

EPS Enhancement Plan explained

QUESTION #1

Shall Ellendale Public School District No. 40 of Dickey County, North Dakota, issue its general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,355,000 maturing within a maximum of 20 years, resulting in an estimated additional millage of 14.56 mills, equal to \$14.56 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for the first taxable year, for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other funds available, to construct an addition to the existing facility, and to otherwise improve, renovate, remodel, construct and equip school property and make site improvements to school property.

Yes.....

Ballot as drafted by the School board (sample)

No.....

By Michele Thorpe, School Board President

Ellendale Public School board held their first public meeting on Monday, January 13 to present and discuss the proposed \$4.4 million expansion project. Approximately 50 constituents welcomed the conversation and provided positive feedback for the project. Priorities of the project include not only improving the safety and security of students and faculty, but also preservation of the existing school, enhancing student learning, improving the physical and mental well-being of all and promoting generational relationships. Included in the plan are a campus-wide fire suppression system, necessary upgrades to an outdated intercom system and replacing the current noncompliant ADA weight room and locker rooms.

The board is proposing an addition that will contain an ADA compliant fitness classroom and center, athletic and public locker rooms along with a wrestling room that had been originally planned in the 2010 north athletic facility center addition, however was removed due to budget restraints. The proposed fitness center will be utilized for K – 12 education, athletics and is planned as a community center for all public members.

In analyzing Ellendale Public School's current situation, it was noted that aggressive efforts have been made consistently over the last several years to maintain and upgrade current facilities. In 2022, Consolidated Construction, Inc was hired by the district to do a comprehensive analysis of the school district's current facilities and several recommendations were highlighted. Priorities included critical upgrades to improve needs affecting education, life safety, environmental changes and prevention of more costly future repairs.

Over the past several years, the district has invested in upgrades including, but not limited to, roof repairs encompassing the high school, library and multipurpose room, new windows in the high school, a complete kitchen upgrade

(including a new sewer and plumbing), fire suppression and new kitchen equipment, the addition of a standalone three-stall garage built by the high school construction classes over the last two years, replacing classroom furniture allowing flexible seating and renovations to the north gym sidewalk which reduced ice hazards.

During the meeting, the public was reminded that the 2010 bond will be paid off this June, 2025, and the request for a new bond dollars is proposed to keep current tax mills unchanged. It is anticipated with Applied Digital becoming a financial support in the community, that taxpayers may see a reduction in their tax payments as valuations increase.

The board discussed their respect to being conservative as to miscellaneous mill levy dollars over the past 15 years. North Dakota public schools have had the opportunity to access an additional 12 mills per year to be utilized for public school education, however Ellendale school board has only requested 3 of the 12 mills from years 2016–2024. It was explained that if Ellendale Public School would have taken full advantage of public tax dollars, the school could have drawn an additional \$2,434,819 versus the \$509,288 over the past 10 years. The School board valued public taxpayers over the last 10 years, thus foregoing almost \$2 million while still maintaining their budget, incorporating the above upgrades and updated necessary Math and Language Arts curriculum at K – 8 and Maple River Colony.

Co-op Architecture representatives Spencer Sommers and Tom Oster presented the proposed Fitness Center addition that is currently in the finalizing-design phase. Also present was Ann Wuollet, director from PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, who discussed the impact on taxpayers and a valuation tool that will be available to the public on the EPS webpage.

The public is encouraged to reach out to any of the school board members or school administration with any questions, concerns, or input.

Bill proposes repeal of immigration office

(continued from page 1)

The long-term care industry, for example, has for years had a chronic shortage of qualified nurses, with few in the educational and training pipeline.

Facilities with strict federal staffing requirements coupled with rising costs for travel nurses have also looked abroad, often dedicating years to that process.

Nikki Wegner, president of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association, said the association hadn't yet taken a position on HB 1493. She said the Office of Legal Immigration had been helpful to members since its formation.

"Some providers have never gone through the immigration process before, and this office helped them understand how it works and explore different pathways to recruit foreign-born talent," Wegner said.

The Office of Legal Immigration officially started up in July 2023 with two full-time staffers.

It only gained momentum in the past several months as far as working directly with companies and communities that need foreign workers, according to Katie Ralston Howe, director of the workforce division at the ND Department of Commerce.

So far, OLI efforts with companies resulted in six foreign workers moving to the state.

Around another 20 companies are currently in the process of recruiting workers from abroad through assistance provided by the OLI, Ralston said.

Of those 20, more than half are long-

term care facilities, she said.

Companies in agriculture, the food supply chain and manufacturing, as well as oil and gas industries and education, have all shown interest in foreign workers, Ralston said.

If the OLI is repealed, the current two full-time staff members and the expertise they've gained would go with it, she said.

"We would not be able to continue serving North Dakota employers and communities in the way we are now, because we wouldn't have the expertise. We'd have to start from scratch, and we wouldn't have the capacity because our workforce division is already operating in a lot of different areas already," Ralston said.

Sen. Jeffery Magrum (R-Hazleton), who has signed on to the effort to repeal the OIL, said he opposed the creation of the office during the past legislative session and doesn't see the need to create more state agencies.

"Government getting involved in attracting people has never been successful," Magrum said. History would argue with that, since the American west was largely settled by immigrants through the Congressional Homestead Act, signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862.

Magrum said spending state tax dollars to attract workers is unfair to companies who do it themselves, like his ranching and plumbing businesses.

"We had to cultivate and find our own people, and here they want to take our money and find employees for some-

body else," Magrum said.

Businesses drive hiring

Derrick Gross, executive director of the non-profit CATCH, helps place and integrate foreign families in rural communities across the state. He said employers are driving the foreign worker mix, not the other way around.

"It's the employers who are desperate," Gross said.

Gross said his group has helped with the soft skills of community welcome and integration on several occasions when employers brought in foreign workers themselves.

"I tell rural communities, you need to be thinking about this and preparing to welcome these families, because your local employers are going to hire them because they (employers) are desperate," Gross said.

This has included attracting foreign families who were in the country with proper legal paperwork for work authorization, Gross said.

"We're going to need immigrants to fill our medical jobs and our engineering jobs, and companies across North Dakota, they're bringing people already," said Leah Hargrove, executive director of Bismarck Global Neighbors, which also works to welcome and integrate immigrants.

"Businesses are going to bring in workers because they'd rather do that than collapse," she said. It comes down to helping these workers succeed, thrive and fit in, or losing them to a community where they feel welcome, Hargrove said.



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DICKEY COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA FEBRUARY 18, 2025 • 8:00 am

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/dccommfeb18> and a password of Commis or dial 1-301 715 8592 and enter Meeting ID# 884 3582 3141 and use the password of 014939

- 8:00** Commission Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
Additions or Revisions to the Agenda
Approve Vouchers
Approve Financials
- 8:30** Personnel Time
- 9:00** DRN Phone Maintenance Agreement
- 9:30** Abatement Hearing
- 9:45** Quarterly Pledge Report
- 10:00** Highway Department

OTHER BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD
ADJOURNMENT

ANYONE WISHING TO HAVE ITEMS ON THE DICKEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE AT 349-8303 BEFORE 9:00 AM MONDAY, ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE MEETING DATE. To request an auxiliary aid or service please contact the Dickey County Title VI Coordinator at 349-8303 at least 5 business days before the scheduled meeting. Dickey County Courthouse, Human Services, Health District and Highway Offices are closed on February 17th in observance of President's Day.

Public Notices (more on page 4)

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 26, 2024

The Ellendale Public School Board met in special session on November 26, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Val Wagner, Cresta Miller, Jeff Goehring, Kristi Gilbert and Michele Thorpe. Lana Norton, Allison Radermacher, Cindy Rall and Chip Sundberg were also present.

Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. There were no visitors or communications.

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion was held on the upcoming superintendent recruitment and hiring process. It was motioned by Wagner, seconded by Goehring to follow the NDSBA guidelines and start the process on our own with the application deadline set as January 30, 2025 and

interviews to be conducted February, 2025. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Wagner motioned, seconded by Miller to remove Construction Supervisor from the table.

It was motioned by Wagner, seconded by Miller to advertise for a Construction Supervisor with the application deadline set as December 13, 2024. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 a.m.

Lana Norton, Business Manager Formally Approved by the Board
(February 13, 2025)

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 11, 2024

The Ellendale Public School Board met in regular session on December 11, 2024 7:00 p.m. with the following board members present: Michele Thorpe, Val Wagner, Kristi Gilbert, Jeff Goehring and Cresta Miller. Others present were Chip Sundberg, Lana Norton, Cindy Rall and Allison Radermacher.

Pledge of Allegiance.
Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. She welcomed visitor Pam Cook. There were no changes to the agenda. Cards of thanks were shared from Mya Glynn and iState Truck Centers.

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

- November Payroll DD 328-331, 6531-6593 Ck#15983-16000 \$ 323,294.39
- 27089 Blumhardt Chevrolet 980.10 Bus Services
- 27090 Cenex Fleetcard 4,557.87 Gasoline & Diesel
- 27091 Central Business Systems Inc 397.58 Managed Print Service
- 27092 Chad's Electric 654.00 Basketball Lift Install
- 27093 Cole Papers Inc 1,772.68 Custodial Supplies
- 27094 CREA 4,905.74 ECare Nurse Health Service
- 27095 DPCU 4,090.77 Supplies
- 27096 Dickey County Leader 273.22 Publishing
- 27097 Ellendale City of 1,902.30 Utilities
- 27098 Ellendale Public School 193.16 E-Funds Fees
- 27099 Ellendale True Value 82.74 Custodial Supplies
- 27100 EPS Activity Fund 191.25 Regs/Background Cks
- 27101 Everspring Suites 571.80 Lodging
- 27102 Farmers Union Oil Co 411.39 Propane, Gasoline & Diesel
- 27103 Follett School Solutions Inc 1,312.16 Single Site Hosted Service
- 27104 James River Special Education 25,075.18 3rd Qrt Assessment
- 27105 Jaymar Business Forms, Inc 204.65 Checks
- 27106 Jr Repair 300.00 Stump Grinding
- 27107 LEAF 448.00 Copier/Printer Lease
- 27108 McGraw-Hill LLC 46.01 Workbooks
- 27109 Kayla Musick 10.00 Finger Printing Fee
- 27110 Napa Central 213.99 Scrubber Battery
- 27111 ND Center for Distance Education 2,539.00 Coursework
- 27112 NDCEL 300.00 Conf Reg.
- 27113 North Dakota Attorney General

- 39.25 Background Check
- 27114 Olson's Pest Technicians 175.00 Monthly Service Fee
- 27115 Pitney Bowes 200.00 Postage-Reserve Account
- 27116 Quadient Finance 200.00 Postage
- 27117 Region VI Fine Arts 200.00 24-25 Fine Arts Dues
- 27118 SRCTC 6,496.25 Summer SAE Payment
- 27119 SRCTC 750.00 SE Emerging Tech Fee
- 27120 SRCTC 12,756.00 3rd Qrt Assessment
- 27121 Time Management Systems 50.40 Monthly Service Fee
- 27122 US Foods Service 128.27 Supplies
- 27123 Verizon Wireless 443.13 Hot Spot Billing
- 27124 Z's Fresh Market 309.97 Janitorial Supplies
- 27125 Paul Mahler 150.00 DOT Physical Reimb.
- 27126 DRN 1,516.20 Phone/Managed Services
- ACH MDU 6,800.58 Electricity
Total \$ 81,648.64

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

Wagner gave a report on the SE Region Career and Tech Center. Goehring, Wagner and Thorpe reported on the last Collaborative Bargaining Committee meeting.

The quarterly progress tracker was completed for the Be Legendary Board Training. The objectives were rated as follows:

- Objective 1. The board has adopted student outcome goals – Advanced, 15 points
- Objective 2. The board has adopted goal progress measures aligned to each student outcome goal - Advanced, 15 points
- Objective 3. The board has adopted a monitoring calendar for student outcome goals and student outcome goal progress measures – Proficient, 16 points
- Objective 4. The board has structured operations for success – Proficient, 12 points
- Objective 5. The board has adopted guardrails – Advanced, 15 points
- Objective 6. The board promotes active teamwork and advocacy – Proficient, 18 points

EPS Spotlight:

- Congratulations to the One Act Play for placing 8th in the State One Act Competition.
- Congratulations to Aiden T for receiving Superior Acting Award at the state competition.

Thank you to those who donated to the Cardinal's Care Fund/No Shave November fundraiser and especially the 3rd grade class for raising the most money. The total for the entire campaign was approximately \$365.00.

Congratulations to Ivan C., Damian C., Joe K., and Max T for All Region Football Team. Honorable Mention football players included Greg F., Eli K., Tucker H., and Drew T.

Congratulations to Joe K. for 1st Team All State for Class A Football and 2nd Team Ivan C.

Congratulations to Ethan M., John B., and Ava H., for making the University of North Dakota's Honor Band and Choral festival!

Nice work by Mrs. Blondo and her students for a fine concert.

Thanks for all of the students' art and to Jamie for displaying it at the Opera House over the weekend!

Congratulations to the boys wrestling teams for their first place team win at the KC Tournament.

Sundberg provided an update on the west garage, referendum public informational meeting dates and district vacancies.

Rall updated the board on the status of teacher evaluations, the results of the Student Climate and Culture Surveys, semester testing schedules, next semester updates and student attendance information.

Radermacher provided information on the completion of staff evaluations, elementary report cards, behavioral health services, winter testing and the Artist in Residence program.

Vance provided a written report that included coaching openings and winter sport participation information.

Wagner motioned, seconded by Goehring to approve paying the CO-OP Architecture invoice in the amount of \$22,275.00 out of the building fund. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Sundberg contacted ND DPI regarding the Return to School and Continuity Plan to see if the district needed to continue to update/approve the plan. No updates need to be made to the plan, a copy of it will need to stay on file at the school until the auditing period has closed.

Gilbert motioned, seconded by Goehring to approve the holiday staff appreciation as budgeted. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

CO-OP Architecture Meeting, Tuesday, December 17, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Special School Board Meeting, Friday, December 20, 2024 7:30 a.m.

Next School Board Meeting is Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Lana Norton, Business Manager Formally Approved by the Board
(February 13, 2025)

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2024

The Ellendale Public School Board met in special session on December 20, 2024 at 7:30 a.m. with the following board members present: Val Wagner, Cresta Miller, Kristi Gilbert and Michele Thorpe. Absent was Jeff Goehring. Lana Norton, Allison Radermacher, Cindy Rall and Chip Sundberg were also present.

Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. There were no visitors or communications.

Pledge of Allegiance

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Wagner to approve the amended Proposal for Design Services with CO-OP Architecture that includes an updated payment timeline. On a roll call vote, Thorpe-yes, Wagner-yes, Miller-yes and Gilbert-abstain. Motion carried.

The most current design meeting notes and renderings were shared with the board.

It was motioned by Wagner, seconded by Miller to approve the 24-25 Consolidated Application as presented by Sundberg. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Gilbert, seconded by Miller to approve the Ellendale Public School Grade Span change to K-8 and 9-12 beginning the 2025-2026 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 a.m.

Lana Norton, Business Manager Formally Approved by the Board
(February 13, 2025)

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BOWLING

Reva Bohnenkamp	171
Jamie Diemert	169
Emily Orwig	162

Emily Orwig	434
Elaine Scallon	425
Reva Bohnenkamp	419



Ellendale Landfill Hours
The hours (weather permitting) for the inert landfill from December 1 to March 31 are:

