

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2026 7:00 PM
Central Office Board Room
401 South Pine Street
Valley, NE 68064-0378

1. Call to Order	
2. Public Communications and Correspondence	2
3. Approval of Agenda	
4. Administrative Reports	4
4.1. Superintendent's Report	23
4.2. Financial Report	24
5. Consent Agenda	
5.1. Approve Minutes	31
5.2. Approve Claims for Payment	
5.3. Approve Financial Report	
5.4. Approve Classified Staff	
6. Board Committees	
7. New Business	
7.1. Approve the 2026-2027 Budget	35
7.2. Adopt Resolution to Set the Final Tax Request	37
8. Executive Session	
8.1. Reconvene to Regular Session	
9. Adjournment	

Board of Education

Cole Groteluschen

Dr. Kelly Hinrichs

Luke Janke

Jamie Jorgensen

Elizabeth Mayer

Jim Tomanek

Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

Kristi Trost, Board Secretary

This pamphlet has been developed to help the general public attending a meeting of the Board of Education to understand the internal operation of the Board. It is hoped that this pamphlet will foster improved relations between the Board and the citizens it serves.

Meetings of the Board

When

- The Board of Education convenes once each month on the second Monday except in the months that have five Mondays. In months with five Mondays, the Board convenes on the third Monday of the month. Holidays and unexpected conflicts may create exceptions to this practice.
- The Board of Education will convene in special session whenever it is deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the school district.
- Board of Education meetings are called to order at 7:00 p.m. unless another time is stipulated.

Where

- Regular and special meetings of the Board of Education will be held in the Board Room on the Valley Campus at 401 S. Pine St., in Valley, unless another location is specifically identified.
- Whenever public participation dictates the need for a larger meeting room, the Board will convene in the High School library.

Notice of Meetings

- Official notice of the time and place of the regular board meetings are posted on the doors of the schools, banks in Valley and Waterloo and the Valley City Hall.
- Notice of special meetings will be posted at least 24 hours in advance. Hearings will be published in The Omaha Daily Record.

Business of the Board

Agendas

- Agendas for the regular meeting on the second Monday of the month will be prepared in advance and kept current and available in the superintendent's office. Business items of an emergency nature may be placed on the agenda by a majority vote of the Board of Education.
- Parents, employees and patrons may request items placed before the Board of Education for consideration by contacting the Superintendent at least three business days in advance of a regular meeting.

Public Participation

- The Board of Education invites you to offer comments during the Public Communication and Correspondence portion of the meeting. Public requesting to offer comments during the Public Communication portion of the meeting shall make a request to speak or complete the sign-in information sheet at the meeting. The individual is asked to state the purpose and general nature of his or her appearance before the Board. The Board President shall indicate to the individual how much time the Board will allot the individual. Speakers normally will be given five minutes with a maximum of 20 minutes set aside for such communications.
- Members of the public requesting to speak to an item considered New or Old Business on the Agenda will request time during the Public Communications portion of the meeting. Unless the comments are related to an agenda item no action will be taken by the Board. Questions or requests of the Board by the public will be taken under consideration. The Board will direct the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, to respond in writing to any public

question or request brought before the Board. Equal time shall be allotted to individuals speaking for and against a proposal when opposing points of view are represented at the board meeting.

- The Board invites you to share any information you may have or address any question to any Board member or the Superintendent regarding new business in the week prior to the next meeting.
- If, at any Board meeting, any person shall conduct himself or herself in a disorderly manner and after notice of the president or the person presiding shall persist therein, the president or person presiding may ask the person to leave and if the person refuses, the president or presiding officer may order any law enforcement officer or any other person or persons to take him or her into custody until the meeting is adjourned.
- Meetings may be recorded. Recording must be done so as not to disrupt the meeting.
- Meetings of the Board of Education shall be conducted in compliance with appropriate policy, state statutes and open meeting laws.

Mission Statement

DC West Community Schools engages, prepares, and empowers all of our students for the future.



The Douglas County West Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Superintendent of Schools, 401 S. Pine St., Valley, Nebraska 68064 (402-359-2583).

Employees and Others: Superintendent of Schools, 401 S. Pine St., Valley, Nebraska 68064 (402-359-2583).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Dept. of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at 8930 Ward Pkwy, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, (816) 268-0550 (voice) or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf) or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.



Board Meeting Procedures

“Engage, Prepare, and Empower”

**Douglas County West
Community Schools
P.O. Box 378
401 S. Pine St.
Valley, Nebraska 68064**

Board Report
September 9th, 2026

Shawna Younghans- Administrative Facilitator

All four high school leadership teams have held their first meetings and are already hitting the ground running. The staff and student engagement teams are brainstorming ideas and initial action items, while the social, emotional, and behavioral team is developing plans to teach and reinforce the school-wide expectations staff created two years ago (S.O.A.R.). Meanwhile, the academic team will attend an MTSS-focused conference, gaining inspiration and guidance to help shape the high school's new MTSS process. With so many exciting projects already underway, I can't wait to see what this year holds.

Speaking of what's ahead: now that school is back in session, students and families may have questions about attendance and grade requirements for athletic and activity eligibility. If you have questions, please contact the High School Administration for clarification.

Academic Eligibility (HS student handbook)

Any student who has a cumulative failing grade at the time of the eligibility report, in any two classes, will not be eligible for school activities (excluding dances) the following week, Wednesday through Tuesday. The duration for the cumulative grade eligibility roster will be for the current semester grading period.

Students who are failing a class will be provided a Progress Report on Monday (or as soon as possible following a holiday) of each eligibility period. Staff will be notified of all students on the list. Students will have three days (Monday-Wednesday) to bring their failing grades up to passing. Once a passing grade is achieved/confirmed on the Powerschool grading report (or verbally/written by the teacher), the student will communicate the progress to the Activities Director (or his or her designee). If a student raises their grades to meet the eligibility requirement, he/she may participate in activities. All students who are failing two classes at the end of the school day (4:15 PM) on Wednesday (or other designated day due to the school calendar) will be ineligible until the following week. Special consideration on the enforcement of this policy will be given to special education students through the IEP team decision-making process. The eligibility period may be suspended due to holiday breaks, snow days, etc. at the discretion of the administration.

Attendance Eligibility

All students who participate in school activities must attend school all day the day the activity is scheduled to be eligible for participation. If a student is absent from school the day of an activity due to a dental/doctor appointment, funeral, family emergency, etc., they may participate upon return to school with an excused note from the professional office or parent (family emergency). This would need to be approved by an administrator. This applies to all practices, meets, contests, etc. All class work should be completed and turned in prior to leaving on the activity. Only students participating in the school activity will be excused from school on the day of the activity.

Go Falcons!
Mrs. Shawna Younghans

Director of Student Services Board Report

September 2026

Hello! It's been a busy month in the Special Education and Student Services departments as we start the new school year.

Our team opened the year with a strong compliance focus: We submitted Indicator 11 reporting to NDE by the 8/31 deadline and submitted corrected IEPs for our Focused Monitoring Corrective Action Plan by 8/28. Indicator 11 monitors our timeliness in completing initial evaluations within the state and federally mandated 60-day timeline. I'm happy to report that all evaluations were completed within the allotted timeframe last year for 100% compliance. I'm proud of our school psychologists and speech-language pathologists for prioritizing this timeline, which ensures children with special needs obtain access to specialized services in a timely manner. Individual IEP and MDT meetings have continued nearly daily across all buildings as the team works through annual reviews, evaluations, and eligibility determinations for the new school year.

Recurring team structures are fully in motion for the year, including weekly Elementary Special Education team meetings; monthly Birth-3, Middle School, and High School SPED Team meetings; and regular meetings focused on specialized areas, such as Behavior, School Psychology, Speech-Language Pathology, and Mental Health. We also initiated a Dyslexia Study Group with our psychologists, an elementary reading interventionist, and a speech-language pathologist.

Our professional development for this year will continue to focus on Inclusive Practices and IEP best practices in alignment with our Corrective Action Plan. The majority of our special education teachers are also completing all literacy instruction training included in our CLSD grant, and this will be a large focus of our improvement work this year. As part of the CLSD grant, I have had the opportunity to complete instructional walk-throughs to observe our literacy instruction in action for both our general and special education teachers, which has been a wonderful experience.

On the regional and state level, I have been active in NASES mentoring and regional meetings, the NeMTSS Statewide Stakeholders' Meeting, and the SRS Advisory planning for the 2026–2027 school year. Over the next month, we will begin to focus heavily on completing our Special Education Final Financials submission for the 2025–2026 school year.

Next month, I look forward to updating you on my professional goals for the year as well as our department goals.

Nicki Pechous, Ed.D., Director of Student Services



**September 2026, Board of Education Report
Dr. Dawn Marten, Director of Learning**

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

English Language Arts Instructional Practice Guide (IPG)

Beginning in September, building and district administrators will conduct classroom observations using the Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative's English Language Arts Instructional Practice Guide (IPG). This tool allows instructional leaders to provide content-specific, actionable feedback to teachers by examining standards alignment, text complexity, the quality of questions and tasks, and the level of student engagement and productive struggle during ELA instruction. Rather than serving as an evaluative measure, the IPG is designed to inform our district's vision for high-quality literacy instruction and to help identify both strengths and areas for growth across classrooms. Findings from these observations will be used to guide targeted professional development and instructional support throughout the school year.

ASSESSMENT

Fall Benchmark Testing

During this Fall assessment window, students in kindergarten and first grade completed FastBridge screening for Reading and Math to monitor development and growth. Students in grades 2 through 8 completed MAP assessments in both Reading and Math. These universal screening measures provide administrators and teachers with valuable data to monitor student progress, identify students who may benefit from additional support, and inform instructional planning across grade levels.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Fall Workshop

The 2026-27 school year began with a week of teacher professional learning and preparation activities from August 13-18. Veteran teachers returned on Thursday, August 13, for a teacher work day that included a Special Education meeting, followed by a full day of District Professional Learning on Friday, August 14, covering the district strategic plan, the 26-27 Professional Learning Plan, the CLSD Strategic Literacy Blueprint, special education updates, the assessment calendar, and required online trainings in suicide prevention, bullying prevention, and dating violence prevention.

Classified staff returned on Tuesday, August 18, joining teachers for a District Kickoff event before breaking into school staff meetings and continued teacher work time. The week

culminated on Monday, August 17, with a teacher work day followed by Open House events for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school families, along with orientation sessions for incoming 6th graders and freshmen. This structured week of collaboration, planning, and community engagement helped prepare staff for a successful start to the school year.

School Continuous Improvement Plans

As part of the district's continuous improvement work, each school has developed its own School Improvement Plan, with action teams established to carry out targeted strategies aligned to building and district goals. Every teacher participates on an action team, ensuring that improvement efforts are collaborative and grounded in shared ownership across the school. Teacher leaders guide each action team, facilitating the team's work, keeping progress aligned to the school's improvement goals, and supporting the use of data to inform decisions along the way. This structure allows each school to engage all staff in the continuous improvement cycle while distributing leadership and building capacity among teachers.

Science of Reading Literacy Training

K-3 classroom teachers began their first session of professional learning through the UNO Early Literacy Workshop, a training grounded in the Science of Reading. Over the course of the school year, teachers will participate in five 2.75-hour in-person sessions held during professional development days, paired with 4-6 hours of asynchronous work between each session to reinforce and extend their learning. Teachers completing the training will receive a \$1,300 stipend or the option of 3 graduate credit hours in recognition of their time and commitment. This investment in evidence-based early literacy instruction reflects the state's and district's continued focus on strengthening foundational reading skills for our youngest learners.

Family & Community Partnership

The National School Superintendent Association (AASA) Early Childhood Cohort visit

The AASA Early Childhood Cohort has requested to visit Buffett Early Childhood Institute and DC West Elementary to experience firsthand the work of the Superintendent's Early Childhood Plan. Educators from across the nation will visit DC West Elementary on October 8. This visit will highlight the district's early learning practices, provide an opportunity to showcase classrooms and instructional approaches, and allow participants to engage directly with staff about our PK-3 alignment and support.



Douglas County West High School and Middle School
Director of Athletics & Activities Board Report September 2026
Mr. Jeremy Travis

We are off and running here at DC West High School and Middle School in Athletics and Activities. Our teams are representing the Falcons to the best of their ability and they all are hungry to keep learning and improving. The hot weather has altered practice and game times these past couple weeks and had us get strategic with our gyms for before and after school practices. We are definitely hoping that some cooler fall weather is right around the corner for all of our programs. Our Team Band Applications, Social Media Platforms, E-mails, Bound, and our DCW Notification System have been great resources of schedule updates and communications for our teams, families, and community. I'm excited for what the next month will bring for our programs!



Our **DC West HS Softball Team** is off to a (9-3) start on the season and currently ranked #4 in Class C across the state, which is fantastic. The team has been working hard and seems to be coming together more and more each game. Sophomore Lillee Zach is among the top pitchers in the state in strikeouts on this young season. We had a great turnout for DC West Youth Softball Night where the youth was able to be in the dugout during warm-ups and join the team during the starting line-up and National Anthem. The Falcons will celebrate Senior Night on Tuesday, September 15th vs Wahoo before the Varsity Game at approximately 6:15pm at the DC West Athletic Complex. The Falcons are coached by Head Coach Ady Marshall.



Our **HS Band** has been busy with Valley Days and Waterloo Days Parades as well as at our home events keeping the energy high and the music sounding great! The Director of Instrumental Music is Liz Guinn.



Our **HS Cross Country Team** has participated in two invites this year already. Junior Jack Steinbach has won both boys high school varsity events with Sophomore Harold Maca coming in close behind at 3rd and 4th place. DC West was able to host their first DC West Cross Country Invite at our Athletic Complex and it was a big success filled with lots of compliments from opposing schools. The DC West Cross Country Head Coach is Ty Hansen.



Our **HS Girls Golf Team** has participated in one away tournament so far this season and competed well for their first ever performance for the Falcons. Sophomores Lily Palko and Chloe Dennell both tied for a 15th place finish, which was a great start to the season. They have another tournament coming up this week that I know they are looking forward too as a team. The girls have been putting in a lot of practice and focusing on improvement and growth both individually and as a team. The DC West Head Golf Coach is Ben Knobbe.



Our **HS Football Team** is off to an (0-2) start on the season with tough losses to Pierce and Mount Michael which were both state playoff teams from the previous season. I know the players and coaches will keep working on getting better every day on and off the field. Our next game is on the road vs Central City on Friday, September 11th at 7:00pm. Our HS Football Head Coach is Mike Troy.



Our **HS Volleyball Team** is currently (6-1) on the season and (4-0) vs Nebraska Capitol Conference opponents. DC West will be the host school this year for the NCC Volleyball Tournament, which is exciting. Senior Ava Newbauer recently broke 500 set assists in a career. This is a very competitive week with an away game at Omaha Gross, a home game vs Concordia and a weekend tournament at Wahoo Neumann. The DC West Volleyball Team Head Coach is Bob Wald.



Our **HS Cheer and Dance Team** have been participating in parades, games, pep rallies, and other events here at DC West. We appreciate all of their support and efforts for our Falcons! Our HS Cheer and Dance Head Coach is Alyssa Lindahl.



Our **DC West Student Sections** have been great in supporting our Falcons on game day here at DC West!



Our **Middle School Football Team** had one game cancelled last week due to the extreme heat and finished in a tie after continuous lightning delay in their second game. We have approximately 40 participants on this year's football team. Our MS Head Football Coach is Jesse Hays.

Our **Middle School Volleyball Team** is (1-0) on the season. We have approximately 32 participants on this year's volleyball team. Our MS Head Volleyball Coach is Mandi Mace.



Our **Middle School Cross Country Team** has participated in two invites already. At Logan View, Will Hutchinson, placed 2nd overall in the boy's race. At DC West, Hayden Cameron placed 3rd overall in the girls race and Will Hutchinson placed 2nd overall in the boy's race again. Our MS Head Cross Country Coach is Nolan Zimmer.

To view upcoming **Team Schedules or Events**, please go to **BOUND**:

<https://www.gobound.com/ne/schools/douglascountywest>

*"One teammate can **change everything**. The tone, the standard, the energy, the belief. **Be the ONE.**"*

Please let me know if I can ever be of any help and I'm really looking forward to a fantastic year.

Go Falcons!

Mr. Travis
#FalconsTakeFlight



JEREMY TRAVIS

Director of Athletics & Activities (7-12)

DC WEST

Community Schools

Engage, Prepare, and Empower

📍

401 S. Pine Street
Valley, NE 68064

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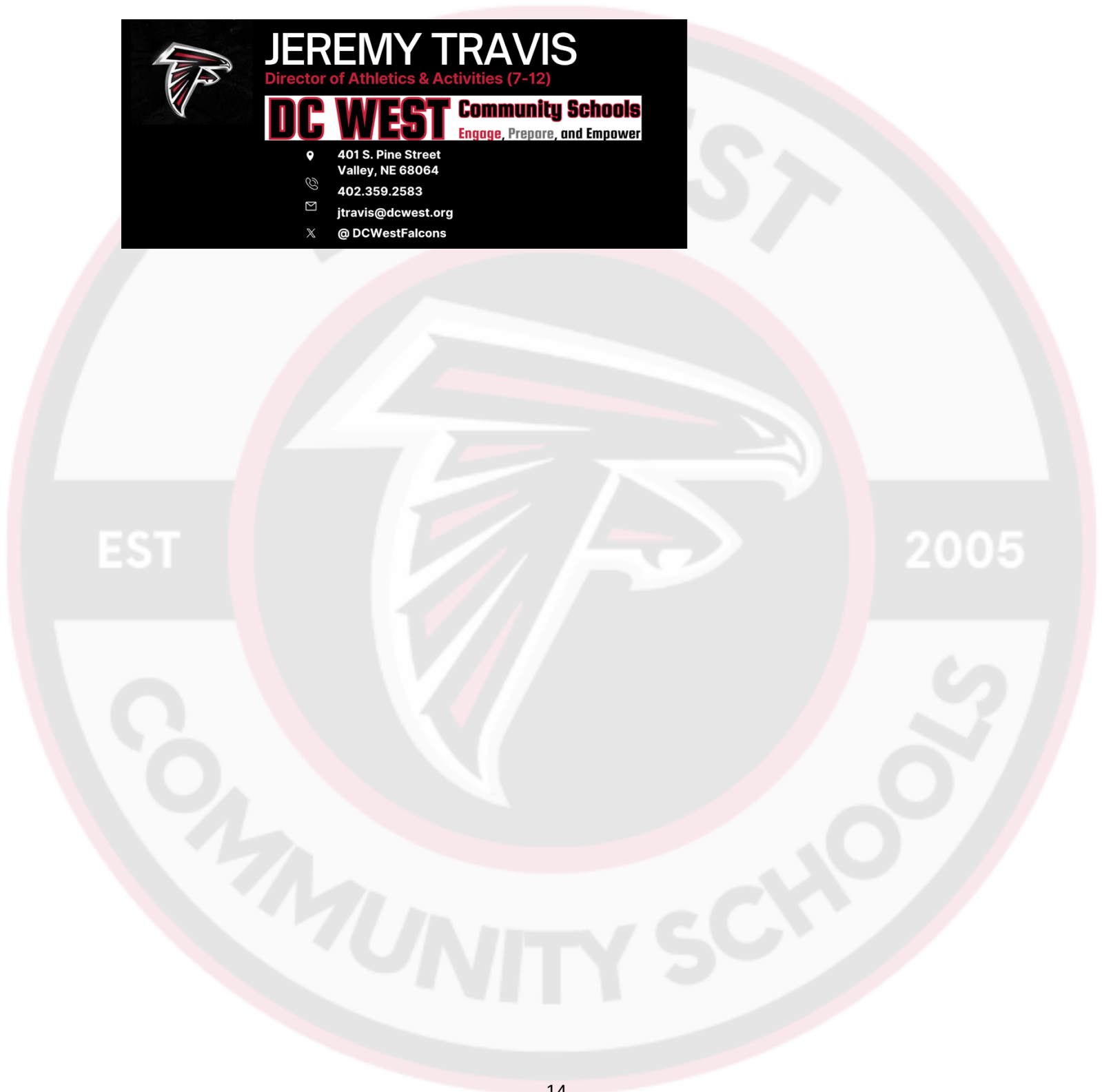
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@DCWestFalcons



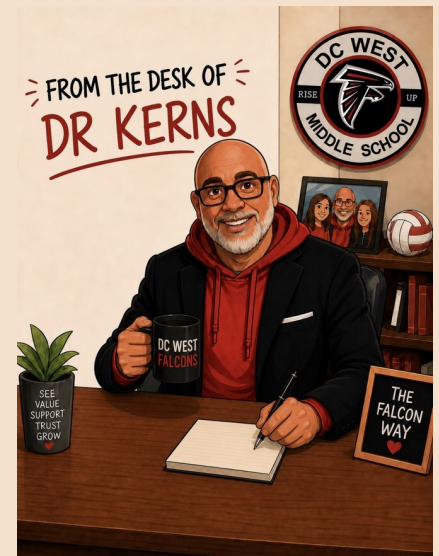


Walk past the gym on a pep rally afternoon and you feel it before you see it. The floor shakes. The noise finds you out in the hallway. That is what a strong start sounds like.

We are off and running. The first quarter is well underway, our brand-new exploratory classes are up and running in all three grades, and our clubs and teams are filling up fast. Every day in school counts, and our students are already proving it.

Dr. Jeffrey Kerns

PRINCIPAL, DC WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL



THANK YOU

A Fantastic Fall Pep Rally

Our fall pep rally set the tone for the entire year, and it did not happen by accident. A huge Falcon thank-you to **Molly Dembinski, Alyssa Lindahl, Aubrey Lakner, and Jocelyn Bakken** for planning and running the event.

From the first cheer to the last, your work gave our students a start they will remember. We are grateful for the energy, the hours, and the school pride you poured into it.

NEW THIS YEAR

The Hexter Exploratory Wheel

Our academic year runs on quarters and semesters, the same as always. New this year, our **exploratory classes** run on **hexters** — six short terms that let students rotate through a wide range of hands-on electives. Every student in all three grades samples several exploratories across the year, from STEM to speech to photography. Here is what is on the wheel by grade:

6th Grade

- ◆ STEM
- ◆ Study Skills
- ◆ Musical Theater
- ◆ Band Lessons
- ◆ Speech
- ◆ Google Typing / Platforms
- ◆ Digital Citizenship

7th Grade

- ◆ STEM
- ◆ Photography
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Careers
- ◆ Acting
- ◆ French

15

8th Grade

- ◆ STEM
- ◆ Yearbook
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Careers
- ◆ FCS
- ◆ Debate
- ◆ Acting II
- ◆ Spanish

Students rotate through these exploratories across the six hexters.

PLEASE NOTE

A Reminder About Our Cell Phone Policy

Personal devices should be away and silent during the school day so our students can stay focused on learning. When that expectation is not met, here is how staff respond. Consequences build with each infraction.

Every step begins the same way: **the teacher collects the device and turns it over to the principal, who documents the infraction in EduClimber.** What changes is what happens next.

1 FIRST INFRACTION

The student picks the device back up from the principal at the end of the day.

2 SECOND INFRACTION

The principal contacts the parent. The student checks the device in each morning for **1 school day**, or leaves it home.

3 THIRD INFRACTION

The parent is contacted and **picks up the device**. Morning check-in continues for **5 school days**, or it stays home.

4 FOURTH INFRACTION

The parent is contacted and picks up the device. Morning check-in continues for the **remainder of the semester**, or it stays home.

RISE UP

Earn Your Falcon Reward Trip

Good habits add up. Each quarter, students who Rise Up can earn a spot on the Falcon Reward Trip. Meet at least four of the five marks below and your student qualifies — a simple way to celebrate the everyday choices that make a great student and a great Falcon.

MEET 4 OF 5 TO QUALIFY

1 Grades of “C” or above in all classes

2 No missing assignments, tests, or projects

3 No cell phone violations for the quarter

4 No office suspension (ISS or OSS)

5 No more than 2 full-day absences

SEPT 14 - 18

Spirit Week: Dancing Through the Decades

Break out the throwbacks. Spirit Week travels through time this year, kicking off in the 1950s on Monday and moving a decade forward each day until we land back in the Falcon future on Friday.

Check the daily themes on the flyer and start planning those outfits. Every day is a chance to show your Falcon pride.

Friday, Sept 18: Back to the Falcon Future — wear throwback jerseys and vintage Falcon gear to close out the week.



DAILY THEMES — SEPT 14-18

CLUBS

Join Robotics! Build, Code, Compete

Our robotics team is recruiting now, and this year's VEX V5 challenge is **Override**. Students design and build a robot, program it, and compete head-to-head against other schools.

No experience is needed and everyone is welcome. If your student likes to design, build, solve problems, or work as a team, this is the place for them.

Interested? **See Mrs. Leonard** for more information and to sign up.

VEX V5 — 2026-2027 "OVERRIDE"

PLAN AHEAD

2026-2027 Vacation Planner

Thinking about a family trip? These natural breaks in the DC West calendar are the easiest days to travel without your student missing class. **Winter Break** (Dec 19–Jan 4) and **Spring Break** (Mar 27–Apr 4) offer the longest windows.

Save the flyer for the full list of long weekends and breaks. Every day in school counts, so planning around these dates helps keep your student on track.

2026 – 2027 VACATION PLANNER

Planning a family trip? Please consider these natural breaks in the DC West school calendar.

Labor Day 3-Day Weekend September 5 – 7	September PD Day 3-Day Weekend September 26 – 28	End of 1st Quarter 5-Day Weekend October 15 – 19
Thanksgiving Break 5-Day Weekend November 25 – 29	Winter Break 17-Day Opportunity December 19 – January 4	MLK Day 3-Day Weekend January 16 – 18
End of 3rd Quarter 4-Day Weekend March 11 – 14	Spring Break 9-Day Opportunity March 27 – April 4	April PD Day 5-Day Weekend April 17 – 19

EVERY DAY IN SCHOOL COUNTS.
 Thank you for planning ahead — and Go Falcons!
 DC West Community Schools • Engage, Prepare, and Empower

BREAKS & LONG WEEKENDS AT A GLANCE

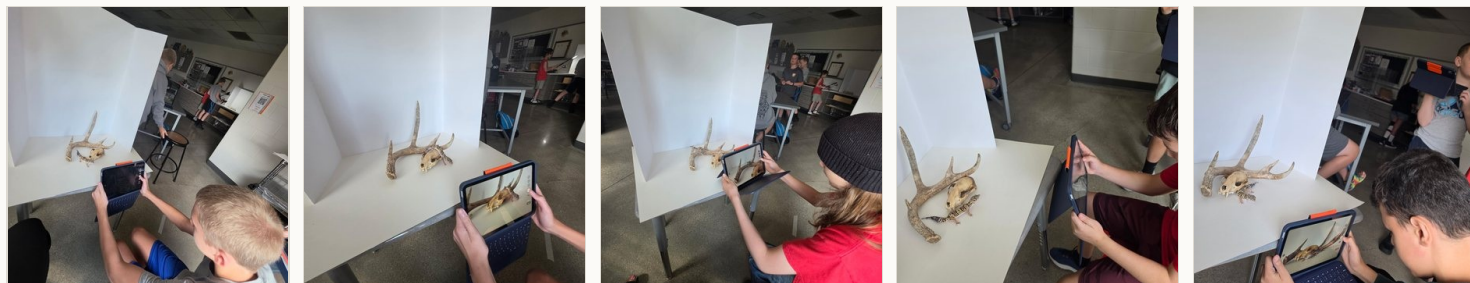
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Behind the Lens in Photography

One of our new exploratory classes, Photography, is already producing sharp work. Students built their own lightbox studios and practiced framing, lighting, and focus, capturing everything from deer antlers and an animal skull to a very patient class gecko.



THE FINISHED SHOT — ANTLER, SKULL & CLASS GECKO



Students at work in the Photography exploratory.

GO FALCONS!

Engage, Prepare, and Empower

September 8, 2026

Board Report

Elementary School (Mr. Sarka & Mrs. Ranslem)

DC West Community Schools

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2. Fall Data Digs
3. RISE Expectations Assembly & Falcon Focus
4. District Staff Kickoff
5. K-3 Early Literacy Meeting

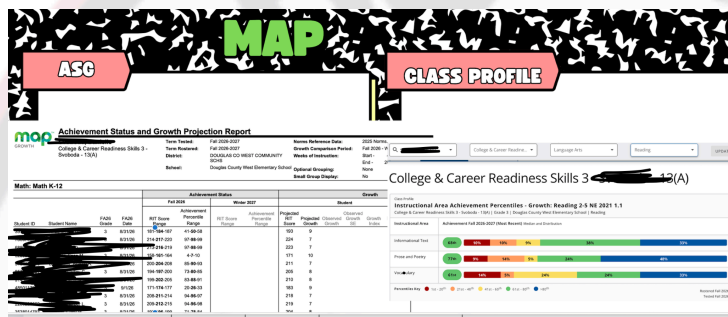
1. 1st Popcorn with the Principal's Party!

We kicked off the school year by celebrating students who were selected by their teachers for going above and beyond and demonstrating our Falcon RISE Expectations during the first two weeks of school. Students enjoyed popcorn and time outside with Mr. Sarka and Mrs. Ranslem as we celebrated their positive choices, effort, and commitment to making DC West Elementary a welcoming and supportive community. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize our Falcons for starting the school year with strong Falcon Grit — We Don't Quit!



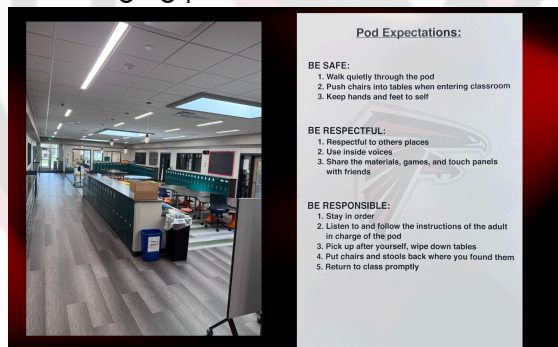
2. Fall Data Digs

K–5 teachers engaged in a collaborative data dive, analyzing MAP and FastBridge reports and entering student scores into our new grade-level data sheets. Teams then collaborated with Intervention, Title, SPED, and HAL staff to identify student needs and develop targeted small-group interventions and supports to help each student grow.



3. RISE Expectations Assembly & Falcon Focus

Students in each grade level participated in a Falcon RISE Expectations Assembly focused on reviewing and reinforcing our common-area expectations. Grade levels were brought together individually to discuss what it looks and sounds like to demonstrate the Falcon RISE expectations throughout the school. We are excited to launch a new initiative, "Falcon Focus," where a different common-area expectation will be highlighted each week. Mr. Sarka and Mrs. Ranslem will be on the lookout for students demonstrating exceptional effort in that week's focus and will recognize them with Falcoins. The weekly focus will remain a surprise to students, adding an element of fun and excitement while encouraging positive behaviors schoolwide.



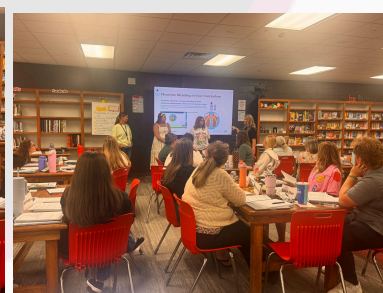
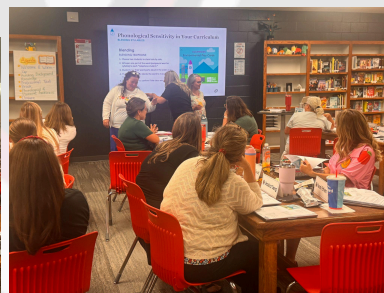
4. District Staff Kickoff

Our all-staff kickoff was a wonderful way to begin the school year with connection, reflection, and inspiration. Dr. Poloncic facilitated a panel of educators who shared their experiences and perspectives while answering staff questions about relationships, instruction, and advice for success in education. Staff also selected one word to serve as a personal focus for the year, encouraging each of us to be more intentional in how we approach our work, relationships, and impact on students throughout the school year.



5. Kindergarten-3rd Grade Early Literacy Training Meeting

K-3 teachers participated in UNO's Early Literacy Training to strengthen instructional practices and support literacy development across grade levels. During our staff meeting, we also prepared for upcoming Instructional Practice Guide (IPG) walkthroughs by reviewing the walkthrough process, discussing the specific indicators we will look for in literacy instruction, and establishing a shared rubric and schedule. This work will help create consistency in expectations while providing meaningful feedback and opportunities for continued growth in literacy instruction.



Board Report

September 9, 2026

Jim Knott – High School Principal

DC West High School

Fall activities are in full swing and it is good to have students in the building again. It has been a great start to the year as school spirit from both students, parents, and community members seems to be very high. Our sports teams have had some early season successes and challenges that we look to build upon as the fall season progresses.

Current high school enrollment numbers are listed at the bottom of this report. With the graduation of a small senior class in May, and the addition of a larger freshman class this fall, we are back up in total numbers to nearly matching our all-time high of 335 students. Although we have had some smaller classes mixed in over time, we are still seeing steady growth through the last 10+ years. If you look forward to the next three years, based on current enrollment, we should grow to near 350 (9-12) by the 2029/30 school year. We have prepared for the larger numbers by adding core-area teachers and sections in order to keep our class numbers manageable and electives plentiful. We will continue to keep a close eye on staffing in the upcoming years looking to expand offerings and ensure that we continue to provide the high-quality education DC West is known for.

A few events that will soon be happening at DCWHS

*Homecoming Week – September 14-19

*HS Parent-Teacher Conferences – October 7 (3:45-7:45) & 14 (2:30-7:45)

*Practice ACT Testing for 11th graders – October 28

9-12 High School Enrollment Numbers

2014/15 School Year – 272 (1/22/15)

2015/16 School Year – 281 (1/13/16)

2016/17 School Year - 270 (1/10/17)

2017/18 School Year - 284 (1/3/18)

2018/19 School Year - 294 (1/14/19)

2019/20 School Year - 289 (8/12/19)

2020/21 School Year - 301 (9/3/20)

2021/22 School Year - 311 (9/7/21)

2022/23 School Year - 302 (9/7/22)

2023/24 School Year – 335 (9/6/23)

2024/25 School Year – 331 (9/11/24)

2025/26 School Year – 307 (9/8/25)

2026/27 School Year – 334 (9/9/26)



DC WEST Community Schools

Engage, Prepare, and Empower

Superintendent's Report September 14, 2026

NASB Upcoming Professional Development for Board

The [State Education Conference "Building Strong Futures"](#) will be held in Omaha on November 18-20th. I will plan on attending and would love to have as many Board members as possible join me. Please let me know if you plan to attend and I will register you.

Rooftop Unit 13 on High School

Rooftop Unit 13 on the south gymnasium is eight years old and needs a major repair. The first bid we received was \$26,687. The second bid we received with the same scope of repair was \$19,668. We plan to move forward with the lower bid and complete the repair. Since this was a large cost close to our Board approved threshold, I wanted to notify the Board of our process. We decided to repair instead of replace as a replacement cost would have been \$120,000+. A typical lifespan of the RTUs is 15 years.

Master Planning Update

We plan to move forward with the Community Survey reviewed with the Board in July during the second half of September. BCDM has requested an engagement meeting with our entire administrative team in the month of September as well. We look forward to both of these opportunities as we continue our journey with Master Planning.

Superintendent Goals 2026

- Facilitate the Master Planning process to approach Strategic Plan 5.1 & 5.3: creation of a comprehensive facilities plan to address both short term and long term goals including, but not limited to, new construction, renovation, and maintenance of facilities, and acquiring property to meet the future growth needs of the district and align district resources to support a quality education system and high-level learning environment by ensuring necessary staffing levels, space allocation, and resource expenditures
- Implement Strategic Plan Strategy 4.2 to increase communication to maintain perceptions of DC West by engaging students, families, employees, and the DC West community to promote and enrich the brand of DC West Community Schools.
- Lead the vision and support needed to implement strategic plan priorities in 2026. Specifically increase overall proficiency and/or growth in core areas of student achievement district-wide.
- Continue to unify, coach and lead the entire administrative team to excellence.
- Begin to develop a leadership succession plan within the district and a transition process to proactively identify and transition new leadership within the district (Strategy 3.4).

Upcoming Dates:

September 14-19, Homecoming Week

September 21, Melissa attending the Commissioner's Superintendent Advisory meeting

September 30th, Melissa and Sam attending Labor Relations conference

October 7th, MS/HS Conferences

October 12th, EL Conferences and Regular School Board Meeting

October 14th, EL/MS/HS Conferences

October 15th-19th, Fall Break, Teacher Professional Development on the 19th

Financial Recap August 2026

General Fund	8/1/26	Receipts	Expenditures	8/31/26
Depreciation Fund	\$ 8,560,924.25	\$ 2,256,104.75	\$ 1,545,869.53	\$9,271,159.47
Food Service Fund	\$ 1,845,063.41	\$ 1,503.69	\$ 39.27	\$1,846,527.83
Qualified Capital Fund	\$ 18,213.04	\$ 43,908.37	\$ 269.59	\$61,851.82
Bond Fund	\$ 403,748.65	\$ 112,255.51	\$ 236,906.24	\$279,097.92
Special Building Fund	\$ 2,297,614.41	\$ 356,441.17	\$ -	\$2,654,055.58
	\$ 665,235.03	\$ 355,623.63	\$ -	\$1,020,858.66
	\$ 13,790,798.79	\$ 3,125,837.12	\$ 1,783,084.63	\$15,133,551.28

General Fund Detail

Expenditures	August	YTD	Budgeted	Revenues	August	YTD
All Instructional Program	\$ 675,053.51	\$ 8,361,448.67	\$ 8,519,107.00	Personal and Prop Taxes	\$ 2,061,310.21	\$ 7,424,006.76
SPED Instructional Program	\$ 123,963.39	\$ 2,282,986.43	\$ 2,534,928.00	Carline Tax	\$ -	\$ 5,486.73
Support Services SPED Related	\$ 29,572.63	\$ 524,878.53	\$ 551,856.00	Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$ 132,774.00	\$ 1,592,878.35
Support Services Non-SPED Related	\$ 31,937.24	\$ 501,673.19	\$ 522,058.00	Facility Rental	\$ -	\$ 2,900.00
Support Instructional	\$ 85,128.94	\$ 769,644.26	\$ 785,282.00	Tuition Received from Individuals	\$ 9,280.00	\$ 90,590.10
Board of Education	\$ 11,507.58	\$ 116,850.32	\$ 111,624.00	Interest	\$ 4,368.63	\$ 44,444.26
Executive Administration Services	\$ 31,756.28	\$ 378,559.13	\$ 384,046.00	Local License Fees	\$ -	\$ 3,180.00
District Legal Services	\$ 266.00	\$ 12,914.25	\$ 40,000.00	Grants from Corporations/Private	\$ -	\$ 228,998.84
Office of the Principal	\$ 75,791.55	\$ 952,378.60	\$ 971,578.00	Other Local Receipts	\$ 490.82	\$ 14,046.17
General Admin - Business Services	\$ 37,801.50	\$ 298,475.38	\$ 390,055.00	County Fines and License Fees	\$ 1,947.17	\$ 25,728.23
Maint & Operation of Building & Equipment	\$ 174,177.26	\$ 1,686,808.51	\$ 1,935,494.00	ESU Receipts	\$ -	\$ -
Vehicle Acquisition & Maint	\$ -	\$ 5,030.35	\$ 9,746.00	State Aid	\$ -	\$ 2,699,629.00
Regular Pupil Transportation	\$ 193,335.55	\$ 768,576.12	\$ 658,246.00	Special Education Programs	\$ -	\$ 1,904,838.00
SPED Pupil Transportation	\$ 18,644.67	\$ 146,696.87	\$ 172,757.00	Special Education Transportation	\$ -	\$ 81,727.00
Categorical Grant from Coporation	\$ 22,947.73	\$ 279,802.62	\$ 322,001.00	Homestead Exemption	\$ 32,156.45	\$ 214,009.55
State Categorical Programs	\$ 820.01	\$ 16,832.45	\$ 16,376.00	Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle	\$ -	\$ 19,453.95
Federal Programs	\$ 33,165.69	\$ 399,442.82	\$ 412,275.00	High Ability Learners	\$ -	\$ 9,515.00
Transfer Out	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Early Childhood Grant	\$ -	\$ 60,507.00
	\$ 1,545,869.53	\$ 17,502,998.50	\$ 18,337,429.00	State Apportionment	\$ -	\$ 254,040.29
				Other State Receipts	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00
				Prop & Personal Property Tax Credit	\$ 953.91	\$ 3,538,617.42
				Title ESSA Programs	\$ -	\$ 139,703.00
				IDEA Programs	\$ -	\$ 312,471.94
				Medicaid	\$ 12,823.56	\$ 64,978.38
				ESSER II & ESSER III	\$ -	\$ -
				Other Federal Categorical Receipts	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
				Sale of Property	\$ -	\$ 76,917.45
				Insurance Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -
					\$ 2,256,104.75	\$ 18,826,167.42

August 2026 Payroll

Net Payroll	\$ 583,329.79
Payroll Taxes (District)	\$ 61,549.47
Payroll Withholding (Employees)	\$ 129,863.37
Retirement (District)	\$ 59,111.38
Retirement Withholding (Employees)	\$ 58,526.06

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances
08/2026 - 08/2026

Douglas County West Community School District 15
09/10/2026 3:35 PM

Regular, Beginning Month 08/2026; Processing Month 08/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
05 704	INTEREST	5,280.82	0.00	134.16	0.00	5,414.98
05 704 1001	ACTIVITY PASSES	18,557.14	0.00	10,200.00	0.00	28,757.14
05 704 1002	CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS	7,331.53	0.00	1,320.00	0.00	8,651.53
05 704 1003	INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	2,684.55	2,844.00	303.50	0.00	344.05
05 704 1005	STAFF LOUNGE	4,331.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,331.80
05 704 1007	VALLEY WAY	8,523.64	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	9,523.64
05 704 1011	PTSA DONATION	4,117.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,117.70
05 704 1023	PROM	3,922.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,922.28
05 704 1102	ARTS & HUMANITIES	550.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.62
05 704 1104	ATHLETICS HS	4,876.25	1,097.00	4,602.00	0.00	8,381.25
05 704 1106	BASEBALL TEAM	1,199.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,199.55
05 704 1107	BAND	2,709.55	448.50	100.00	0.00	2,361.05
05 704 1108	CHEER	2,696.15	8,409.79	16,245.71	0.00	10,534.07
05 704 1110	SPRING PLAY	3,221.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,221.03
05 704 1111	BBB TEAM	184.05	350.00	510.00	0.00	344.05
05 704 1112	CONCESSIONS	40,034.59	5,005.14	5,833.05	0.00	40,862.50
05 704 1113	CONSTRUCTION TECH	7,106.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,106.79
05 704 1114	DANCE TEAM	1,889.51	0.00	1,526.20	0.00	3,415.71
05 704 1115	HS MUSICAL	5,857.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,857.55
05 704 1116	ONE ACT	3,607.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,607.71
05 704 1117	FBLA	2,558.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,558.22
05 704 1118	HIGH SCHOOL	1,334.76	125.00	186.55	0.00	1,396.31
05 704 1119	DC TECH 1:1	3,367.58	0.00	6,660.00	0.00	10,027.58
05 704 1120	GBB TEAM	5,790.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,790.14
05 704 1123	HOSA	2,087.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,087.77
05 704 1124	STUCO HS	2,628.64	206.94	3,673.00	0.00	6,094.70
05 704 1128	NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	982.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	982.66
05 704 1131	FOOTBALL TEAM	2,883.12	650.00	360.00	0.00	2,593.12
05 704 1132	SCIENCE CLUB	446.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	446.69
05 704 1133	SPEECH TEAM	2,532.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,532.77
05 704 1134	VOCAL MUSIC	4,917.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,917.77
05 704 1136	WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB	690.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	690.52
05 704 1137	ROBOTICS TEAM	4,804.52	905.20	2,750.00	0.00	6,649.32
05 704 1141	GOLF TEAM	564.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	564.88
05 704 1142	YEARBOOK HS	5,059.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,059.43
05 704 1151	CROSS COUNTRY TEAM	1,975.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,975.43
05 704 1161	SOFTBALL TEAM	10,223.40	0.00	50.00	0.00	10,273.40

Regular, Beginning Month 08/2026; Processing Month 08/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

Chart of Account Number	Chart of Account Description	Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
05 704 1166	BOYS TRACK TEAM	240.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.52
05 704 1167	GIRLS TRACK TEAM	112.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	112.50
05 704 1176	VOLLEYBALL TEAM	10,596.90	4,565.16	0.00	0.00	6,031.74
05 704 1186	WRESTLING TEAM	1,668.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,668.67
05 704 1198	SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS	598.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	598.12
05 704 1224	STUCO MS	15,828.02	0.00	240.50	0.00	15,868.52
05 704 1225	COFFEE CART - EL SPED	1,576.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,576.40
05 704 1319	DISNEY MUSICAL	16,074.90	561.80	1,264.00	0.00	16,777.10
05 704 1320	PRESCHOOL	7,517.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,517.07
05 704 2112	MS CONCESSIONS	2,735.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,735.72
05 704 2121	MS 888 TEAM	211.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	211.05
05 704 2136	MS FOOTBALL TEAM	368.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	368.47
05 704 2201	ART CLUB MS	177.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	177.51
05 704 2204	ATHLETICS MS	3,356.81	0.00	125.00	0.00	3,481.81
05 704 2205	UNIFIED SPORTS	2,949.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,949.94
05 704 2216	MS DRAMA	42.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.72
05 704 2218	MIDDLE SCHOOL	853.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	853.79
05 704 2242	MS YEARBOOK	3,120.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,120.79
05 704 3220	ELEM FIELD TRIP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 3221	PBIS/FALCOIN	5,185.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,185.15
05 704 3222	BATTLE OF THE BOOKS	460.65	308.00	0.00	0.00	152.65
05 704 3318	ELEMENTARY	6,403.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,403.23
Fund Total: 05		261,382.04	25,276.53	57,083.67	0.00	293,189.18

Regular, Beginning Month 08/2026; Processing Month 08/2026; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity

Fund: 12 STUDENT FEES		Chart of Account Description		Beginning Balance	Expenses	Revenues	Balance Change	Balance
Chart of Account Number	12 704	STUDENT PARTICIPATION FEE						
				31,540.07	570.00	9,905.00	0.00	40,875.07
		Fund Total: 12		31,540.07	570.00	9,905.00	0.00	40,875.07

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MID MONTH

User ID: KRISTJESS

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01	GENERAL FUND
AAA GARAGE DOOR, INC		3,739.00
ADVENTURE ENTERPRISES, LLC		2,021.00
ASPI SOLUTIONS INC		270.00
AWARDS UNLIMITED INC		399.72
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY		1,668.60
BLICK ART MATERIALS		108.98
BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES INC		214.81
BSN SPORTS LLC		2,160.00
CAPPEL NAPA AUTO SUPPLY - VALLEY		22.00
CARDIO PARTNERS INC	SUPPLIES	834.90
CON AMOR LATIN KITCHEN		468.50
CONTROL DEPOT		885.20
COX BUSINESS		198.26
DAILY RECORD, THE	SERVICE	373.99
EGAN SUPPLY CO		13,485.30
ESHIPPING LLC		567.92
FIBER PLATFORM, LLC	SERVICE	559.67
FIRST STUDENT, INC		80,589.21
FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS, LLC		262.04
GREATER NEBRASKA SUPERINTENDENTS		250.00
JOURNEYED.COM, INC		3,813.26
LAPREA EDUCATION INC		1,460.84
LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORE		996.92
MAGIC WRIGHTER, INC.		404.00
MAX I. WALKER UNIFORM RENTAL SERVICE	SERVICE	398.21
MCGRAW-HILL EDUCATION INC		260.10
METAL LOGOS INC		2,026.45
METRO OMAHA EDUCATION CONSORTIUM		6,000.00
MIDWEST MOVEMENT		255.00
NE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADM		2,130.00
NEBRASKA METHODIST COLLEGE		84.50
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT		28,127.37
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD		2,799.00
PRAIRIE MECHANICAL CORP		2,060.00
REALLY GREAT READING COMPANY, LLC		11,047.74
SCHOLASTIC INC		160.00
SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINES		4,833.24
SCHOOL SPECIALTY INC		168.15
STEINKE, SUSAN		350.00
SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION CO	SERVICE	2,284.95
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY		875.00
USBANK		3,720.19
VENTRIS LEARNING LLC		90.00
VERIZON		105.14
WEST O CHAMBER		350.00
WINSUPPLY COMMERCIAL CHARGE		2,596.85
WOODHOUSE		119,762.00
WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC	UTILITES	3,128.59
Fund Number 01		309,366.60

Checking Account ID 1 309,366.60

Checking Account ID 6 Fund Number 06 NUTRITION FUND
 MAX I. WALKER UNIFORM RENTAL SERVICE SERVICE 269.59
 Fund Number 06 269.59

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MID MONTH

User ID: KRISTJESS

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 6		269.59
Checking Account ID 9	Fund Number 09 QCPUF	
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY		1,998.77
Fund Number 09		1,998.77
Checking Account ID 9		1,998.77

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Unposted; Batch Description SEPT 14 2026 BOARD MEETING

User ID: KRISTJESS

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01	GENERAL FUND
ABE'S TRASH SERVICE, INC		465.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, LLC		2,604.24
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY		1,668.60
BSN SPORTS LLC		2,277.00
CITY OF VALLEY	UTILITIES	3,527.20
CITY WIDE FACILITY SOLUTIONS		6,500.00
COMPLETE COMMUNICATION, LLC		343.00
DAILY RECORD, THE	SERVICE	794.65
DALTON CHIROPRACTIC LLC		100.00
DATA VIZION, LLC		47,208.76
DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		69,029.76
DOUGLAS COUNTY TREASURER		100.00
EGAN SUPPLY CO		962.69
ENGINEERED CONTROLS, INC		362.00
FIBER PLATFORM, LLC	SERVICE	559.67
FIRST STUDENT, INC		817.98
FRINGE, INC		739.03
GOODWIN TUCKER GROUP		1,109.10
HEARTLAND PEST CONTROL	SERVICE	280.00
HOMETOWN LEASING	COPIER LEASE	2,522.27
JUST FOR KIDS THERAPY INC		3,888.00
LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC		21.12
MALMSTROM, ASHLEE		617.09
MARK OF DISTINCTION LLC, THE		2,178.80
MENARDS - ELKHORN		526.52
NEBR ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS		1,750.00
ODEY'S INC		1,140.00
ONE SOURCE		851.00
PERRY GUTHERY HAASE & GESSFORD	LEGAL FEES	1,634.00
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC	POSTAGE MACHINE LEASE	96.00
PRAIRIE MECHANICAL CORP		975.00
SECURITY EQUIPMENT INC.		218.00
SOFTWARE UNLIMITED, INC.		3,694.97
SPEECH SQUAD, LLC		13,653.00
STANZEL'S MOW & SNOW LLC	SERVICE	19,925.00
VALLEY ACE HARDWARE		1,220.61
VERIZON		105.14
WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBR, INC	SERVICE	1,748.63
WATER ENGINEERING INC		333.50
WHC NE, LLC DBA ZTRIP	SERVICE	469.42
WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC	UTILITIES	3,337.34
Fund Number 01		200,354.09
Checking Account ID 1		200,354.09
Checking Account ID 9	Fund Number 09	QCPUF
BERINGER CIACCIO DENNEL MABREY		1,998.77
Fund Number 09		1,998.77
Checking Account ID 9		1,998.77

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 28-0015,
a/k/a, DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Monday, August 10, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, District #15, in the County of Douglas, in the State of Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on Monday, August 10, 2026 at the Central Office Board Room, 401 South Pine Street, Valley, NE 68064-0378.

Following public notification procedures approved by the Board of Education, February 14, 2011, in adherence to 84-1411, notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting such Notice on the exterior front door of the high school, elementary school, middle school, Valley City Hall, First Nebraska Bank, Foundation One Bank and the Daily Record. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously given to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the Board of Education of the meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

Cole Groteluschen: Present
Kelly Hinrichs: Present
Luke Janke: Present
Jamie Jorgensen: Present
Elizabeth Mayer: Present
Jim Tomanek: Present

Present: 6.

1. Call to Order

The agenda, listing items for consideration by the Board, is on file in the Superintendent's office. Other matters may come before the Board and the Board has the right to modify the agenda before the meeting.

President – “As I call the meeting to order I wish to inform everyone present that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the back wall of the Board Room for your review at any time.”

2. Public Communications and Correspondence

Comments from the audience were accepted at this time. Correspondence addressed to the Board was presented. The Board received a thank you from the Kelly Ellis and family.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Luke Janke and a second by Jim Tomanek.

Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea,
Jim Tomanek: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. Administrative Reports

- 4.1. Superintendent's Report
- 4.2. Financial Report

5. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Jamie Jorgensen.

Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea,

Jim Tomanek: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.1. Approve Minutes

Regular Meeting Date:

Special Meeting Date:

5.2. Approve Claims for Payment

5.3. Approve Financial Report

5.4. Approve Classified Staff

Angie Gaver - hire elem sped para

Jessica Krist - hire district office

Kellan Brown - hire elem sped para

Kim Humphrey - hire preschool para

Makala Fleharty - hire preschool para

Patricia Loudon - hire elem library para

Candy Goree - exit elem sped para

Mia Monaghan - exit preschool

6. Old Business

6.1. Building and Grounds Committee of the Whole

Agenda:

- Summer AHU replacement project update

Large unit is operational but experiencing control issues (intermittent overnight shut-offs); team working with contractors to resolve. Smaller upstairs unit installation was delayed due to shipping,

- In-house maintenance summer projects update

- Master Planning Update

Master planning projections for BCDM and RSP are moving forward once fall enrollment figures are finalized. District leadership is selecting an early fall date to launch the survey discussed during the previous work session.

7. New Business

7.1. Second Reading of Board Policy Updates for 2026

Second reading to approve updated policies 1040,1100, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3540, 3560, 5004, 5005, 5006, 5008, 5101, 5205, 5209, 5601, 7050, 8130, 8342 as presented and to repeal and rescind all existing Board policies that pertain to the same matters or that are otherwise conflicting, including without limitation existing policies.

Motion to approve Board policies 1040,1100, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3540, 3560, 5004, 5005, 5006, 5008, 5101, 5205, 5209, 5601, 7050, 8130, 8342 as presented and to repeal and rescind all existing Board policies that pertain to the same matters or that are otherwise conflicting, including without limitation existing policies Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Kelly Hinrichs.

Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.2. Approve Vehicle Purchases

The board approved purchasing two 2026 Ford Transit passenger vans with NDE-approved retrofits from Woodhouse Ford in Blair for \$59,881 each. The purchase fulfills budgeted replacements for the preschool

program, secures available stock, and applies a \$4,000 trade-in allowance per existing van. Motion to approve the purchase of two 2026 Ford transit passenger vans with an NDE approved retrofit in the amount of \$59,881 each, which includes a \$4000 trade-in allowance for the current preschool vans Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Luke Janke.

Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.3. Discuss, Consider and Take All Necessary Action with Regard to Approving Educational Cooperative Construction Agreements for the District's Construction Education Program

An educational cooperative construction agreement was presented to the Board that had been reviewed and actively revised by our school district attorney and all parties. The administration recommended the agreement be approved by the Board in order to begin the project at the beginning of the school year in our construction education program.

Motion that the Board of Education of this School District should and does hereby approve the two educational cooperative construction agreements, such agreements in the form on file with official School District records and as presented at this meeting or with such changes as are deemed necessary and in the best interest of the School District and approved by the Board President or Superintendent of Schools, relating to the School District's construction education program, and involving contributions from The Builder Foundation and construction of a house with assistance of a local contractor, and further hereby delegates authority to and authorizes and directs the Board President, or designee, to sign, execute and deliver the agreements, any agreement amendments, or other documents call for in such agreement, and to take all other action necessary to carry such agreement into effect. Passed with a motion by Jamie Jorgensen and a second by Jim Tomanek.

Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.4. 2026-2027 Preliminary Estimated Budget

A draft by account groups budget for the 2027 fiscal year was presented to the Board. We have been budgeting with an estimate from March 2026 on our property tax valuation and certified state aid. We will have the certified valuation by approximately August 19th. After that time, we will meet with the finance committee to finalize the budget and levy. The Board publication, hearing and approval of the budget will be conducted in September.

7.5. Approve Change in the Extra Duty Positions for Robotics

As written in the July Superintendent's Report, a small committee worked on job expectations for all extra duty positions in the district. Due to enrollment and program development, we are recommending a split of the current Robotics extra duty positions into middle school and high school. This will not entail any additional payment, but split the current payment in two. Half for middle school and half for high school. These positions could be filled by the same person. The pay change will be reflected as:

Current:

Robotics 9%, 10%, 11%

Assistant Robotics 6%, 7%, 8%

New:

HS Robotics 5%, 6%, 7%

Asst HS Robotics 3%, 4%, 5%

MS Robotics 4%, 4.25%, 4.5%

Asst MS Robotics 2.5%, 2.75%, 3%

Motion to split the current Robotics and Assistant Robotics into High School Robotics, Assistant High

School Robotics and Middle School Robotics and Assistant Middle School Robotics. Passed with a motion by Kelly Hinrichs and a second by Luke Janke.

Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea

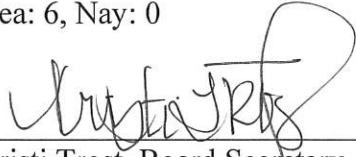
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

8. Adjournment

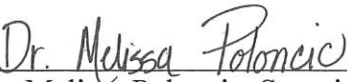
Motion to adjourn meeting @ 7:11pm Passed with a motion by Elizabeth Mayer and a second by Jim Tomanek.

Cole Groteluschen: Yea, Kelly Hinrichs: Yea, Luke Janke: Yea, Jamie Jorgensen: Yea, Elizabeth Mayer: Yea, Jim Tomanek: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0



Kristi Trost, Board Secretary



Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Douglas County West Community Schools (_28_-_0015__) in Douglas County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 14th day of September, 2026 at 6:45 o'clock, P.M., at DCWest Board Romm for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk/Secretary during regular business hours. For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: <https://nep.education.ne.gov>

FUNDS	Actual Disbursements & Transfers	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
	2024-2025 (1)	2025-2026 (2)	2026-2027 (3)			
General	\$ 16,762,964.00	\$ 18,337,429.00	\$ 19,071,227.81	\$ 4,490,566.19	\$ 12,417,950.00	\$ 11,256,408.00
Depreciation	\$ 240,716.00	\$ 140,411.34	\$ 1,865,013.78		\$ 1,865,013.78	
Employee Benefit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Activities	\$ 278,855.00	\$ 284,455.00	\$ 522,901.27	\$ -	\$ 522,901.27	
School Nutrition	\$ 580,567.00	\$ 662,768.06	\$ 588,636.28	\$ -	\$ 588,636.28	
Bond	\$ 762,150.00	\$ 769,650.00	\$ 3,703,712.10	\$ -	\$ 2,257,935.10	\$ 1,460,381.00
Special Building	\$ 1,926,195.00	\$ 2,078,970.72	\$ 2,704,950.43		\$ 536,284.43	\$ 2,190,572.00
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	\$ 488,666.00	\$ 943,543.37	\$ 759,186.01	\$ -	\$ 139,567.01	\$ 625,878.00
Cooperative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Student Fee	\$ 13,194.00	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 31,006.00	\$ -	\$ 31,006.00	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ 21,053,307.00	\$ 23,219,157.49	\$ 29,246,633.68	\$ 4,490,566.19	\$ 18,359,293.87	\$ 15,533,239.00

	Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
Breakdown of Property Tax	\$ 2,086,259.00	\$ 13,446,980.00	\$ 15,533,239.00

Budget Planning FY27				
	FY25	FY26	FY27	Notes
Estimated General Fund Revenues				
General Fund Property Tax Request	\$9,780,824.00	\$10,968,424.00	\$11,256,408.00	3% increase in tax asking
State Aid	\$2,848,936.00	\$2,699,629.00	\$2,851,057.00	
Special Education Reimbursement	\$1,404,019.00	\$1,825,618.00	\$1,944,147.00	
Other Local, State, and Federal	\$1,711,535.00	\$1,842,000.00	\$2,178,500.00	
Cash Reserve	\$2,049,912.00	\$1,001,758.00	\$841,115.81	
Total Revenue	\$17,795,226.00	\$18,337,429.00	\$19,071,227.81	
Estimated General Fund Expenditures	\$17,795,226.00	\$18,337,429.00	\$19,071,227.81	4% expenditure increase
Proposed Levy Breakout:				
General Fund	\$0.55	\$0.57	\$0.539	
Building Fund	\$0.12	\$0.10	\$0.105	
QCPUF	\$0.03	\$0.03	\$0.03	
Bond Fund	\$0.07	\$0.07	\$0.07	
Total Levy	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.74	Total Levy Cap \$1.05 General & Building
Estimated Levy Revenue Breakout:				
General Fund	\$9,683,016.00	\$10,968,424.00	\$11,256,408.00	
Building Fund	\$2,098,431.00	\$1,860,000.00	\$2,190,572.00	
CAP Revenue Needed	\$11,781,447.00	\$12,828,424.00	\$13,446,980.00	*Minimum cap \$13,048,041
QCPUF	\$533,500.00	\$583,885.00	\$625,878.00	
Bond Fund	\$1,244,832.00	\$1,348,774.00	\$1,460,381.00	
Payments From Levy				
NEBA Project Payment	\$1,841,161.00	\$1,962,534.00	\$2,033,572.00	
QCPUF Payment	\$434,300.00	\$431,705	-	
Bond Payment	\$768,550.00	\$768,850.00	\$1,197,150.00	
Budget Authority	\$14,266,122.00	\$14,622,765.00	\$14,988,334.00	
Property Tax Authority Cap Minimum	\$11,873,067.00	\$11,830,922.00	\$13,048,041.00	
Property Tax Authority Cap Maximum		\$12,896,378.00	\$14,206,095.00	We will use \$398,939 of the maximum authority and reserve \$759,115

Notice of Special Hearing To Set Final Tax Request

Douglas County West Community Schools (_28_-_0015__) in Douglas County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1632, that the governing body will meet on the 14th day of, September 2026 at 6:55 o'clock P.M., at DCWest Board Room for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request.

	2025-2026	2026-2027	Change
Property Valuations	1,926,820,355	2,086,258,655	8%

2025-2026 Budget Information

2026-2027 Budget Information

Fund	2025-2026 Operating Budget	2025-2026 Property Tax Request	2025 Tax Rate	Property Tax Rate (2025-2026 Request Divided By 2026 Valuation)	2026-2027 Operating Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Property Tax Request	Proposed 2026 Tax Rate	Change in Tax Rate	Change in Operating Budget
General Fund	18,337,429.00	10,968,424.00	0.569250	0.525746	19,071,227.81	11,256,408.00	0.539550	-5%	4%
Bond Fund(s) K - 12	3,049,840.00	1,348,774.00	0.070000	0.064650	3,703,712.10	1,460,381.00	0.070000	0%	21%
Special Building Fund	2,565,627.00	1,860,000.00	0.096532	0.089155	2,704,950.43	2,190,572.00	0.105000	9%	5%
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 12	1,166,090.00	583,885.00	0.030303	0.027987	759,186.01	625,878.00	0.030000	-1%	-35%
Total	25,118,986.00	14,761,083.00	0.766085	0.707538	26,239,076.35	15,533,239.00	0.744550	-3%	4%

RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST
RESOLUTION NO. 2027

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provides that the Governing Body of Douglas County West Community Schools passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of Douglas County West Community Schools resolves that:

1. The 2026-2027 property tax request be set at:

General Fund:	\$ 11,256,408.00
Bond Fund:	\$ 1,460,381.00
Special Building Fund:	\$ 2,190,572.00
Qualified Capital Purpose	\$ 625,878.00
Undertaking Fund:	

2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 8.27 percent.
3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be 0.707538 per \$100 of assessed value.
4. Douglas County West Community Schools proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 0.74455 per \$100 of assessed value.
5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Douglas County West Community Schools will increase (decrease) last year's budget by 4.63 percent.
6. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2026.

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution # _____.

Voting yes were:

Voting no were:

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2026