E/NL approves calendar, class trip

By Luann Dart

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The Elgin-New Leipzig School District board of education adopted the 2026-27 school calendar, approved the senior class trip to Denver, Colo., and held the first reading of changes to its patron complaints policy during its regular meeting Jan. 14.

Calendar adopted

The 2026-27 school calendar has a start date of Aug. 19 and graduation May 23, which are changes from the preliminary calendar reviewed last month. The calendar includes 168 student instruction days.

Class trip approved

After initially planning a class trip to Minneapolis, Minn., the senior class now intends to travel to Denver, Colo., due to the unsafe climate in Minnesota.

"Given the events that have taken place in the metro area and the Twin Cities, we have decided it would not be safe to go there," class advisor Megan Maier said.

Teachers Maier and Douglas Koepplin will chaperone the eight seniors, who plan to stay in an Airbnb for four nights and purchase groceries to cut expenses. The class has $11,000 in funds, but doesn't plan to use the entire amount, Maier told the board.

The trip will take place March 17-21.

Policy tweaked

Following a patron's intention to address the board last month with a concern about a staff member, the board held the first reading of tweaks to its patron complaints policy to strengthen the policy.

"They thought they should be able to address the board and voice their concern," Superintendent Dr. Sherlock Hirning said.

The patron was not allowed to speak last month, because she did not follow public comment protocol recently adopted by the N.D. Legislature and incorporated into district policy. That policy requires patrons to request to be on the agenda to speak during the public comment period.

The new patron complaints policy adds minimal language. Patrons must first exhaust the chain of command to resolve the complaint at the lowest level.

"When people have a complaint about something, they don't have the privilege to bring that to the attention of any individual board member until they have gone through the chain of command and policies state it needs to be resolved at the lowest possible level," Hirning said.

A patron complaint about a staff member would then likely invoke an executive session and legal consultation at the board level, Hirning said.

The board will hold the second reading of the proposed policy changes at its next meeting.

The board also approved the second reading of a required wellness policy. The policy directs the board to form a district wellness committee to develop the wellness plan. The policy outlines physical activity, nutrition education and promotion, nutrition, beverage and hydration standards and other wellness aspects of the school.

In other business:

• The board approved a joint powers agreement with Grant County to coordinate 2026 elections.

• Board members were asked to complete statement of interest disclosures, which provide public transparency into the interests of North Dakota public officials and their financial ties to avoid potential conflicts.

All candidates, elected and appointed officeholders, and individuals appointed by the governor to boards and commissions, must report statement of interests information for themselves and their spouse. Under the N.D. Century Code, elected officials must complete the statement of interest annually by Jan. 31.

•The school principals gave updates on work to implement Infinite Campus, which will replace PowerSchool as the student information system next fall.

•Hirning reported there have been several issues with the heating system's six boiler coils located above the gym, with several being repaired or replaced more than once.

•The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 11.

GRANT COUNTY School News

Schedule of Events

Fri., Jan. 23: Varsity boys' basketball at Glen Ullin/Hebron, 5:00 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 24: JH boys' basketball at Richardton/Taylor, 1:00 p.m.; Varsity boys' basketball at Richardton.Taylor, 3:30 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 25: Open swimming 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.; Adult Water Aerobics 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 26: JH boys' basketball at New Salem/Almont, 4:00 p.m.; JV boys' basketball tournament at South Heart, TBA.

Tues., Jan. 27: Varsity girls' basketball at Standing Rock, 4:00 p.m.; JH boys' basketball vs. Glen Ullin/Hebron at Elgin, 4:00 p.m.; No open swimming.

Wed., Jan. 28: Adult Water Aerobics 3:30 - 4:30 and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 29: Varsity girls' basketball vs. Richardton/Taylor at Mott/Regent, 4:00 p.m.; Opwn swimming, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Breakfast Menu

Fri., Jan. 23: Caramel rolls, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Mon., Jan. 26: Eggs, toast, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Tues., Jan. 27: Pancakes, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Wed., Jan. 28: Breakfast wrap, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Thurs., Jan. 29: Breakfast pizza, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Fri., Jan. 30: Assorted pastries, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Lunch Menu

Fri., Jan. 23: Soup and turkey sandwich, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Mon., Jan. 26: Cook's choice, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Tues., Jan. 27: Walking tacos, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Wed., Jan. 28: Sausage and fried potatoes, whole wheat proucts, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Thurs., Jan. 29: Chicken patty on a bun, baked beans, whole wheat proucts, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Fri., Jan. 30: Build your own sub and chips, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

ELGIN & NEW LEIPZIG SENIOR meals menu

Fri., Jan. 23: New Leipzig-Ham salad on bun, corn chowder soup, relishes, apple crisp, milk, coffee. Elgin senior meals site - closed.

Mon., Jan. 26: Hot beef, mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, fruit salad, milk, coffee.

Tues., Jan. 27: Sausage, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, brownie milk, coffee.

Wed., Jan. 28: Lasagna, garlic toast, tossed salad, ice cream, milk, coffee.

Thurs., Jan. 29: Hamburger on a bun, potato salad, baked beans, Jell-O with fruit, milk, coffee.

Fri., Jan. 30: Elgin - Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, coleslae, pineapple; New Leipzig - Pork chop, baked rice, beets, pineapple, milk, coffee.

For meal reservations in Elgin, please call Our Place Café, 584-3150 by 9:00 p.m. the day prior to the meal.

For reservations in New Leipzig, please call Nancy Grade at 584-2351 by 9:00 p.m. the day prior to the meal.

CITY OF ELGIN

Council Proceedings

Regular Meeting
January 8, 2026

Regular City Council Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. January 8, 2026 by Mayor Ronald Bartz.

Pledge was recited.

Public in Attendance: Luann Dart, Bobby Walters, Kyle Billiot and Mike Schmidt

In Attendance: Ronald Bartz, Brian Richardson, Ron Fischer, Brianna Ricks, Kristian Roth and Leslie Bartz

Absent: Robert Mead

The board reviewed the Sheriff's report.

Public: Bobby Walters inquired about the updated Liquor License fee and time frames for the Golf Course Liquor Permit.

Engineers Report: None.

Maintenance Report: None.

Additions to Agenda: None

Moved by Roth second by Ricks to approve the Regular City Council minutes dated December 4, 2025, all present aye motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz and second by Ricks to approve the financial statement as presented for December; all present aye; motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Richardson to approve the following bills for December & January: NDPERS Pension 968.77, NDPERS 2377.10, US Treasury 1275.40, FIBT 2067.49, Elgin Library 671.97, JP Cooke 125.95, SW District Unit 25.00, WRT 291.65, Ferguson 1444.60, City of Elgin 331.50, Elgin True Value 17.70, Dakota Dust Tex 70.80, WRT 63.02, R Family 34.14, Moore Eng. 13618.25, Black Mt Software6142.55, Butler 237.32, Crane & Merriman 908.00, Dan's HVAC 127.22, Elgin Park Bd 282.95, ESRI 3500.00, Fitterer Gas 1669.25, Gas & Gears 221.21, Gr Co 5416.67, JD Financial 58.50, Lexis Nexis 174.61, Lince Sanitation 8213.24, MDU 2538.34, Moore Engineering 1056.25, MFOND 40.00, One Call Concepts 1.50, Share Corp 222.86, SW Grain 2641.97, Elgin True Value 71.70, SW Water Authority 6529.21, SW Disctrict 25.00, WRT 291.35 and Employee Wages & Board Pay–$12,362.47; all present aye motion carried.

Past Due Water bill list was reviewed: The following accounts are past due: Steve Bleick, Jake Haskett, Melissa Scott, Leland Adams, Rebecca Biebert, Sean Marshall, Heather Moberly and Corinna Diehl.

Old Business:

Moved by L. Bartz second by Roth to approve the second reading of Amendment 2025-1204; which reads as followings:

Amendment 2025-1204

An Ordinance to amend Chapter VIII, Business Regulations and Licenses, of the 2017 Revised Ordinance of the City of Elgin, North Dakota, by amending Section 8.0604 relating to Licenses - Classes of - Fees.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, NORTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. Amendment Section 8.0604, of the 2017 Revised Ordinance of the City of Elgin is hereby amended to read as follows:

The fee for ON sale beer, wine or liquor licenses is $__500.00__ per year.

A license to sell retail beer, wine &/or liquor between the dates of May 1st and October 31st may be issued to the Elgin Golf Club or its successors, or whoever operates the food and beverage concessions at the Elgin Golf Course. The license is nontransferable and may be held only by the Club, its successors, or the operator who has been awarded and currently holds the concession. This license is limited to on-sale service of beer and wine to patrons of the Elgin Municipal Golf Course. The fee for this license shall be _500.00___ per season.

City of Elgin
/s/Ron Bartz
Ron Bartz, Mayor
/s/Reva Weekes
Reva Weekes, Auditor

All present aye; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

New Business:

Moved by Richardson second by Ricks to approve the Resolution to set the Limit of Liability on Commercial Blanket Bond for the City of Elgin as presented all present aye motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Roth to approve First International Bank & Trust at the designated financial institution for public funds for the City of Elgin, all present aye motion carried.

The Local Gaming Permit # 421 for Dollars for Scholars for 2.8.26; all present aye motion carried.

Mike Schmidt approached the Council regarding the playing of music on main street during Christmas as well other times of years. More information will be gathered and the issue will be revisited.

Moved by Roth second by Richardson to approve the Local Gaming Permit # 423 for Dollars for Scholars for 2.1.26; all present aye motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Fischer to approve no parking along west street, further discussions will be held all present aye motion carried.

Moved by Richardson second by Roth to approve raises for full time staff as presented, with a roll call vote, Roth aye, L. Bartz aye, Richardson aye, Ricks aye, Fischer aye motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Ricks to approve Buddy Laub for another 5 years on the TCJJDA, all present aye motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Water Refill Pilot project with Kyle Billiot. The subject will be revisited.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Ricks to approve the Joint Powers Agreement for the 2026 election, all present aye motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Roth to approve Building Permit #887 for Joey Dachtler all present aye motion carried.

Moved by Ricks second by Richardson to approve a Special Event Liquor Permit for OPCLL Inc. for Jan 30th & 31st for the Firemen's Coyote Hunt all present aye motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
/s/Ron Bartz
Ron Bartz, Mayor
/s/Reva Weekes
Reva Weekes, Auditor

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