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others, and you will see that when we come into legislation this year. Unfortunately, that is a kind of a tool to keep tribes separated from each other, but that's why meetings like today with tribal leadership is important, and how difficult is it to step out of our offices and out of our tribes to be at meetings like this. It is literally an open-door policy at all of our tribes and the community can come to all of our doors at any time. It's difficult to be at these meetings sometimes, but the importance and prioritizing shows that meetings like this are important for everyone at the table.

I want to thank our Tribal Council for showing up, I want to thank state and tribal delegates that are here, and all other tribal leaders and representation here today... And like we always say in meetings like this: 'Let's chal-

lenge ourselves and move forward in a positive manner. That's what it's all about – positive communication which turns into positive things for tribal relations, state relations, and this country because there's nothing saying we here at these meetings can't set the standard for everyone, so why not us? Thank you, everybody."

In attendance at Wednesday's ND Indian Affairs Commission meeting were Chairman Azure of Turtle Mountain Tribal Council, Chairman J. Garret Renville of Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Chairman Mark Fox of MHA Nation, Chairwoman Lonna Jackson Street of Spirit Lake Nation, President Leander McDonald of United Tribes Technical College, President Dr. Wanda Parisien of TMC (attending the morning meeting), Representatives Jayme Davis and Collette Brown, and of course the ND Indian Affairs Commission staff and director Hawk. Agenda items included

presentations by the ND DHHS Child Welfare Division, Utah Public Health Pilot Program, ND Trade Office, and an update on Rural Health Transformation Funding.

Representative Jayme Davis shared her thoughts and her appreciation to TMC for hosting this important meeting regarding tribal and state relations.

"Today was one of those days that reminds me why government to government work matters when it is done in the same room, face-to-face, real questions, and real accountability, said Representative Davis following Wednesday's meeting. "Today, Turtle Mountain hosted Governor Armstrong, Lt. Governor Strinden, and the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission here in Belcourt for a full day of discussion and relationship building. The morning began with a meeting between the Governor and Lt. Governor and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal

Council. What I appreciated most was the tone of the day. It was professional, candid, and focused on problem solving. We moved through the Commission agenda, first up was Child Welfare. It was one of the strongest and most important parts of the conversation. There was a lot of good questions, the kind you ask when you care about outcomes and not just process. We got to meet the two new hires specifically focused on Indian child welfare coordination and working with tribes. Anthony and JanaKate are the newest additions, and I am genuinely glad to see those 2 FTEs dedicated to improving communication and partnership. That kind of capacity helps.

"Part of the presentation showed the numbers of Indigenous children in foster care. When I first got into the legislature, the numbers shocked me. Specifically, the numbers for our TM tribe. Thankfully, they have since been going in the right di-

rection and want to give a shout out to TM Child Welfare Director Danielle Breland and her team. The work is hard, emotional, and complex but they find a way. We all recognize, Indian Child Welfare isn't perfect but there are some amazing and dedicated people doing the day-to-day work to protect kids and support families and am thankful for them.

"We also heard updates on the public health pilot work and a presentation that added a broader perspective on cross border relationships through Canada's Consulate General, Aaron Annable. Rural Health Transformation was another major focus, and I was thankful for the high-level overview and Q and A that came with it. Deputy Commissioner Emily O'Brien walked through what the application will likely require and what the parameters look like. That was helpful because it gave our tribal leadership and local health partners a clearer sense of what is possible, what is not, and

how to position projects to make real impact. The discussion also got stronger as the tribal chairs engaged. Chairman Renville raised some really thoughtful points about what South Dakota is exploring and whether certain approaches could be adapted in North Dakota.

"That kind of idea sharing is exactly what we should be doing, learning from each other while still building solutions that fit our own realities. We closed with tribal leaders' updates, and I am always grateful for that part. Yes, every community has challenges. Tribal, rural, urban, everyone. But hearing what is going well across our Nations is good for the spirit, too."

Chairman Azure thanked everyone for attending Wednesday's meeting, along with TMC for being such amazing, friendly hosts. He said Wednesday was a great day all around and promising for North Dakota Tribal Nations moving forward.

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This highly anticipated event provided students with an opportunity to showcase their capstone projects. Each student researched a topic related to their enrolled

CTE course, designed a presentation board on their subject, created a brochure highlighting their research, and explored various career pathways in technical fields, according to McGillis.

The exposition featured dynamic exhibits and hands-on demonstrations from students en-

rolled in diverse CTE programs, including healthcare, information technology, construction, culinary arts, automotive technology, and more, McGillis said.

"Events like this are crucial in bridging the gap between education and industry," said McGillis. "It gives students a platform to demonstrate their research and skills while allowing them to engage with organizations, peers, and staff."

Visitors praised the event for its role in workforce development, emphasizing the importance of research, presentation, and soft skills. One staff member remarked, "The level of research and professionalism displayed by these students is outstanding."

In addition to career exploration, the fair provided students with access to scholarship information and post-secondary education opportunities. Representatives from trade schools, community colleges, and other programs were on-site to guide students on their next steps toward career success. Some of the organizations that attended were Turtle Mountain College, Dakota College of Bottineau, IHS Dietary, Job Service of ND, Mayville State University, Turtle Mountain Fire Department/EMT, and Northland College.

The Career and Technical Education Student Exposition and Career Fair continues to be a pivotal event in preparing students for higher education and rewarding careers, McGillis stated.

Turtle Mountain Community High School provides Career and Technical education in many areas, including Health Sciences, Business Education, Information Technology, Automotive Technology, Construction, Family and

Consumer Science, Culinary Arts, Welding, Work-Based Learning, and, soon to be, Agricultural Science (equine) and Technology and Engineering.

High school career fairs provide critical exposure to diverse industries, expanding students' horizons beyond traditional roles. They foster real-world connections between schoolwork and future careers, offer opportunities for professional networking and securing internships, and build confidence in communication skills.

Key benefits include:

- Networking & Mentorship: Students can connect with local professionals and alumni to gain insights, advice, and potential mentorship opportunities.
- Skill Development & Confidence: Interacting with employers helps students practice communication, ask thoughtful questions, and build professional confidence.
- Career Exploration & Inspiration: Students discover new career paths, visualize themselves in various roles, and learn what skills are in demand.
- Connecting Education to Work: Events bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical applications, helping students un-

derstand the value of their education.

- Direct Access to Opportunities: Students can find part-time jobs, summer internships, or volunteer work to enhance their resumes.

These fairs often showcase diverse industries, including STEM fields, and help students identify potential career paths or even rule out options, aiding in future planning.

High school career fairs offer several key advantages that help students transition from the classroom to the professional world.

NOTE: More photos of the event can be found on page 8A

Belcourt School District #7
1207 William Hardesty Street
Belcourt, ND 58316

TENTATIVE AGENDA
Board of Education

BSD #7 Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 11:45AM
Board Room

1. CALL to ORDER
2. ADOPTION of AGENDA
3. OLD BUSINESS:
3.A - NONE
4. NEW BUSINESS:
4.A - Approval of BIE Waiver for SY25-26; SY26-27 & SY27-28 — Dr. Shane Martin
4.B - Approval of TM Area Career & Technology Center (TMACTC) — Brad LaRocque
5. ADJOURNMENT



100-297 High School Grant
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 @ 11:30a.m.
Board Room, 1207 William Hardesty Street
Belcourt, ND 58316

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. CALL to ORDER
2. ADOPTION of AGENDA
3. ADOPTION of CONSENT AGENDA
3.A - Superintendent/AD Director - Dr. Shane Martin
3.B - Business Manager Reports - Duane Poitra
3.C - TMHS Board Report - Brad LaRocque
3.D - Approval of Accounts Payable - Earl Demery, CFO
3.E - Approval of Minutes - 02/10/2026
4. OLD BUSINESS:
4.A - NONE
5. NEW BUSINESS:
5.A - NONE
6. ADJOURNMENT



BELCOURT SCHOOL DISTRICT #7
1207 William Hardesty Street, Belcourt, ND 58316

AGENDA
Board of Education
Belcourt School District #7
Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 @ 12 NOON
Board Room



1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPENING PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT
4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA
A. Superintendent/Athletic Director Report — Dr. Shane Martin
B. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation (March 15th) — Dr. Shane Martin
C. Approval of Communication Plan — Anna Ross
D. Business Manager Reports – Duane Poitra
E. TMES Board Report — Shanna Davis
F. Ojibea Indain School Board Report — Angelique Bennett
G. Approval of Tuition Agreements — Duane Poitra
H. TMHS Board Report — Brad LaRocque
I. TMMS Board Report — Gaillard Peltier
J. Approval of Minutes 02/10/2026
6. OLD BUSINESS
A. NONE
7. BE LEGENDARY
A. NONE
8. NEW BUSINESS
A. AMEND HCAA Purchasing Policy — Levi Gourneau
B. Assistant Superintendent/HR Director — Levi Gourneau
C. Approval of Accounts Payable — Earl Demery
9. ADJOURNMENT

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the leadership program," Ross said. "Their involvement reflects the importance of preparing the next generation of community leaders while strengthening partnerships that benefit our families."

The training series is free and open to all parents, caregivers, and community members. Participants who attend will also be entered into a door prize drawing at each session.