

New Salem-Almont August School Board Meeting

By Richard Mendoza
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The New Salem-Almont School Board met on Monday, August 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the New Salem-Almont High School conference room for the Annual Board Meeting. All members of the board were present except Meagan Miller. President Austin John called the meeting to order by beginning with the pledge of allegiance.

The board reviewed the consent agenda, which included minutes from the annual board meeting and the transportation committee meeting on July 22, 2025, bills, and the financial report. Vice President Monica Reiner-Pletan motioned and Kendra Hoovestol seconded to approve the consent agenda. All voting aye, the motion passed.

In unfinished business, Superintendent Brian Christopherson provided an update to the board on the 2025-2026 School Budget, which provided information on adjustments made to the preliminary budget and projected revenue. A September meeting to finalize the budget will occur.

In new business, President John provided updates to the board on the transportation committee meeting that took place in July. John shared that students are travelling further for events and competitions and during the winter. He noted that the school's primary activity bus was increasingly adding miles driven due to longer travel and that another Driver's Education bus is needed due to policy that learning bus

drivers cannot practice on buses older than 10 years. Tammy Gilstad motioned and Jackie Lausch seconded to have the transportation committee form an Ad-Hoc Committee for the purchase of an activity bus. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Business Manager Annie Dukart and Supt. Christopherson provided additional updates to finances as part of the new business. Dukart shared that the school owns one Certificate of Deposit (CD) and will return in September with options and rates to potentially purchase more CDs after the school budget is approved.

In administrative reports, Supt. Christopherson shared that Mr. Feiring and Ms. Kunz won the CTE Director's Award for program of the year and that Mr. Slag won the 2025 Administrator of the year by the Communication, Speech, and Theatre Association of North Dakota (CSTAND).

Christopherson also provided short updates on CPR and de-escalation trainings, school sport practices being interrupted due to an influx of weddings in the city auditorium, in-town bus routes, facility assessment, defensive driving and the community center committee.

Principal Olson provided the administrative report for the high school to the board, giving a brief demonstration to the board on the Yondr pouches that students will be given. Olson noted that he will be in contact with other schools who are using the pouches to monitor their effectiveness as the school year continues.

Olson shared that there are six new students at the high school, four of which are returning to the district. Olson noted that there are no new teachers at the school, however there is a new part-time counselor and new student teacher.

Principal Bennett provided the administrative report for the elementary school to the board, giving updates on the effectiveness of kindergarten bootcamp, which had 25 of 31 kindergartners attend. Bennett shared that open house and meet the teacher was also a success and that the school received many donations of school supplies, allowing 10 elementary and around four or five junior high/high school students to fill up their backpacks with supplies. She also provided notice that the grading scale change has been introduced to parents and will work to have a video explaining the change placed online soon.

A short discussion occurred over the September 15 meeting date for both the public and regular school board meeting.

Reiner-Pletan motioned and Hoovestol seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voting aye, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be a public meeting on September 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., with the regular board meeting to follow at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Conference Room.

Note: The September 15 date is subject to change and approval. A notice will be made available should a change occur.

New Salem-Almont Public Schools

Monday, September 1

NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 2

Breakfast: French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Lunch: Corn Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Fruit, Veggies, Milk

5/6 – Girls Basketball at Ft. Yates at 4:00 p.m. – Bus Leaves at 1:50 p.m.

8th Grade Volleyball at Ft. Yates at 4:00 p.m. – Bus Leaves at 1:50 p.m.

7th Grade Volleyball vs. Kidder County at 4:00 p.m.

C/JV/V – Volleyball vs. Kidder County at 5:00 p.m.

Ticket Taker: Mrs. Austin
Concessions: Junior Class (Miss Heupel/Mrs. Yoney) & Holstein Booster Club

Wednesday, September 3

Breakfast: Long John, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Lunch: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Scalloped Potatoes, Fruit, Veggies, Milk

Varsity Girls Golf at Hazen at 10:00 a.m. – Bus Leaves at 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 4

Breakfast: Sausage, Toast, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Lunch: Taco Grande, Nachos, Fruit, Veggies, Milk

5/6 Girls Basketball Pictures Jr. High/C/JV – Volleyball vs. Strasburg at 5:00 p.m.

Ticket Taker: Mrs. Deutsch
Concessions: 8th Grade (Miss Mackay) & Holstein Booster Club

Friday, September 5

Breakfast: Pop Tart, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Lunch: Hamburgers, Fruit, Veggies, Milk (PICNIC)

Varsity Girls Golf at Flasher at 10:00 a.m. – Bus Leaves at 7:40 a.m.

Jr. High Football vs. Standing Rock at 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Football vs. Standing Rock at 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Takers: Mr. Deutsch, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Feiring

Concessions: Student Council (Mrs. Austin & Miss Heupel) & Holsteins Boosters

Saturday, September 6

4-6 Football Jamboree at Flasher at 10:00 a.m. – Bus TBA

5/6 – Girls Basketball at Center at 10:00 a.m. – Bus Leaves at 9:00 a.m.

Varsity Volleyball at Hazen/Beulah Tourney at 8:00 a.m. – Bus Leaves at 6:30 a.m.

MEALS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PARENT INFORMATION
Picture Order Info: the school does not have order forms, pictures will be shipped directly to your home
Please sign up for one event to help with concessions.

Mandan Public Schools

Monday, September 1

No School- Labor Day
JV Football game vs.

Bismarck High School at Starion Sports Complex 5:30 p.m.

JV 2 Boys Soccer game vs Bismarck Century at Cottonwood Soccer Complex 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 2

Elementary Breakfast- Bacon Cheese Scramble, cereal, oatmeal, cinnamon toast, fruit, juice, milk

Elementary Lunch- turkey tidbits, mashed potatoes and gravy, dinner roll, cucumber slices, fruit, deli roll-ups, cubed cheese, cheeses-its

Middle/ High School Breakfast- frittata wrap, long john, oatmeal, cereal, toast, benefit bar, juice, fruit, milk

Middle/ High School Lunch- chicken patty on a bun, cheesy French bread, fries, hamburger, grab n' go salad, sub sandwich

Lewis & Clark Elementary- PTO meeting in Library 6:00 p.m.

Varsity Girls' Golf Tournament at Heart River Golf Course 10:00 a.m.

Varsity Boys' Tennis Match vs Minot North at the Mandan Middle School tennis courts 4:00 p.m.

Volleyball vs Minot Magicians at Mandan High School 9th B Match and Sophmore Match at 4:30 p.m. 9th A Match and JV Match at 5:45 p.m. Varsity Match at 7:00 p.m.

Boys' Soccer Match at Williston, JV at 5:30 p.m. Varsity at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 3

Elementary Breakfast- breakfast pizza, cereal, cinnamon toast, fruit, juice, milk

Elementary Lunch- chicken and waffles, baked beans, celery sticks, fruit, chicken ranch wrap

Middle/ High School Breakfast- McBrave biscuit, pancakes, oatmeal, cereal, toast, benefit bar, juice, fruit, milk

Middle/ High School Lunch- Spaghetti, meatballs in sauce, garlic toast, burrito bowl, pizza, salad, sub sandwich

High School Picture Day
Mary Stark Elementary-School Spirit Day

Thursday, September 4

Elementary Breakfast-

banana split boat, cereal, oatmeal, cinnamon toast, fruit, juice, milk

Elementary Lunch- pasta and meat sauce, garlic toast, lettuce salad, pea pods, fruit, build your own pizza

Middle/ High School Breakfast- bagel bites, long john, oatmeal, cereal, toast, benefit bar, juice, fruit, milk

Middle/ High School Lunch- chicken parmesan, chicken alfredo, pasta, corn, cinnamon roll, hamburger and potato wedges, salad, sub sandwich

Varsity Boys' Tennis Match vs. Bismarck High School at Tom O'Leary Courts 4:00 p.m.

JV 2 Boys' Tennis Match vs. Legacy High School at Mandan Middle School courts 4:15 p.m.

9th Grade Football vs Bismarck High School at Hughes Educational Center 4:30 p.m.

Volleyball vs Bismarck Century at Mandan High School Sophomore game at 4:30 p.m. JV games at 5:45 p.m. Varsity game at 7:00 p.m.

9th grade Volleyball at Bismarck Century 5:00, 6:15 and 7:30 p.m.

JV Boy's Soccer Match at Watford City High 5:30 p.m.

Friday, September 5

Elementary Breakfast- pancakes, cereal, cinnamon toast, fruit, juice, milk

Elementary Lunch- cheesy breadsticks, corn, broccoli, fruit, yogurt, flavored bread, sun seeds

Middle/ High School Breakfast- breakfast pizza, yogurt and bagel, oatmeal, cereal, toast, benefit bar, juice, fruit, milk

Middle/ High School Lunch- French toast, sloppy joe on a bun, hashbrowns, pizza, salad, sub sandwich

Varsity Girls' Golf Tournament at Vardon Golf club 10:00 a.m.

Varsity Boys' Tennis Match vs West Fargo at Mandan Middle School 12:00 p.m.

Varsity Girls' Swimming Duals vs. Williston at Mandan Aquatic Center Pool 4:00 p.m.

Varsity Boys' Tennis Match vs Sheyenne at Mandan Middle School 4:30 p.m.

Varsity Football Game vs Faro Shanley at Starion Sports Complex Football Field 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 6

Varsity Girls' Swimming Invitational at BSC Aquatic and Wellness Center 10:00 a.m.



Recipe: Giant Almond Butter Blossoms

From the kitchen of: Joy Zimmerman

Ingredients:

- 3 + ½ C. all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 + ½ tsp. salt
- 1 C. unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 C. creamy almond butter, or peanut butter at room temperature
- 1 C. light brown sugar, packed
- 1 C. white sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 7 (1.55 oz.) Hershey's bars

Garnish:

- 6 Tbsp. white sugar
- sliced toasted almonds

Directions:

Arrange oven racks in the upper third and lower third positions. Preheat oven to 375°. Line two sheet pans with parchment paper and set aside.
In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt.
In a bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle, mix together the butter, almond butter, brown sugar and sugar on medium speed until creamy. Add in the eggs, one at a time, add the vanilla. Reduce speed and add the dry ingredients, mix until combined.
On a plate put the 6 Tbsp. of sugar. Scoop out heaping ¼ C. size balls; roll them in the sugar to coat. Place on the baking sheets - putting 6 cookies on each sheet. No need to flatten the balls.
Bake for 6 minutes, then switch the racks and rotate the pans. Continue to bake until lightly browned around the edges.
Remove from oven, put a chocolate bar half, pressing firmly so the cookies crack around the edges. Return to the oven and bake for another two minutes.
Sprinkle some of the almonds on top and let cool on the pans for five minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

To submit a recipe, email to: djzimm@westriv.com
or mail: Joy Zimmerman, 7670 57th St. SW, New Leipzig, ND 58562