

Prevent chemical damage to woody plants this growing season

Spring has sprung, and as many North Dakotans begin their yard work, now is the time to review the chemical control options for lawns. Considerations should be taken about what and how to apply herbicides; many weeds that homeowners want to control are broadleaf plants, but it's important to keep in mind that woody plants like trees and shrubs are also broadleaf plants. These herbicides may not outright kill ornamental woody plants but they can damage and stress them, leading to secondary insect and disease infections. Over time, repeated chemical damage can even kill the largest of our trees.



Evidence of herbicide drift on a tree in a lawn.

One common issue seen is through the use of "weed-n-feed" or granular fertilizer mixed with herbicide. While there is generally no drift involved when using these, the chemical can still be absorbed into woody plants through their root systems. Most labels suggest not to apply within the drip line of a tree or shrub, but many times the root system extends beyond the drip line. This should be taken into consideration during application.

Runoff is another potential issue. Heavy rains or over-irrigated soil can cause the herbicide to move somewhere that it was not intended to go. While granular herbicides are common, insecticides can also be granular and may damage plants if applied incorrectly.

When referring to pesticides, the label is the law. Applicators should only be applying the correct amount of chemical stated on the label to the correctly identified type of plant. This also includes guidelines for the number of applications that should be made in a season. Too many applications or incorrect rates can cause buildup of chemical in the soil, leading to damage to the plants that can last for months or even years.

Keeping these considerations in mind, other methods of weed control may be preferable. Alternative methods include increasing the size of mulch rings around plants, hand pulling weeds, or using ground covers that naturally prevent weed growth by growing thick and crowding them out.

While North Dakota had a relatively mild winter season this year, damage from deicing salts may start to appear. The main remedy for this is to leach

out the salts early in the spring with water or not using deicing salts at all.

Organic mulch like wood chips placed around plants can help with preventing salt damage. Some plants naturally have a higher tolerance level to salts; placing these near walkways that expect traffic and the use of salts in winter can help mitigate damage as well. Purdue Extension's publication about salt damage has science-based information on how to reduce the effects of salt on landscape plants.

A perfect weed free lawn may not be as important as the shade a tree provides. If you are seeking help with your trees and shrubs, homeowners can submit the Sick Tree Assistance Form to receive assistance from the North Dakota Forest Service's Forest Health team.

Club to meet

The Esmond Golden Age Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Esmond Fire Hall. The next meeting is May 12.

Minnewaukan RFPD mtg. dates

The Minnewaukan Rural Fire Protection District holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the new fire hall in Minnewaukan. Meeting dates for 2026 are May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15. Times and dates are subject to change.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING LEEDS SCHOOL BOARD December 17, 2025

A regular meeting of the Leeds School Board was held Dec. 17, 2025. In attendance: Kirkeide, Jacobson, Herman and Engstrom; Manley; Haagenson; Eberle; and Strand (LEA). Tuftte was absent.

Jacobson called meeting to order at 7:02 a.m. with the option of the Pledge.

Principal's Report -- MTSS overview, finals week, holiday concert moved due to weather.

Superintendent Report -- Infinite Campus update, February education summit.

Kirkeide motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Herman and carried.

GENERAL FUND

Admin Partners	\$100.00
Advanced Business	
Methods	2,266.04
Airgas USA, LLC	368.40
Amazon.com	2,229.82
BC Farmers Press	160.74
CenDak Cooperative	1,808.71
Dollar Tree Stores	25.80
Farmers Union Oil Co.	139.26
G & R Controls	43.84
IntegratEd	1,087.00
Johnson's Plumbing Service, Inc.	236.00
Mathcounts Foundation	160.00
NAPA Autocare Ctr.	13.96
ND Council of Educ.	
Leaders	94.00
ND Dept. of Transportation	5.00
ND Telephone Co.	316.85
NDBDA	10.00
NDSBA Legal Direct	292.50
NFHS Learning Ctr.	13.99
Nybo, Daniel	19.33
Otter Tail Power Co.	4,079.88
Paulson Supply, Inc.	214.32
Popp Binding & Laminating, Inc.	156.29
Poppler's Music, Inc.	59.99
Postmaster	17.52
Runnings	1,429.25
Stein's, Inc.	1,401.82
Strand, Renae	100.31
Super Teacher Worksheets	375.00
Teachers Pay Teachers	1.80
Time Management Systems, Inc.	37.53
Vestis	291.25
Walmart Store #1695	391.61
Worsham, Amanda	5.00
Fund Total	17,952.81
FOOD SERVICE FUND	
DPI School Nutrition Program	\$408.64
ND Health & Human Services	170.00
Sysco ND, Inc.	6,382.67
US Foodservice, Inc.	3,352.25
Fund Total	\$10,133.56
STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND	
Amazon.com	\$82.96
Bernatello's Pizza, Inc.	6,818.00
CenDak Cooperative	245.67
Creative Impressions	1,079.18
Dollar Tree Stores	68.80
Earl's Bar	79.56
Foster, Greg	202.00
Grande, Daniel	216.00
Haagenson, Beth	53.98
Jostens, Inc.	242.80
Marcellias, Lucas	263.60
Myfruitsale.com	4,992.75
ND Coffee Roastery	1,050.00
ND Council of Educ.	
Leaders	115.00
Northern Bottling--DL	779.67
Ripplinger, Susan	75.00
Stuber, Sheri	15.90
Walmart Store #1695	918.56
Fund Total	\$17,299.43

Discussion was held on next year's school calendar.

Two buses were sold on auction.

Third is pending an updated title.

Board retreat is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2026 after regular meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2026 at 7 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 a.m.

Becky Haagenson Business Manager

Jeff Jacobson President

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING LEEDS SCHOOL BOARD January 21, 2026

A regular meeting of the Leeds School Board was held Jan. 21, 2026. In attendance: Kirkeide, Jacobson, Herman, Tuftte and Engstrom; Manley, Haagenson and Strand (LEA). Eberle was absent.

Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m. with the option of the Pledge.

Principal's Report -- Mid-year assessments and FastBridge testing starting; spring math and reading showing good gains; MTSS review and goals for second semester; student engagement survey; review of upcoming student events.

Superintendent Report -- Elementary scored in top 10% of schools; kitchen cooler repair.

Herman motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Tuftte and carried.

GENERAL FUND

Advanced Business	
Amazon.com	\$1,539.74
Braun, Susan	42.56
Bravera Bank	61.00
CenDak Cooperative	4,160.43
DL Service Repair, LLC	594.00
Ecolab Pest Elimination Division	148.47

Methods	\$1,133.02
Airgas USA, LLC	432.94
Amazon.com	679.46
Apptegy	5,800.00
BC Farmers Press	91.26
Brady Martz and Assoc., P.C.	7,770.00
CenDak Cooperative	4,288.99
CEV Multimedia	1,575.00
City of Leeds	985.77
Deluxe Checks	442.59
Dollar Tree Stores	19.53
Earl's Bar	41.60
Farmers Union Oil Co.	486.29
Haagenson, Grant	40.00
Herman, Brayden	40.00
IntegratEd	1,087.00
LR Special Education	21,113.26
Larson, Sutton	40.00
Leeds Community Ctr.	225.00
Leeds LEA	180.00
Leveers County Market	83.19
Lightspeed	34.00
Manley, Jeff	24.00
ND Telephone Co.	320.43
NFHS Learning Center	13.99
Otter Tail Power Co.	5,282.51
Paulson, Dustin	160.00
Poppler's Music, Inc.	62.62
Quilt Essentials	55.89
Region IV Speech, Music & Drama	200.00
Rugby High School	182.00
Seesaw	1,050.00
Stein's, Inc.	832.99
Time Management Systems, Inc.	37.53
Twotrees Technologies	1,821.10
Fund Total #1695	375.35
Fund Total	\$57,007.31
CAPITAL PROJECTS (BUILDING)	
UMB Bank, N.A.	\$2,138.65
Fund Total	\$2,138.65
HVAC BOND ISSUE	
US Bank	\$2,152.50
Fund Total	\$2,152.50
FOOD SERVICE FUND	
DPI School Nutrition Program	\$27.41
Sysco ND, Inc.	4,144.75
US Foodservice, Inc.	4,487.01
Fund Total	\$8,659.17
STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND	
Aanstad, Luke	\$160.00
Activity Fund Leeds School	444.70
Amazon.com	153.11
Dollar Tree Stores	75.47
Earl's Bar	143.74
Follman, Shelby	20.41
Grande, Daniel	160.00
Hillsboro Public School	190.00
Holiday Inn of Bismarck	159.84
Klier, Dean	248.20
Kraft, Tim	160.00
LR Curling	500.00
Lehmann, Jerad	202.00
Leon's Building Center	32.76
Makeeff, Lance	160.00
McConnell, Kyle	160.00
ND FFA Assn.	330.00
Dakota Prairie School Dist.	75.00
Northern Bottling DL	765.50
Northernland Community & Technical College	1,250.00
Olson, Richard	290.00
Olson, Richard	290.00
Privratsky, Scott	160.00
Scholastic Book Fairs	1,401.96
Stuber, Sheri	500.60
Sysco ND, Inc.	182.71
Thom, Robert	368.65
Univ. of Jamestown	1,500.00
Walmart Store #1695	420.02
Fund Total	\$10,504.67

Discussion was held on 2026-27 calendar.

Spring parent/teacher conferences date might change back to Tuesday due to no events being scheduled.

Next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 18, 2026 at 7 a.m.

Board retreat to commence following regular meeting adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 a.m.

Becky Haagenson Business Manager

Jeff Jacobson President

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING LEEDS SCHOOL BOARD February 20, 2026

A regular meeting of the Leeds School Board was held Feb. 20, 2026. In attendance: Kirkeide, Jacobson, Herman, Tuftte and Engstrom; Manley, Eberle, Haagenson and Lauren Follman (LEA).

Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7 a.m. with the option of the Pledge.

Principal's Report -- Spring sports update; winter assessment completed; during PD/early out will review assessment data; DPI engagement survey upcoming; March events: NESV visit, prom and pre-K screening.

Superintendent Report -- New superintendent of schools information.

Kirkeide motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Tuftte and carried.

GENERAL FUND

Amazon.com	\$1,539.74
Braun, Susan	42.56
Bravera Bank	61.00
CenDak Cooperative	4,160.43
DL Service Repair, LLC	594.00
Ecolab Pest Elimination Division	148.47

Farmers Union Oil Co.	682.63
Garden, Inc.	99.98
Gas Stations	128.42
Gimkit	59.88
Harlow's	707.56
Heggerty Learning	134.06
IntegratEd	1,563.40
Internal Revenue Service	635.75
LR Special Education	50,890.17
Leon's Building Ctr.	249.02
Mac's, Inc.	583.36
ND Telephone Co.	564.50
Newby's Ace Hardware	274.98
NFHS Learning Ctr.	13.99
North Country Heating & AC	517.50
NE Education Services Cooperative	3,250.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	4,866.76
Paulson Supply, Inc.	166.80
Poppler's Music, Inc.	121.04
Shell	73.24
Stein's, Inc.	1,262.38
Time Management Systems, Inc.	38.70
US Postal Service	30.51
Vestis	349.50
Walmart Store #1695	362.70
Winfield Collection	45.10
Zoom	319.80
Fund Total	\$74,539.93
FOOD SERVICE FUND	
DPI School Nutrition Program	\$508.66
Sysco ND, Inc.	3,993.35
US Foodservice, Inc.	1,939.48
Fund Total	\$6,441.49
STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND	
Aanstad, Luke	\$160.00
Amazon.com	127.48
Anna's Cocina	33.42
Bravera Bank	60.79
Brown, Kent	263.60
CenDak Cooperative	293.39
Decorated Wearables	1,103.17
DL Greenhouse	161.25
Eden Brothers	109.60
Elfman, Mark	203.50
Jostens, Inc.	819.60
Leveers Co. Market	42.07
ND FCCLA	300.00
Northeast Education Services Co-op	1,250.00
Northern Bottling DL	1,747.70
Poppler's Music, Inc.	203.35
Threeirons, Darwin	160.00
Walmart Store #1695	468.74
Walmart Online	73.44
Fund Total	\$7,581.10

Tuftte motioned to approve all open enrollment applications. Seconded by Engstrom and carried.

The board reviewed the 2024-25 audit.

Tuftte motioned to approve June 9, 2026 as the next school board election date. Seconded by Kirkeide and carried.

Kirkeide moved to approve submission of the NDCC 15.1-06-04(5) waiver application seeking authorization to implement a four-day school week, with the understanding that approval of the application does not constitute approval of implementation. The motion was seconded by Tuftte and carried.

Continued discussion will occur following approval from DPI; the board will hold a subsequent vote to determine whether to move forward.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2026 at 7 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

Becky Haagenson Business Manager

Jeff Jacobson President

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING LEEDS SCHOOL BOARD March 11, 2026

A regular meeting of the Leeds School Board was held March 11, 2026. In attendance: Kirkeide, Jacobson, Herman, Tuftte (by phone) and Engstrom; Manley, Eberle, Haagenson and Christine Bubach (LEA). Visitors: Isabella Engstrom and Olivia Follman.

Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7 a.m. with the option of the Pledge.

Principal's Report -- Congratulations to the Lady Wildcats on their third-place State B finish! NE Region AD meeting; state assessment training; 14th--prom; Scrubs Camp, Grayson Larson attending state Mathcounts, congrats!

'Made in Maddock' items wanted for silent auction

As part of Maddock's 125th anniversary festivities, organizers are preparing a "Made in Maddock" silent auction to highlight the creativity and skills of current and former community members.

Organizers are currently gathering commitments from anyone interested in contributing. Items of interest include handmade items, baked goods, artwork, photography, crafted pieces, services, and other contributions that showcase the talent rooted in Maddock. Items will not be collected until closer to the event, but early sign-ups help with planning.

Those wishing to participate can contact Erin Becker (Erin.L.Markestad@gmail.com or 701-230-9407) or Karlee Oksendahl (Karlee.oksendahl@dlschools.org).

Superintendent Report -- Discussion of new AD bylaws; one-way/parking update; legislation updates; ND superintendent of schools visit in May.	
Kirkeide motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Herman and carried.	
GENERAL FUND	
Ace Hardware	\$405.00
Advanced Business	
Methods	1,133.02
Airgas USA, LLC	717.52
Alfred Publishing	30.00
Amazon.com	993.40
Barendt, Malayna	30.00
BC Farmers Press	75.40
Braun, Susan	31.14
CenDak Cooperative	4,253.33
City of Leeds	1,079.70
Dacotah Paper Co.	1,500.00
Follman, Stacy	30.00
Gas Stations	26.61
Geller, Bridget	30.00
Gerrells	48.00
Herminio Guzman	1,425.00
IntegratEd	1,091.20
Internal Revenue Service	647.87
Johnson's Plumbing Service, Inc.	116.00
Kahoot	47.88
Larson, Breanne	30.00
Leon's Building Ctr.	37.71
Lindgren, Natalie	30.00
Manley, Jeff	35.11
NCB Electric, LLC	132.50
ND Telephone Co.	314.00
NDSBA Legal Direct	292.50
North Country Heating & AC	756.46
Otter Tail Power Co.	4,900.37
Poppler's Music, Inc.	398.05
Portraits By Misti	49.00
Postmaster	70.05
Quilt Essentials	148.10
Region IV Music	105.00
Rugby Greenhouse	21.00
Sanford Health Occup. Medicine--Bismarck	129.00
Start 2 Sew	176.74
Stein, Tiffany	865.46
Subway	150.97
Swanson, Matthew	185.00
Taub Museum of Art	160.00
Time Management Systems, Inc.	38.70
Tractor Supply Co.	166.00
UCB Insurance Agency, Inc.	5,878.00
Vestis	2