

HETTINGER PUBLIC SCHOOL

School Board Proceedings

HETTINGER PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2026
6:00 PM

AV Room

1. ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present:
Patrick Kilzer, Allison Clausen,
Jordan Christman, LaNae
Kristy, and Ben Laufer

Others in Attendance:
Superintendent Darin
Seamands, K-8 Principal Darci
Freeland, Business Manager
Jeremy Fordahl, District
Secretary Kira Henderson, and
Activities Director Jon Kohler

2. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

President Patrick Kilzer called
the meeting to order.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was
recited.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Additions to New Business in-
cluded:

- G. Rath & Mehrer – Action
- H. CD Maturity – Action
- I. Lobbying Approval – Action
- J. Budget Approval – Action

Kristy moved to approve the
agenda as amended. Clausen
seconded. All were in favor.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was noted.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 19, 2026, Regular
School Board Meeting: Kristy
moved to approve the minutes.
Clausen seconded. All were in
favor.

7. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

ADAMS COUNTY 80.00
AFLAC 1,700.38
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES,
INC 1,399.98
AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL

SERVICES 732.77
AMPLIFY EDUCATION, INC
..... 44,905.16
AUTO VALUE HETTINGER
..... 2,161.30; BACKYARD
MECHANICS
..... 145.50
BAUYOT, LEAH 100.00
BENTSEN, REECE 65.00
BLOCK, ANNA 223.50
BUCKMIER EXCAVATING &
SPRAYING 125.00
BURKHALTER, RUTH 65.00
BURWICK, RANDY 406.72
CHINTE, ZAIRA 100.00
CHS SOUTHWEST GRAIN -
HETTINGER 218.90
CITY OF HETTINGER

..... 10,605.10
C O N S O L I D A T E D
TELCOM, INC

..... 537.41
DACOTAH BANK-HETTINGER
..... 20.00
Dacotah Bank 401.96
DAVID PARRILL CONSTRUC-
TION, LLC 213,348.00
DEFOE, DAWSON 150.00
ERICKSON HEATING AND AIR
LLC 20,850.00
FARMERS UNION 380.00
FORDAHL, JEREMY 22.50;
GEAUMONT, KYLE .. 1,350.96;
GS PUBLISHING 332.28
HARRIS, STEPHANIE .. 150.00
HEINRICH SEPTIC LLC

..... 575.10
HILLYARD/SIOUX FALLS

..... 1,148.26
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPT 52.92
JW PEPPER & SON INC.

..... 399.58
KENNEDY'S FRESH FOODS

..... 29.98
LAKESIDE AUTOBODY &
GLASS LLC 1,180.78

LARSON, JODI K. 395.37
Madison National Life Ins Co,
Inc 115.34

MALLARI, JOAN 100.00
MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC

- 131411 14,450.83
MARCO 4,839.21

MEYERS AUTO, INC .. 125.00
MIDWEST INVESTIGATION &
SECURITY, INC 14,401.27

MILLER, HENRY 14,048.53
MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES

..... 5,210.63
N D SCHOOL BOARDS

ASSOCIATION 195.00
 ND BUREAU OF CRIMINAL
 INVESTIGATION 40.00
 ND CENTER FOR DISTANCE
 EDUCATION 1,295.00
 ND COUNCIL OF EDUC
 LEADERS 775.00
 New York Life 1,759.09
 ODIN 152.21
 PLANBOOKEDU LLC ... 744.00
 REISENAUER, JANE 1,187.50

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RESNER, REBA 50.00
 SEAMANDS, MAX 25.00
 SHRED ND 53.75
 SKOGEN, SARAH 259.00
 SOCIAL INSTITUTE, THE
 4,250.00
 Software Unlimited Inc.
 Accounting Software .. 6,700.00
 SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT
 HEALTH UNIT 30.00
 STRID WELDING 2,500.00
 SWG LEMMON 98.52
 TIME MANGEMENT SYSTEMS
 4,402.35
 TIMM, KIM 106.49
 TRAINING ROOM INC. 532.82
 ULINE 540.73
 WADDINGTON BOOM TRUCK
 5,060.00
 WARBIS, ROGER 65.98
 WERC CENTER 1,050.00
 WEST RIVER HEALTH
 SERVICES 440.00
 WEST RIVER STUDENT
 SERVICES 7,665.00
 WESTERN ROLL OFF 1,100.00
 Dacotah Bank 180.00
 HENDRICKS, CONNIE .. 28.00
 KENNEDY'S FRESH FOODS
 233.88
 LIEN, CINDY 28.00
 SYSCO 9,636.74
 TIMM, KIM 28.00
 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES,
 INC 3,088.74
 BAYMONT INN & SUITES
 MANDAN 660.00
 BOWMAN COUNTY SCHOOL
 #1 150.00
 BRAUN DISTRIBUTING 864.88
 CENTER HIGH SCHOOL
 200.00
 CHRISTENSON, KYLE 352.74
 Dacotah Bank 390.20
 DIX, NOLAN 150.00
 DROLC, ZETA 145.00
 ECKROTH MUSIC CO.. 425.37

GAUGLER, LAMONT 0.00
 GLINES, PENNIE 150.00
 GROUP TRAVEL PLANNERS
 27,600.00
 HETTINGER EDUCATION
 ASSOCIATION 58.19
 JENSEN, LAELA 1,500.00
 KENNEDY'S FRESH FOODS
 114.53
 KILLDEER HIGH SCHOOL
 150.00
 LEFEBRE, JASON 500.00
 MAGIC WRIGHT E SERVICES
 350.00
 MOSBRUCKER, JUSTIN 54.09
 ND FFA ASSOCIATION. 175.00
 PEPSI COLA BOTTLING CO.
 1,835.85
 PIERCE, MADDOX 200.00
 SCHROEDER, RACHELLE
 308.82
 SPORTDECALS 450.00
 WARBIS, KRISTA 145.00
 WARNER, JAMES 58.18
 DACOTAH BANK-HETTINGER
 15.00
 WageWorks, Inc 75.00
 Bills were presented for consid-
 eration.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

September 2026 Financial
 Report: Christman moved to
 approve the financial report.
 Laufer seconded. All were in
 favor.

9. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Christman moved to approve
 the bills. Clausen seconded. All
 were in favor.

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. SUPERINTENDENT/ SECONDARY PRINCIPAL REPORT

Budget: The 2026-2027 bud-
 get appears to be within rea-
 sonable parameters based on
 expected revenue for the aca-
 demic year. Staffing for crucial
 positions continues to move for-
 ward, with regional advertising
 and occasional review of appli-
 cants. If filled, these positions
 would have an impact on the
 budget. Utility expenses during
 the winter months, along with
 rate increases, would also have
 an impact. A couple of building
 projects and renovations will
 take place, with projected costs

coming from the Building Fund.

Auto Shop: Work was completed on the ridge cap of the auto shop. Mr. Timm used the project to demonstrate the process of brazing metal as well as forming and bending sheets to fit areas that had openings allowing birds to nest in the ceiling.

Freezer: New parts for the kitchen freezer have arrived, and repairs are taking place this week. Appreciation was expressed to Kennedy's Fresh Foods and JC Farms for allow-

ing the school to use their cooler space while the repairs were being completed.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on September 24 from 3:30-8:30 PM. A community meal will be held from 5:00-7:00 PM, along with a community/school activity fair and several school-specific parent meetings.

Teen Dilemma: On September 23, 8th- and 9th-grade students will attend the Teen Dilemma event in Bowman from 8:25 AM-3:00 PM. This event closely resembles Freshman Impact from previous years in Lemmon.

Policy Committee/Senior Privileges: Ideas were shared with the Policy Committee regarding options for senior privileges. Changes in distance education have created an opportunity to consider a privilege for students taking dual-credit classes offered at the school. A proposed handbook guideline would require students to have a 3.33 GPA, attend their dual-credit class on the first day of the week, and remain on track in their other classes. Students meeting these requirements would have the option of taking their dual-credit class off campus for the remainder of the week.

Senior Class Composites: Discussion was held regarding whether senior class composites should be placed back on

the wall or whether other options should be considered.

B. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL REPORT

Principal Darci Freeland shared several positive developments and ongoing initiatives within the elementary school. The focus continues to be on building a strong school community, supporting staff, providing meaningful learning opportunities for students, and establishing consistent systems that promote student success.

Community Engagement: The elementary school continues to seek meaningful opportunities to connect students with the community and provide authentic learning experiences.

The school is working with the Aging Community group to coordinate a special school assembly in recognition of Veterans Day. The proposed date is November 10, 2026. Students will participate in activities including creating art projects, interviewing local veterans, writing veteran biographies, performing songs learned in Music, and working with the Stream Team to produce a video. The project will allow students to demonstrate academic skills while developing an appreciation for the experiences and contributions of community members.

Planning is also continuing for the Brushstrokes for Brain program, which will culminate in a community-wide Art Show in April. This will provide another opportunity to showcase student creativity and connect the school with families and community members.

Fiscal Responsibility and Resource Development: Beginning-of-year classroom inventories are being completed to establish accurate records of materials and resources available in each classroom.

An application was submitted for the WRHS Community Give Back Grant to assist with funding the Zones of Regulation

curriculum. The selection committee is scheduled to meet after September 18 to determine grant awards. Community grants provide opportunities to seek outside funding for programs that benefit students and staff.

Staff Engagement and Support: Supporting teachers and creating a strong sense of teamwork continues to be a priority. Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Larson, and Mrs. Seamands are serving as mentors for their respective cohorts. They meet weekly to discuss upcoming events and activities, classroom and educational topics, and areas where additional support may be beneficial.

Paraprofessionals are also playing an increasingly important role in providing instructional support. The school is working to maximize their impact through push-in services rather than relying primarily on pull-out support. Paraprofessionals are

currently supporting students through CKLA intervention/boost, Title services, English Learner services, and individualized one-on-one support. This approach allows students to receive additional assistance while remaining connected to classroom instruction and their peers.

School Community and Family Engagement: In preparation for Parent/Teacher Conferences, staff are working collaboratively to make the process organized and accessible for teachers and families. This includes assisting teachers with online conference schedules, preparing and serving a community meal, and creating an environment that makes it easy for families, community partners, and neighbors to participate.

The goal is to make parent engagement a positive experience and strengthen the partnership between school and home.

Elementary Instruction and

Enrichment: Work is underway on the development of an elementary library curriculum to provide students with consistent and purposeful instruction during library activities. Planned topics include making predictions, identifying sections of the library, understanding parts of a book, fiction versus nonfiction, theme and personification, making inferences, sequencing stories, and identifying character traits.

Additional classroom engagement opportunities include:

- Brushstrokes for Brain
- Zones of Regulation activities with Mrs. Reisenauer
- The 3-Minute Principal Challenge
- Continued development of consistent schoolwide behavior expectations
- Increased parent engagement and communication

These initiatives are intended to provide meaningful learning opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting while reinforcing academic, social-emotional, and behavioral expectations.

Student Behavior and Schoolwide Expectations: Another area of ongoing focus is establishing clear and consistent behavioral expectations across the elementary and junior high. The school is working to develop common expectations for students and ensure those expectations are communicated and reinforced consistently by staff.

The goal is to proactively teach students what appropriate behavior looks like, provide consistent reinforcement, and establish predictable responses when expectations are not met. The school is also working to strengthen parent communication and engagement so families understand expectations and can partner with the school in supporting their children.

Looking Ahead: The elementary school continues to make progress in building systems

that support students, teachers, and families. Current work emphasizes student achievement, staff support, community involvement, fiscal responsibility, and consistent expectations.

Appreciation was expressed for the commitment and professionalism of teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff. The focus moving forward will remain on strengthening established systems, supporting staff, engaging families and the community, and creating opportunities for every student to be successful.

C. BUSINESS MANAGER UPDATES

Budget Hearing: The proposed budget is available in OneDrive.

NDSBA Convention: Board members are being registered for the NDSBA Convention. Allison Clausen, Patrick Kilzer, and Jordan Christman are registered at this time. Registration must be completed by September 18, 2026, to receive the discounted rate.

Open Enrollment: Open enrollment for NDPhit concluded on August 21, 2026.

The new program year for NPhit, Health Equity, NYLife, and Aflac begins October 1, 2026.

Audit: No date has been received from Rath & Mehrer regarding the 2026 audit. The audit typically takes place some-

time in October.

D. ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT

Athletics

Football: The varsity football team is 2-2. The JV team has not played a game yet. The junior high team remains undefeated. Football field lights are expected to be operational by Friday. If the lights are not operational, the school is in contact with the head of officials regarding moving the game start time to 4:00 PM.

Volleyball: The varsity team traveled to New Salem for a tournament and advanced to

the Gold Tournament after placing in the top two of their pool. They placed fifth in the Gold Division out of 16 teams. The junior high teams are both 2-1 as of Monday morning. Matches are scheduled for Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Girls Golf: The junior high/junior varsity season concludes in South Heart. The varsity team will travel to Beulah on Friday for a meet. The state tournament is approaching.

Elementary Girls Basketball: The elementary girls are having a successful season. Coaches were recognized for their work with the teams. A tournament is scheduled this weekend in Harding County, with two fifth-grade teams and one fourth-grade team participating.

Other – Buses: A mower caused a window to break on the district's oldest 14-passenger bus. Replacement windows and parts are no longer manufactured for that bus.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee: Did not meet.

B. Co-Op Committee: Did not meet.

C. Policy Committee: Met once. Items discussed will be addressed under New Business.

D. Building Committee: Did not meet, but several items were discussed.

Light Poles: MDU has its line to the field, while the line inside the field is the district's responsibility. Discussion was held regarding trenching a single line outside the track to the middle pole and branching out to the other pole. It is also time to begin discussing the updates needed for the football field as a whole.

E. Curriculum Committee: Did not meet.

F. Transportation Committee: Did not meet.

G. Negotiations Committee: Did not meet.

H. RACTC Committee: Patrick Kilzer attended a meeting last month. RACTC discussed of-

fering equipment and CTE opportunities for a fee, including a heavy equipment simulator, meat labs, and an anatomy lab. Equipment could be kept for approximately 4-6 weeks.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Health Benefits: The group has determined the benefit plans, but discussion was held regarding whether the district will be able to cover the fringe benefit. This item may be removed from unfinished business; no action is needed.

B. Policy DBBA – Drug and Alcohol Testing Program for Employees: Kristy moved to approve the second and third readings. Laufer seconded. All were in favor.

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Compliance Report: Kristy moved for Mr. Seamands to file the Annual Compliance Report for the school year. Clausen seconded. All were in favor.

B. Policy BA – School Board Ethics: Kristy moved to approve the first reading. Clausen seconded. All were in favor.

C. Policy BA-BR1 – School Board Ethics Regulation: Kristy moved to approve the first reading. Clausen seconded. All were in favor.

D. Policy BA-BR2 – Board Members Internet and Social Media: Clausen moved to approve the first reading. Laufer seconded. All were in favor.

E. Policy DBAD – Ancillary Recruitment, Hiring and Benefit: Laufer moved to rescind the policy from the policy book. Kristy seconded. All were

in favor.

F. Policy ABCA-AR – Computer Software: Kristy moved to approve. Laufer seconded. All were in favor.

G. Rath & Mehler: Kristy moved to allow Rath & Mehler to con-

duct the district audit. Christman seconded. All were in favor.

H. CD Maturity: Christman moved to reinvest CD #3300004719 at Dakota Western Bank for a nine-month term at 3.9% for \$310,500.00. Laufer seconded. All were in favor.

I. Lobbying: Kristy moved to engage the services of Western Dakota Energy Association. Christman seconded. All were in favor.

J. Budget Approval: Christman moved to approve the 2026-2027 budget. Laufer seconded. All were in favor.

14. NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The next regular School Board meeting will be October 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Board Room.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Kristy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. Christman seconded. All were in favor.

Approved: /s/ Kira Henderson
Kira Henderson District Secretary
Hettinger Public School District

Approved: /s/ Patrick Kilzer
Patrick Kilzer Board President
Hettinger Public School District

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