



What's Happening Around Campus Update

April 16, 2026

TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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Below is the April edition of the "What's Happening Around Campus" update:

Administration Meeting was rescheduled to Monday, April 13, 2026, at 9 a.m.

00-297 HS Grant and BSD#7 Regular Board Mtg. was scheduled for April 14th with the following items on the agenda(s)

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- TMCS Superintendent Report - Dr. Shane Martin
- TMCS Assistant Superintendent/HR Director Board Report — Levi Gourneau
- Approval of Class of 2026 Graduation Class Song, Class Flower, Class Motto and Class Colors - Jaylee Malaterre/Student Reps
- TMES Board Report - Shanna Davis-McCloud
- Business Manager Reports - Duane Poitra
- Ojibwa Indian School Board Report - Angelique Bennett
- Approval of ND DPI School Construction Request & Facility Plan for Physical Education Gymnasium - Duane Poitra
- Approval of Two 23-Passenger Activity Bus Purchase (\$284,300) - Duane Poitra
- Approval of ND DPI School Construction Request & Facility Plan for Asphalt Paving Project - Duane Poitra
- Approve Purchase of a 2019 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Cargo Transport Van - Duane Poitra
- Approval of Inspired Instruction Contract \$32,820.00 - Claudette Gourneau
- Accept Final FY2024-25 Audit as Issued by Brady Martz - Earl Demery/Duane Poitra
- Approval of Minutes 03-10-26 @ 11:45 a.m.
- Approval of Minutes 03-10-26 @ Noon
- TMMS Board Report - Gaillard Peltier

- TMHS Board Report - Brad LaRocque
- Approval of 2026-2027 Draft School Calendars (TMES, TMMS, TMHS) - Duane Poitra
- Approval of ND Career and Technical Education (TMACTC) Letter of Support - Kellie Hall

BE LEGENDARY:

- Cognia New Platform (Information only) - Claudette Gourneau
- NIEAC Conference for Cognia in Boston, NY (Information Only) - Claudette Gourneau
- Administrator Walkthrough(s) (Information Only) - Claudette Gourneau
- District Student Engagement Survey Results - Claudette Gourneau
- Community Engagement Update and to Appoint the Community Engagement Committee — Laurie Elliott

NEW BUSINESS:

- TMCHS Student Representatives - Class Reps.
- Approval of Accounts Payable - Earl Demery

Upcoming Board Meetings to be held in the Board Room at the Event Center are:

- April 22nd at Noon BSD
- May 12th at Noon BSD & 100-297 HS Grant

Board Retreat was held on March 20th and 21st in Fargo at the DoubleTree Hotel with the following items on the agenda:

1. Building Plans for New Gym/Multi-Court — Duane Poitra 2. New Alternative School Building Update
3. Indoor Arena
4. Budget(s) — Earl Demery
5. Assistant Superintendent/HR Department — Levi Gourneau
6. TTPP, HS/Alternative School, MS, ES, OIS, and Special Education 7. CTE Updates (Virtual Campus Center Site)
8. Data Updates from All Schools
9. Attendance Reports from All Schools
10. Strategic/Cognia Update — Claudette Gourneau

Future Upcoming Events:

1. May 1, 2026, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Years of Service Awards & Teacher of the Year Recognition — Event Center with appetizers, cake and coffee/water.
2. May 22, 2026, at 6 p.m. Class of 2026 HS Graduation — HS Football Field 3. Blood Drive(s) at the Derrick Dixon Event Center (Gym)

- a. April 10th, 2026, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- b. June 18th, 2026, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- c. September 28th, 2026, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- d. November 30th, 2026, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer Campus Projects: We have been busy in our department ordering supplies needed for the summer projects that will be happening around campus.

Event Center Usage Committee met and put some procedures in place for the use of the building. Effective immediately, we will enforce the \$200.00 deposit to use the building with a \$50.00 return if the building is cleared with administration. First step is to contact Dr. Shane Martin

via email requesting the usage of the building. Second step is to fill out the waiver forms. The forms can be found on the school's webpage, under resources and event center usage. If you have any questions regarding the usage, the steps to follow contact or where to find the forms contact Connie Baker, 477-6471 ext. 3202.

Graduation Class of 2026 will be held on May 22nd at 5 p.m. at the HS Football Field:

Class Song: Ribs - Lorde
Class Flower: Tiger Lily
Class Motto: Sometimes You'll Never Know the Value of the Moment Until it Becomes a Memory — Dr. Seuss
Class Colors: Maroon, Gold & White

NYSP Applications can be picked up in Leslie DeCoteau's Office at the Event Center, if you have questions call ext. 3503. The program will be held from June 1st to June 26th 9am to 2pm daily.

REMINDER: NO SMOKING ALLOWED IN FRONT OF THE EVENT CENTER BUILDING or in the PARKING LOT. SMOKE IN YOUR VEHICLE. DO NOT THROW Cigarette BUTTS in the Parking Lot. Thanks

Federal Programs Officer report and Tiny Turtles Pre School Program report:

Federal Programs:

- Continue to work with Financial Director to ensure the federal program budgets and the BSD accounting budgets are aligned. Continue to work with Financial Director to address claim issues.
- Continue to work with TMCS, TMCMS, TMCHS on program reports, budgets, and compliance issues.
- Continue to work with PFE Coordinator to ensure PFE compliance requirements are complete.
- Continue to work with school social workers to identify and support homeless and foster care students; we currently have 77 Homeless students and 22 students in foster care. Continue to work with Tribal Child Welfare and state agencies to support foster care students. Continue to meet with Homeless Committee on a regular basis.
- Continue to work with ND DPI, ND DHH, and other state and federal agencies to address program matters/issues.
- Continue to work with the St. Ann's School principal on Title I, Title II, and Title IV budgets and ensure compliance of PFE activities. Continue to work with St. Ann's Reading Intervention Teacher to ensure compliance of Targeted Assistance requirements.
- Approve and process PO's for all federal programs.
- Continue to distribute B-HERO newsletter and other publications to all staff.
- Begin working on TVI grant application; due 5/8/26. Parent Advisory Committee approval has been secured. Public Hearing scheduled for April 28th at 4:30 PM at the Derrick Dixon Event Center Cafeteria. Announcement published in TM Times 2 weeks.
- 4/10/26 — Monitoring issues emailed to ND DPI.

Tiny Turtles Preschool Program:

- April 2nd — Early Out --- Parent Pick-up
- April 3rd — No School; Good Friday
- April 6th & 7th — No School; Spring Break
- April 14th — 2 hr. late start due to winter storm
- April 23rd — Field Trip to Magic City Discovery Center
- April 24th — Early out; staff PD --- Parent Pick-up
- April 28th — Parent and Family Engagement — Literacy Carnival
- May 1st — Early Out; staff PD --- Parent Pick-up
- May 8th — Field Trip to High Five Trampoline Park
- May 15th — Field Trip to Roosevelt Park Zoo
- May 19th — TTPP Graduation
- May 20th — Last Day of School — Field Trip to Rolla Park
- Continue to work on the TTPP Schoolwide Program Plan. I am meeting with staff to discuss requirements and TTPP programming.
- Continue to work with teachers and DHH to meet requirements and compliance for the Best in Class grant

Turtle Mountain Elementary School has the following to report:

- TMES What's Happening around Campus
- April Events:**
- Winner of the March Mathness**
- 1st grade Denise Laducer
 - 2nd grade Carrie Nelson
 - 3rd grade Whitney Blue & John Jeanotte
 - 4th grade Janice Poitra
 - 5th grade Jr Gourneau
1. April 13th to April 24th -TMES Grades 3-5 will be doing ND A+ review
 2. April 15th Chelsi DeCoteau and Juila Davis class are the winners of the AR Library Challenge—they will be attending the water park as their incentive.
 3. April 18th Saturday Enrichment
 4. April 22 Administration Professional Day, Earth Day, School Bus Driver Day
 5. April 24th-26-27 Professional Development Planning

6. April 27- May 1 TMES grades K-5 will be completing the ND A+ Summative Assessment

PLC's for the month of April:

- The grade level teams along with the academic coaches are working together on completing the deconstructed standards that were selected by grade level concerns. Teams and coaches have also been working on creating a scope and sequence for each grade level. The SEL team members are working with the counselors to come up with more attainable SMART goals.

1. Curriculum week is May 24th to May 30th.
2. Summer School is from June 1st to June 26th (4 weeks)
3. 2 Day Training with Laurie Elliott on June 8th and June 9th.

Ojibwa Indian School has the following to report:

- Thursday 04/02/26 — School Accreditation Review
- Thursday 04/02/26 — Early Dismissal @ 1:15pm
- Friday 04/03/26 — NO School/Work — Good Friday
- Monday 04/06/26 — NO School/Work — Spring Break (12-month employees report to work)
- Tuesday 04/07/26 — NO School/Work — Spring Break (12-month employees report to work)
- Monday 04/13/26 — ND A+ EOY Assessments begin
- Monday 04/13/26 — Fastbridge EOY Assessments begin
- Friday 04/24/26 — Early Dismissal @ 1:15pm, PD for Staff
- Thursday 04/30/26 — Writing Fair *Current Enrollment: 209*

Committee Updates:

Student Council / Student Activities Committee:

Student Council members are actively preparing for the upcoming 8th grade graduation ceremony, taking on leadership roles to help organize and support various aspects of the event. Their efforts are focused on ensuring the ceremony is both meaningful and memorable for students and their families. In addition, Student Council is exploring ideas for an end-of-year celebration that recognizes student accomplishments while providing a positive and engaging close to the school year. The Student Activities Committee is also enhancing student engagement by organizing a "VIP and Me" dance scheduled for April. This event is designed to strengthen connections between students and their families while encouraging school involvement. The committee remains committed to creating inclusive, school-wide opportunities that foster a sense of belonging and school pride.

Both Student Council and the Student Activities Committee continue to work collaboratively to coordinate graduation and end-of-year events. Their combined efforts highlight a strong commitment to student leadership, participation, and creating meaningful experiences for the entire school community.

Safety Committee:

The OIS Safety Committee continues to prioritize student and staff safety through ongoing review and planning. A fire drill was conducted on March 2, 2026, at approximately 8:30 a.m. Following the drill, committee members discussed the timing and noted that Monday mornings may not be ideal due to students transitioning back into the school routine. The committee will explore alternative scheduling options and collaborate with the maintenance team to improve future drill effectiveness.

Safety infrastructure updates were also reviewed, including confirmation that the newly installed curtains between Pod C and Pod D meet fire-retardant safety standards. Additionally, plans to relocate the PIV Card Center to Pod D have been paused due to insufficient internet capacity in that area. The committee is awaiting the delivery of an iPad from the IT Department, which is necessary to fully implement the Raptor Technologies Student Check-In/Check-Out system. It was also shared that Belcourt School District #7 is in the process of forming a district-wide Emergency Preparedness Team.

Looking ahead, the OIS Safety Team is recommending the scheduling of a full evacuation drill for staff and students in April or May. A lockdown drill was also discussed; however, no final decision has been made at this time.

PLC Updates:

During April Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, staff are focusing on student progress, end-of-year planning, and upcoming events to support continued growth and engagement. A major area of focus is preparation for the upcoming Writing Fair on April 30, 2026. Teams are finalizing grade-level projects, with Pod C working on personal narratives, Pod B creating comic strips, and Pod A developing projects centered on how to be a good friend. Staff are aligning expectations, timelines, and supports ensuring all students successfully complete their work, while also planning meaningful ways to showcase and celebrate student achievements.

In addition, PLC teams are preparing for spring and state testing by

reviewing expectations and sharing strategies for skill reinforcement and student readiness. Teachers are emphasizing test-taking strategies and building student confidence. Ongoing data check-ins are guiding instruction, with staff reviewing recent progress monitoring results to identify students who may need additional support and adjusting intervention groups accordingly. Teams are also collaborating on strategies to maintain high levels of student engagement through the end of the year by incorporating high-interest and cross-curricular activities.

To further motivate students, staff are developing incentives to promote growth and effort, including classroom competitions, growth celebrations, and rewards for meeting individual goals. PLC discussions also include planning for end-of-year activities, reflecting on student successes, and preparing students for a smooth transition to the next grade level.

The Chief Financial Officer and Business Manager have the following report:

The Elementary School is actively working on the food audit. Following our most recent meeting, there has been significant progress, and they are moving in the right direction toward successfully completing the audit.

It was determined that a school-wide menu will not be implemented this year. Instead, Duane and I met with the Elementary School staff to collaboratively develop a menu tailored specifically for their use. The annual audit has been completed, resulting in five audit findings. Two of these findings are recurring items that have been identified in previous years. The remaining three findings are relatively minor and will be reviewed and explained in detail at the upcoming school board meeting.

Teacher contracts have been distributed, and all returning teachers have signed and submitted their agreements.

Construction and Renovation Activities (TMCS Business Manager):

The 2026 School Board Election — The School Board will be held on June 2, 2026. Election day polling location will be the Derrick Dixon Event Center. There are nine candidates as follows:

- Lee Delong Sr.
- Allen Schlenovgt
- Jamie Herman
- Terry Pugs LaVallie
- Carla Peltier
- Allan Malaterre
- Dennis C. DeCoteau
- Teri LaFountain
- Dallas Morin

Voters will also determine the question of publishing school board meeting minutes in newspaper. Ballots will be printed by April 24, 2026. In Person Absentee ballots will be available beginning — May 25, 2026, until Monday June 2, 2026, at Belcourt School District Business Center during the week beginning at 8:00 am -until 4:00 pm. Weekend Absentees will be Saturday, May 30, 2026, and Sunday, May 31, 2026, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm each day. In-person absentee ballots will not be available on Election Day, June 2, 2026.

2026-27 School Calendars — The Turtle Mountain Schools academic calendars were approved by the Belcourt Public School District #7 Board of Education on April 14, 2026. Professional development for staff will be held from Monday, August 10, 2026, through Friday, August 14, 2026. The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 17, 2026.

The last day of school for elementary and middle school students will be Friday, May 21, 2027, while the last day for high school students will be Thursday, May 20, 2027. High school graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 21, 2027.

Transportation schedules will remain consistent, with all schools sharing the morning bus routes for student pickup. In the afternoon, the elementary school will continue to operate a separate bus route, while the middle school and high school will share afternoon transportation. Specific daily start and dismissal times, along with finalized school calendars, will be released at a later date.

Alternative School Facility (TMHS & TMMS) — Jiran Architects have been hired. TF Powers as Prime and General Contractor; Electrical sub-contractor is BJ Electric and Mechanical sub-contractor is GD Mechanical. Project cost is estimated to be \$5 million. The project is taking place north of the Middle School. Footings have been poured. The building package arrived by February 13, 2023, at which time erection of structural framing began and continues. Cement work begins after ground thaw. Anticipated completion by October 2026.

Bus Barn — Jiran Architects have been hired. Contractors: Industrial Contract Services (ICS) General Contractor, awarded Blue Lightning Electrical Contractor and Lunseth Plumbing and Heating Mechanical Contractor. Project cost is estimated to be \$5.3 million. Structure is substantially complete which includes foundation, frame, floor, metal sheeting

and garage doors. Mechanical and electrical work are in process with focus on mechanical heating and exhaust equipment installation along with fire suppression system and the electrical service and distribution systems, and additional conduit for lighting, outlets, communications, and safety systems. Exterior earthwork will be addressed along with planned asphalt paving in summer 2026. General construction to be substantially complete by the end of April 2026 and mechanical and electrical work substantially complete at the end of May 2026. Project to be completed by end of July 2026. Asphalt current bid out.

Feasibility Determination for a Two Court Gymnasium Project on South Side of TMHS —

Turtle Mountain High School's current facility uses shows that the existing gymnasium no longer meets the needs of the school's academic and extracurricular programs. One gym must serve seven basketball teams, daily physical education classes, and community use, creating significant scheduling challenges. Physical education classes often share space, reducing instructional quality, while teams must practice at limited times, including early mornings, which impacts students, families, and staff and raises equity concerns. Space limitations also make it difficult to host tournaments efficiently, often causing delays and extended waiting times for teams. Due to these ongoing challenges, the district has requested approval from ND DPI to develop a plan for constructing an additional gymnasium. This approval request includes projected costs, funding, and long-term financial sustainability.

2024-2025 Annual Audit — The annual 2024-2025 audit for the Belcourt School District was complete and submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse by March 31, 2026. ND State Auditor. The audit was conducted by Brady Martz firm of Grand Forks. The Belcourt Public School District's FY2025 annual audit identified five repeat findings, including two material weaknesses in financial reporting and multiple federal program compliance issues. Two district findings resulted from the district continuing to rely on external auditors for adjusting journal entries and financial statement preparation. Federal findings included questioned ESSER expenditures due to lack of required state/federal prior approvals for certain capital purchases, and a procurement violation of 2 CFR §200.320(a) — Micro-purchases thresholds. These findings are internal control and compliance issues; the district has developed a corrective action plan that outlines steps to improve federal program oversight through increasing purchasing agents' knowledge of the micro purchase threshold requirements, stronger documentation practices, and improved adherence to procurement and approval requirements moving forward. Completion was March 31, 2026.

Belcourt School District Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Count for 2026-27 Eligibility — Eligibility has been certified at 100%. Our counts include our preschool program and alternative high school numbers. Our schools must have at least 40% of enrolled students directly certified for free meals to qualify for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This allows our school to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students while receiving federal reimbursement at a rate determined by the identified student percentage.

FY25: 1,574 count, 1,061 eligible 64.28% eligible times 160% factor 102.85% or 100%
FY26: 1,512 count, 935 eligible 61.83% eligible times 160% factor 98.94%

Our District, based on this calculation, will receive 100% federal reimbursement for free and reduced meals. It is important to clarify that 100% CEP eligibility does not mean that 100% of meal costs are covered. Rather, it means our school receives the maximum available federal reimbursement, which still falls short of covering the full cost of providing meals. As a result, our school district must subsidize the remaining costs using education funds. Many other districts charge fees to families. This funding gap is the main reason for the ongoing discussion regarding state support for ND public school meal programs. We believe the state of ND should provide the "gap" funding to provide truly free meals to students.

Information Technology has the following report:

- Upgrading network switches and wireless school wide
- School wide technology support
- TCP onboarding
- LMS and SIS system support and configuration

Turtle Mountain Middle School has the following report:

1. Progress Monitoring, Fastbridge, Reading and Math, March 30th through April 2nd.
2. Parent Action Committee, PAC meeting, Wednesday, April 8th, 5:30pm.
3. Special Education, SPED Parent Night, Thursday, April 9th.

4. Saturday Enrichment, April 11th, 8:30 to 12:30.

5. National Science Fair, 7th and 8th grade, Oklahoma City, April 8th through Sunday April 12th. 11 out of 14 students placed at the national. We had 3, 1st, 5, 2nd place, 3rd place, 1 student received a special award, outstanding showing in Chemistry.

6. Grade level PLC meeting, Tuesday, April 14th, 3:30 to 4:00

7. Subject PLC meeting, Tuesday, April 21st, 3:30 to 4:00

8. Leadership meeting, Wednesday, April 22nd, 4:00 to 5:00

9. Friday, April 24th, NDA+ Pep rally in the Gymnasium, 12:15 to 1:15, Early out 1:15, Professional Development.

10. End of Year, EOY NDA+ testing, Monday, April 27th through Friday, May 1st. Make up testing will be the 1st week in May.

Professional Development.

Turtle Mountain Community High School Report: Strong Student Engagement & School Climate:

Preliminary results from the 2025–2026 ND Student Engagement Survey highlight a positive picture for our district. Many students are identified as "committed" learners, demonstrating strong engagement across behavioral, cognitive, and emotional areas.

Students report:

Active participation and consistent effort in their learning. Strong investment in completing tasks and classroom involvement. Positive relationships with peers and educators.

A standout result is our school belonging data, where: 86.28% of students report a high sense of belonging.

Only 2.5% report low belonging.

Overall, Belcourt students are outperforming statewide averages in all areas, reflecting a supportive and connected school environment.

District Highlights & Upcoming Events:

April 15: TMHS hosted a Spring Celebration Powwow 200 spectators and 50+ dancers participated.

April 15: Students toured the Job Corps in Minot

April 16: CTE Spring Advisory Meeting
TMHS Juniors & Seniors attended TMC Industry Day April 24: Mid-term Parent-Teacher Conferences

April 24: Full school day for TMHS students

May 5: Incoming freshman walkthrough (TMMS → TMHS) Turtle Mountain Impact Event

May 7: Senior Awards Day

Celebration of Learning Powwow Academic Updates

TMHS students have begun the NDA+ assessments in: English Language Arts

Math

Science

Staff Updates

Teacher formal evaluations were completed on April 15

Support staff evaluations will be finalized by the end of the school year.

Our students continue to demonstrate strong engagement, pride in their school, and active participation in both academic and cultural experiences. These outcomes reflect the collective efforts of our students, staff, families, and community.

Together, we are building a school environment where students feel connected, supported, and motivated to succeed.

Turtle Mountain Special Education Report:

Special education staff are currently engaged in preparing and administering the NDA and ND A+ state assessments. This work includes coordinating testing logistics, ensuring that all required accommodations and modifications are properly implemented, and supporting students in demonstrating their knowledge and skills. Staff are also reviewing student needs and collaborating with general education teachers to help create a testing environment that promotes student success.

In addition, teams are actively conducting transition meetings for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who will be moving between schools. These meetings are designed to ensure continuity of services and support by sharing critical information about each student's academic, behavioral, and social needs. Staff work collaboratively with receiving schools, families, and other stakeholders to develop clear plans that help students adjust smoothly to their new learning environments.

Extended School Year (ESY) planning is also underway as part of ongoing efforts to support student progress beyond the regular school year. Families should be watching for letters sent home that provide important details about ESY program dates, services, and expectations. These communications will also ask parents to indicate their intentions regarding their child's participation, allowing staff to effectively

SEE: UPDATE cont. on pg 5B