent Benson as he did not believe these were done with intent of personal gain but to do with the desire to recruit new employees to the District. The way these were conducted goes against policy which will not be tolerated behavior. If continued these items are disqualifying of employment if not corrected immediately.

President Heger made a motion to give Superintendent Benson a verbal reprimand as opposed to including a written in his personnel file. Haseleu/ Ness approved the verbal reprimand of Superintendent Benson. Roll call vote: Haseleu-yes, Ness-yes, Robinson-yes, Charging-yes, and Heger-yes. MC.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m. Next Board Meetings: Special Board Meeting Minute: August 1, 2025 at 8 a.m. Regular Board Meeting: August 29th, 2025 at 7 a.m. Budget Hearing: September 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. (Sept. 4, 2025)

Underwood School Special August Meeting

August 1, 2025

Present were Superintendent Todd Benson, Donald Robinson, Brent Charging, Amanda Haseleu, Sarah Ness, and Michael Heger. Others in attendance were Jessica Hoffert, Brenda Schantz, and Renee Fransen.

The meeting was called to order by President Heger at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

N/A

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Benson requested that the Board approve the recommendation to increase teaching years of service. Benson discussed how some teachers were not on the salary schedule and were not given their total years of experience. By increasing the salaries, it will get teachers to where they need to be. Superintendent Benson included recommended the following changes:

Tania Eichhorst; increase to 30 years; \$62,050 (cost = \$3250)

Taylor Eichhorst; increase to 5 years; \$44,150 (cost = \$500)

Whitney Jangula; increase to 5 years; \$44,150 (cost = \$500)

Angie Nagle; increase to 10 years; \$49,700 (cost = \$3050)

Julia Peterson; increase to 6 years; \$47,650 (cost = \$2000)

Terri Pleinis; increase to 30 years; \$59,050 (cost = \$7750)

Dusty Vaagene; increase to 18 years; \$51,300 (cost = \$1200)

Amanda Von Eschen; increase to 9 years; \$49,150 (cost = \$2500)

Total Cost = \$20,750.

Robinson/Haseleu made a motion to approve the salary increases. Roll call vote: Robinson-yes, Haseleu-yes, Ness-yes, Charging-yes, and Heger-yes. MC.

Superintendent Benson discussed how the finance committee met on July 31st to review the pre-lim levy structure. Overall the finance committee is happy with the budget even though there have been challenges with losing students and funding. The finance committee stated they will need to preplan as much as possible and look at the possibility of applying for gap funding in the amount of \$16,625.53.

Ness/Charging made a motion to approve the preliminary certificate levy and budget structure. Roll call vote: Ness-yes, Charging-yes, Haseleu-yes,

Robinson-yes, and Heger-yes. MC.

Superintendent Benson and the policy committee met to further edit the new FFI Electronics policy as presented in the Board materials.

Charging/Robinson made a motion to approve the FFI Electronics policy as presented. Roll call vote: Charging-yes, Robinson-yes, Ness-yes, Haseleu-yes, and Heger- yes. MC.

Ness/Haselue made a motion to approve the Student/Parent and Staff handbooks. Roll call vote: Ness-yes, Haseleu-yes, Robinson-yes, Charging-yes, and Heger-yes. MC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

(Sept. 4, 2025)

Riverdale City Council Meeting

August 7, 2025

The regular Riverdale City Council meeting of August 7, 2025 was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Taylor.

Present: Alex Taylor, Ken Skuza (via phone), Dave Fryda, Mike Dirk, Jerry Orth and Auditor Del Kolke

Orth moved to approve the consent agenda. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.

Guest: Travis Frey, McLean Mercer Regional Library Board Member, presented the final survey of Plaza Building I to enable transfer of the property. Dirk moved to approve the survey. Skuza seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Dirk provided additional estimates for Plaza Building II roof repair. Dirk moved to approve Twin City Roofing quote in the amount of \$129,995 for roof and parapet repair. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Preliminary budget figures were provided by Auditor Kolke. Fryda moved to approve with changes. Dirk seconded. Motion carried. Budget hearing is set for Monday, Sept. 15 at 6:00 with regular meeting to follow.

Reports: Taylor noted no updates have been received from city attorney on recent requests.

Fryda explained the recent interruption of power was due to trees in the 13.8kv line.

Dirk would like to sell surplus city equipment. The hay contract is progressing well.

Orth commented the trolly wheels on the water plant crane have been repacked.

Auditor requested a motion for funding approval. Fryda moved to pursue Flex Funding for Missouri Drive and 10th Street. Dirk seconded. Motion carried. City hall will be closed August 18-20.

Next meeting will be held Monday, September 15 at 6:30 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

GENERAL FUND BILLS AUGUST 2025

MDU 171.98; Blue Cross Blue Shield 2,270.76; Visa 97.88; WRT 232.14; Het-letved CPA 710.00; One Call Concepts 16.50; Kim Morast 150.00; Water Treatment Facility 10,419.47; J-S Sanitation 713.00; Acme Tools 54.39; Workforce Safety & Insurance 250.00; Menards 406.00; Braun Intertec 6,904.50; Olson Electric 346.00; Swanston Equipment 2,592.08; Roger Keller 2,800.00; Cottingham Insurance 1,640.00; Circle Sanitation 5,757.75; Master Fire & Safety 705.00; Otter Tail Power 1,495.50; Share Corp. 554.13; ND Dept. of Health 27.00; Cottingham Insurance 4,873.00; Verizon 101.36; City of Riverdale 6,695.99; Bank of North Dakota 72,380.00; ND PERS 1,289.09; IRS 5,641.29; MRES 27,293.22

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY BILLS AUGUST 2025

Visa 562.26; AE2S 282.50; ND Chemistry Lab 93.21; Zenon 1,102.83; Hawkins 5,329.98; City of Riverdale 1,157.60; Kone Cranes 1,685.40; Ferguson Waterworks 180.06; Eggers Electric Motor Co. 91.24; WRT 205.52; Verizon 15.08

(Sept. 4, 2025)



Region 4 Standings

Class A 11—Man Football Sept. 1, 2025	Region Overall	
	Region	Overall
Dickinson Trinity	2-0	2-0
Killdeer	2-0	2-0
Central McLean	1-0	2-0
Southern McLean	1-0	2-0
Bowman County	1-1	1-1
Shiloh Christian	1-1	1-1
Beulah	0-2	0-2
Hazen	0-2	0-2
Heart River	0-2	0-2

Last Week's Results - Aug. 28	
Killdeer 41	Beulah 34
Aug. 29	
Southern McLean 44	Hazen 6
Dickinson Trinity 46	Shiloh
Christian 27	
Bowman County 43	Heart River 12
Central McLean 54	South Prairie/Max 0
This Week's Schedule - Sept. 5	
Beulah at Heart River	(at Belfield)
Killdeer at Hazen	
Bowman County at Southern McLean	(at Washburn)
Central McLean at Dickinson Trinity	

FOOTBALL

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the road, South Prairie-Max continued to battle on every snap, fighting for yards and looking for ways to establish rhythm.

The team's effort on defense helped limit some of Central McLean's big-play potential, and their persistence on offense provided valuable in-game experience for a roster that continues to build chemistry early in the season.

For Central McLean, the shutout victory served as a confidence boost heading into a difficult stretch of their schedule.

Now at 2-0 overall and 1-0 in Region 4, the Cougars have put themselves in a strong position among the region's top contenders.

Their next game, however, is a major test: a road matchup against Dickinson Trinity on Friday, September 5.

The Titans are also 2-0 and tied for the region lead, making the contest one of the week's most anticipated. Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m.

South Prairie-Max,

meanwhile, will regroup and prepare for their next challenge.

The Royals will travel to Ray on September 5 for a matchup against Ray-Powers Lake, a 1-1 team also looking to climb the Region 3 standings.

For SP-M, the game offers an opportunity to reset and chase their first win of the 2024 campaign.

The current standings highlight just how competitive Class A football has become across both regions.

In Region 4, Dickinson Trinity, Killdeer, Southern McLean, and Central McLean all sit unbeaten, while in Region 3, Bottineau and Des Lacs-Burlington hold 2-0 records of their own.

For Central McLean, the task will be to sustain their momentum.

For South Prairie-Max, it will be about turning lessons from early losses into growth.

Both teams remain very much in the thick of their respective regional battles as the season pushes forward.

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Farmers Choice McClusky Field Day Event!

Join us for a day of insights, technology, and tools to help grow your 2026 season.

Hear from industry leaders, explore new tech; such as drones, and Baseline RX demos, then enjoy lunch on us! Thursday, September 11th, 10am to 1pm at our McClusky location; 462 3rd Ave NE, we welcome you to take part in our field day.

Those who attend will receive a complementary 10% off soil testing booked during the event as well as a free gift for completing your Golden Advantage application on-site!

Call (701)-833-7263 to RSVP today!



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