

Signs it's time to replace a pool liner

Pools provide endless hours of backyard recreation. A cooling oasis on a hot summer day, pools also serve as a relaxing place to simply float. Pools can endure for years, but they require routine upkeep. The liner of a pool may deteriorate over time, and homeowners will need to be on the lookout for signs a liner is no longer secure. The life expectancy of a pool liner varies based on a range of variables. According to Leisure Industries, an above-ground pool liner can last from six to 10 years, while an in-ground liner can last from 10 to 20 years. Maintaining the pH level of the water and overall water chemistry can help a liner endure, as can having a liner that's a proper fit for the dimensions of the pool. The following are some signs a liner has seen its last pool party.

• **Cracks, tears or holes:** Obvious deterioration in the pool liner is a sign it will need to be changed. Holes or cracks in the liner can eventually lead to leaks.

• **Fading colors:** UV damage and poor water chemistry can leach the color right out of the liner, leaving it pale and unsightly. If you notice the color of the pool liner has faded dramatically, you'll likely want to replace it.

• **Unexplained water loss:** If you constantly have to add water to the pool to maintain the proper level, it's likely losing water through a hidden tear or fading seal. Small punctures can be patched, but multiple leaks indicate a liner has lost its integrity.

• **Sagging or stretched appearance:** A loose, sagging liner is unattractive and can be susceptible to tearing. As vinyl ages, it shrinks and loses its elasticity. This tends to occur once the liner passes the 10-year mark, say pool experts.

Generally speaking, replacing a pool liner is not a do-it-yourself endeavor. Homeowners can speak with pool installation companies to find out the cost and timeframe for replacing a liner.

-metrocreativeconnection

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MADDOCK SCHOOL BOARD April 9, 2026

A regular meeting of the Maddock School Board was held April 9, 2026. Present: Sheila Lindgren, Justin Maddock, Bryan Kenner, Paul Backstrom and Paul Rice; Mr. Allmaras and Shannon Sabbe. Guests: Mrs. Hill, Ms. Maloney, Ms. Mangan, Mrs. Kallenbach, Mrs. Keller. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 a.m.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Rice, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Backstrom, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

Advanced Business

Methods	\$1,555.96
Aflac	388.61
CenDak	13,529.77
City of Maddock	1,200.00
Cole Papers	1,401.57
Colonial Life & Accident Insurance	84.43
Culindex	207.27
Dakota Fire Exting.	1,178.17
DRN	2,313.65
Eckroth Music Co.	568.33
Ecolab Pest Elim.	168.28
Fire Extinguisher Syst.	360.90
H. A. Thompson	
& Sons	1,608.79
Instrumentalist Awards	165.00
IntegratEd	1,624.44
Johnson Controls	
Bldg. Solutions, LLC	1,508.60
Jostens Printing	
& Publishing	229.70
Longtin, Angela	147.00
NAPA Auto Supply	39.64
ND Center for Distance Education	438.00
ND Educators Service	125.00
Cooperative	
ND Public Health	
Insurance Trust	24,628.33
ND School Bus. Mgr.	
Certification Program	175.00
Region IV Music & Speech	90.00
Sanford Health Occup.	
Medicine Clinic	129.00
Schweigert, Makiah	39.92
Share Corporation	859.74
Tom's Home	
Furnishings	64.98
Vestis	891.20
Wage Works	366.48
Total	\$56,087.76

Mr. Allmaras gave his principal and superintendent report.

Shannon Sabbe gave her AD report.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Maddock, to approve GP 3. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Backstrom, to approve BSR 3. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Rice, to approve the polling place for the school board election as the Maddock school commons area from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Rice, to approve the academic engagement as in compliance. Roll call was all in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Backstrom, to move the budgeted \$30,000 from general fund to activity fund for co-op expenses. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Kenner, to approve the Title I application from targeted to schoolwide. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Rice, to approve the four-day school calendar. The motion carried.

Leave donation policy was discussed.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Kenner, to approve support staff having \$.75/hour increase and support staff salaries positions having a 3% increase. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Kenner, to adjourn at 8:35 a.m. The motion carried.

Shannon Sabbe Business Manager

Sheila Lindgren School Board President

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MADDOCK SCHOOL BOARD June 11, 2026

A regular meeting of the Maddock School Board was held June 11, 2026. Present: Sheila Lindgren, Justin Maddock, Bryan Kenner and Paul Rice; Mr. Allmaras and Shannon Sabbe. Guests: Mrs. Kallenbach, Ms. Maloney and Jordan Smith. The meeting was called to order at 6:58 a.m.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Rice, to approve adding consolidated application and financial institution to the agenda. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Rice, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. The motion carried.

Advanced Business

Methods	\$319.97
Aflac	388.61
Cole Papers	575.87
Dakota Prairie Public School	54,706.20
Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc.	181.50
Heart of America HMO	167.00
Tracy's Market	67.83
Vestis	501.87
Wickenheiser, Andrew	196.16
Total	\$57,105.01

Mr. Allmaras gave the principal and superintendent report.

Shannon Sabbe gave the athletic director report.

Mr. Allmaras presented a list of job descriptions for leadership team, elementary coordinator and superintendent duties.

Discussion was held on board committees.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Backstrom, to approve Meadow Sweet Dairy as our milk provider for the 2026-27 school year. All in favor. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on changing financial institutions.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Rice, to adjourn at 7:47 a.m. The motion carried.

Shannon Sabbe Business Manager

Sheila Lindgren School Board President

(June minutes are unofficial.)

BY AARP NORTH DAKOTA Watch for credit card skimming

With fuel pumps and ATMs as frequent targets, a surge of skimming devices is threatening consumers. Criminals attach sophisticated skimmers directly over legitimate card slots or splice them into internal wiring to secretly record your financial data.

Many modern skimming devices closely resemble real hardware, making them difficult to detect at first glance. Vulnerable targets include standalone ATMs, unattended retail check-out lines, and card terminals located in busy tourist areas.

The next time you fill your tank or use a card terminal, inspect the machine closely for loose, bent, crooked or scratched components. Pull firmly on the card slot or wiggle the keypad

before inserting your card. If anything feels loose or altered, do not use it and notify an employee immediately. To help stay safe, choose tap-to-pay options or digital wallets over physical insertion. Use credit cards for stronger fraud protections.

Summer utility scams
As rising summer temperatures cause energy demands to increase, criminals exploit fears of losing power and air conditioning by posing as local utility companies.

Scammers place threatening phone calls, phishing emails or urgent text messages aimed at convincing consumers to supply personal data or to click on unverified links to resolve a past-due balance. Oftentimes these schemes are accompanied by a push to receive instant payment through unconventional payment methods like gift cards

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OBERON SCHOOL BOARD April 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the Oberon School Board was held April 13, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken. Present were Faron Stensland, Robby Mock, Crystal Greywater and Bobby Stensland; Superintendent Jordan Brown; and Dean of Students Brian Moriel. Business Manager Maria Dunlap was present via MS Teams. Kim Krebsbach was absent.

There were no visitors present. Greywater moved to add executive session to the agenda. The motion was seconded by B. Stensland and approved by Mock, Greywater, B. Stensland and F. Stensland.

Greywater moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mock and approved by Mock, Greywater, B. Stensland and F. Stensland.

Old Business -- Business manager position was discussed.

Mock moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of March 9, 2026 minutes, March financial reports and list of bills. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by Mock, Greywater, B. Stensland and F. Stensland.

Admin Partners \$400.00

Advanced Business

Methods	947.58
Amazon.com	923.91
Aptegy, Inc.	4,410.00
BC Farmers Press	210.00
Brady Martz	13,650.00
Burris, Dawn	64.78
CenDak	7,309.65
Central City H2O	948.00
Cole Papers, Inc.	151.79
Commercial Lighting	1,194.22
Delta Hotels Marriott	159.33
Dept. of Public Instruction	133.49
DL Public School	2,000.00
DRN ReadITech	775.30
Franks-Erickson	382.73
Charlotte	
Gas Depot Schwan Oil Co.	66.87
Insure Forward--New Rockford	7,093.00
J. P. Morgan Chase Bank	94.50
Meadow Sweet Dairy	809.43
NAPA Autocare Ctr.	28.99
ND Department of Instruction	1,650.00
ND Telephone Co.	249.26
Old National Bank	105.00
Oriental Trading Co., Inc.	125.97
Otter Tail Power Co.	3,237.25
Paul's C-Store	2,940.34
Postmaster	5.30
PS Garage Doors	445.14
Schwann Oil Co.	715.76
Sipalay, Christine	117.89
Spaces, Inc.	4,778.00
Spirit Lake Refuse Control Services	150.00
Synergistic Educational Solutions	2,650.00
Sysco ND	5,349.25
Uline	1,031.59
Vestis	932.71
Walmart	195.36

Mr. Allmaras gave his principal and superintendent report.

Shannon Sabbe gave her AD report.

Discussion on summer retreat; tentative date is July 16.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Maddock, to approve the strategic plan. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Rice, to increase drivers education pay from \$2,640 to \$3,500. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Rice, to approve the Maddock Public School four-year-old program. All in favor. The motion carried.

Shannon Sabbe read off policy updates recommended by NDSBA she made changes to. Policies: BEC--School Board Evaluation, BGA--Board Communication with the Public, DBBA--Drug and Alcohol Testing Program for Employees, DEAA--Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace, KAAA--Visitor Access and Communications in the School.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Maddock, to approve the second reading of the new donated leave policy. All in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Kenner, to adjourn at 7:32 a.m. All in favor. The motion carried.

Shannon Sabbe Business Manager

Sheila Lindgren School Board President

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OBERON SCHOOL BOARD May 20, 2026

A special meeting of the Oberon School Board was held May 20, 2026. The meeting was called to order. Present were Faron Stensland, Robby Mock, Kim Krebsbach and Crystal Greywater; Superintendent Jordan Brown. Also present was Brian Moriel. Business Manager Maria Dunlap was present by Teams. Bobby Stensland was absent.

Brown and Brown representatives Randall Johnson and Stephanie Mace presented to the board plan options and reasons for cost increases.

Krebsbach moved to change our current plan to option four with \$250 deductible and \$6,000 out-of-pocket maximum. The motion was seconded by F. Stensland, Mock, Greywater and Krebsbach.

Krebsbach moved to hire Grant Cotton as PE teacher. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by F. Stensland, Mock, Greywater and Krebsbach.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Maria Dunlap Business Manager

Faron Stensland Board President

HCU IS HIRING!

Hometown Credit Union is seeking a full-time, dynamic and proactive IT Specialist to join our technology team! You will be the go-to expert for maintaining & optimizing our IT infrastructure, providing exceptional technical support, & ensuring seamless operation of our systems & networks. Your enthusiasm for problem-solving & customer service will drive your success as you troubleshoot issues, manage hardware and software, and support our users across various platforms. Competitive wages and benefits! No weekends! Position will be based in one of our branches, with the opportunity for some remote work. Contact Abby at 701-288-3439 or send your resume to abby@hcuonline.com

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OBERON SCHOOL BOARD May 11, 2026

A regular meeting of the Oberon School Board was held May 11, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. Roll call was taken. Present were Faron Stensland, Robby Mock, Kim Krebsbach and Crystal Greywater; Superintendent Jordan Brown; Business Manager Maria Dunlap; and Dean of Students Brian Moriel. Bobby Stensland was absent.

Greywater moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Krebsbach and approved by F. Stensland, Mock, Greywater and Krebsbach.

Old Business -- Discussion was held on health insurance and request was made to meet with our group insurance representatives.

Greywater and F. Stensland will be on committee with Brown to interview business manager applicants.

Greywater moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of April 13, 2026 minutes, list of bills and April financial reports. The motion was seconded by Krebsbach and approved by F. Stensland, Mock, Greywater and Krebsbach.

Advanced Business

Methods	\$553.75
BC Farmer's Press	1,225.00
CenDak	1,983.37
Central City H2O	480.00
Cole Papers, Inc.	81.11
DRN ReadITech	387.65
Forté	1,404.94
Franks-Erickson, Charlotte	88.30
Meadow Sweet Dairy	626.56
Native Pride	12,865.22
ND Telephone Co.	247.24
Otter Tail Power Co.	1,661.17
Paul's C-Store	1,574.45
Popplers Music, Inc.	19.40
Sanford Health Occup. Medicine	129.00
Schwann Oil Co.	783.60
Synergistic Educational Solutions	3,650.00
Thumb, Emily	712.50
Vestis	616.84

Krebsbach moved to approve destroying records stored in Software Unlimited, Inc. K-12 docs after one year. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by F. Stensland, Mock, Greywater and Krebsbach.

Greywater moved to approve the 2026-27 school calendar beginning Aug. 18, 2026 and ending May 21, 2027. The motion was seconded by Krebsbach and approved by F. Stensland, Mock, Greywater and Krebsbach.

Greywater moved to increase hourly wages by \$0.50 an hour. The motion was seconded by Mock and approved by F. Stensland, Mock and Krebsbach. Greywater abstained from the motion due to conflict of interest.

Superintendent's Report -- CSI MOU; summative testing; Dr. Small's workshop on culture and trauma; class trips; summer reading books; 8th grade graduation; art show; and summer school to be held May 26-June 12.

Special meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Maria Dunlap Business Manager

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Krebsbach moved to hire Grant Cotton as PE teacher. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by F. Stensland, Mock, Greywater and Krebsbach.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Maria Dunlap Business Manager

Faron Stensland Board President

or cryptocurrency.

If you receive an unexpected threat to terminate your service, take an active pause and contact the utility company's customer service department using the number from your physical bill or the company's website (don't search; go directly to the site) to check your account status. Chances are it's a scam.

Beware of fake QR code scams

QR codes have become a convenient part of our daily lives, from viewing restaurant menus to paying for parking meters. However, scammers are increasingly taking advantage of this technology to steal your personal information and money through a tactic known as "squishing." By physically pasting fraudulent stickers over legitimate ones, or sending fake codes via email or text, criminals can redirect you to malicious websites meant to mimic trusted businesses.

In public settings, you might unknowingly scan a tampered code on a flyer or parking meter, sending your payment directly into a scammer's account.

Protecting yourself requires extra caution. When scanning a physical QR code, ensure it's not a sticker layered over the original. When in doubt, avoid the QR code entirely and use your phone's web browser and type in the official web address yourself. Additionally, keeping your devices' operating systems updated and using antivirus protection can offer an important second line of defense.

Jury duty scams

Scammers often use fear and intimidation to convince people of their scheme. In jury duty scams, criminals call or message posing as court officials, US marshals or sheriff's deputies. They falsely claim that you missed a jury summons and threaten you with immediate

arrest unless you pay right away.

To heighten the panic, criminals often spoof caller ID screens to display a local courthouse or police department number. They aggressively demand that you stay on the phone while you purchase gift cards, send a wire transfer or deposit money into a cryptocurrency account. In other instances they may ask for your Social Security number under the guise of checking records. Real courts will never contact you out of the blue to demand immediate payment or sensitive information over the phone, nor do they threaten jail time for a missed jury summons. Official court business regarding jury service is managed exclusively through the mail. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately and verify the claim by calling your local courthouse directly.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

DEVILS LAKE'S SURFACE ELEVATION July 6, 2026

1450.33

Feet above mean sea level

One week ago: 1450.11
Two weeks ago: 1450.06
One year ago: 1449.18

2012 high: 1453.66 on May 10
2013 high: 1453.96 on June 27
2014 high: 1453.45 on June 29
2015 high: 1451.96 on June 9
2016 high: 1450.33 on Sept. 25
2017 high: 1451.68 on May 3-5, 9
2018 high: 1449.99 on July 4
2019 high: 1449.13 on June 24
2020 high: 1449.94 on July 8
2021 high: 1448.23 on June 11
2022 high: 1450.62 on July 24
2023 high: 1450.75 on May 31

Statistics obtained from <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/>

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MINNEWAUKAN SCHOOL BOARD May 18, 2026

A regular meeting of the Minnewaukan School Board was held May 18, 2026. Members present: Sam Sears, Michele Anderson, Anna Tice and Dave Ambers. Member absent: Leona LaRoque. Others present: Superintendent Kent Dennis; HS Principal Jordan Lunde; Elementary Principal MacKenzie Moen; Business Manager Tracie Volk; and Lindsey Illerbrunn.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Anderson.

Agenda -- A motion was made by Ambers, seconded by Sears, to approve the agenda. All members present voted yes. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment -- Board communication. Congratulations to Amy Ertle for receiving the Excellence in Early Childhood Instruction Award!

Minutes -- A motion was made by Tice, seconded by Ambers, to approve the minutes. All members present voted yes. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Bills -- A motion was made by Tice, seconded by Sears, to approve the bills. All members present voted yes. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

GENERAL FUND

TMS	\$87.24
ND Telephone Co.	473.74
Stein's	1,033.70
BC Farmers Press	95.16
Otter Tail Power Co.	11,450.37
CenDak	14,877.57
NAPA--Maddock	284.72
Hartley's	887.92
Advanced Business	
Methods	2,507.17
City of Minnewaukan	1,826.26
Ecolab	145.73
Farmers Union/ Legacy Co-op--DL	21.04
Farmers Union Oil Co.	279.78
Cole Papers	576.03
Service Tire, Inc.	1,105.14
Klemetsrud Plumbing	679.83
Leon's--DL	59.99
American Time	1,069.58
Jostens	116.85
Leavers	149.76
Jaymar	866.43
Bravera Insurance	286.00
Old National Bank CC	5,350.55
Fund Total	\$44,230.56

HOT LUNCH FUND

US Foods \$18,498.32

Meadow Sweet Dairy 4,607.26

ONB Credit Card 127.98

Bernard Foods 386.10