

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE HARDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31-1 WAS HELD JANUARY 15, 2025, AT 5:30 PM. AT THE HARDING COUNTY SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM.

Members Present: Taz Olson, Billy Clanton, Randy Routier, Clint Doll and Tawni Cordell. Administration Present: Superintendent Josh Page, Business Manager Elizabeth Henderson, Principal/A D Kelly Messmer.

Visitors Present: Traci Routier

President Clanton called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.  
Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Unless otherwise noted, all Board action was by unanimous decision.

**25-095 Consent Agenda.** Motion by Routier, second by Cordell to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approve Agenda

Approve the Minutes of the December 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and the December 18<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting

Approve the Financial Report.

Motion carried.

	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>CAPITAL OUT.</b>	<b>SPECIAL ED</b>	<b>BOND RED.</b>	<b>FOOD SERV.</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>86,369.95</b>	<b>2,136,348.06</b>	<b>323,789.68</b>	<b>473,173.77</b>	<b>(18,266.92)</b>
Receipts:					
Local sources	38,546.36	58,577.86	21,035.39	16,376.12	4,523.85
County sources	64,121.71				
State sources	83,365.00				
Federal sources	47,033.00	35,820.73		130,715.27	3,433.98
Accounts Receivable					
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>233,066.07</b>	<b>94,398.59</b>	<b>21,035.39</b>	<b>147,091.39</b>	<b>7,957.83</b>
Disbursements	214,002.16	49,702.60	42,665.22		13,209.25
Acct Payable					
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>214,002.16</b>	<b>49,702.60</b>	<b>42,665.22</b>		<b>13,209.25</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>105,433.86</b>	<b>2,181,044.05</b>	<b>302,159.85</b>	<b>620,265.16</b>	<b>(23,518.34)</b>

DECEMBER PAYROLL AND BENEFITS

General	102,845.00
Federal Title/REAP	10,424.04
Superintendent & Secretary	16,613.20
Principals and Secretary	15,408.84
Business Manager	8,842.42
Custodians	18,301.42
X-Cur	1,754.01
Bus Driver	5,769.99
Special Education	36,486.85
Food Service	6,935.39

25-096 Approve Bills for Payment. Motion by Doll, second by Olson to approve the bills. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND**

AMAZON	SUPPLIES	362.40
AT&T	PHONE SERVICE	88.05
BUFFALO HARDWARE	SUPPLIES	270.54
CENTRAL DISTRIBUTION	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	6,107.02
CHAOS & COMPANY	SUPPLIES	114.62
ELAN FINANCIAL (VISA)	TRAVEL/SUPPLIES	7,313.67
ETSYSTEMS	REPAIRS & MTNCE	1,439.00
GRAND ELECTRIC	UTILITIES	6,650.75
H&L SUPERVALU	SUPPLIES	67.75
HAUFF MID AMERICA	SUPPLIES	371.67
HEALTH EQUITY	FEES	21.25
IMPREST/RYAN CORDELL	OFFICIAL	100.00
IMPREST/JO PIEKKOLA	OFFICIAL	170.00
IMPREST/JOHN LATHAM	OFFICIAL	457.95
IMPREST/BROCK BESLER	OFFICIAL	461.00
IMPREST/BRAD MACKABEN	OFFICIAL	503.70
IMPREST/ LORENZIO TOBAR	OFFICIAL	330.00
IMPREST/JEREMY HENWOOD	OFFICIAL	801.30
IMPREST/ALEX LAPOV	OFFICIAL	590.00
IMPREST/TANNER MCINERNEY	OFFICIAL	330.00
IMPREST/SHANE MAILLOUX	OFFICIAL	330.00
IMPREST/AARON MAILLOUX	OFFICIAL	719.10
IMPREST/WEX BANK	FUEL	310.47
IMPREST/HCEA	WRESTLING HOSPITALITY	60.00
IMPREST/ALAN OLSON	OFFICIAL	165.00
IMPREST/RON ERICKSON	OFFICIAL	165.00
IMPREST/SD DCI	BACKGROUND CHECK	43.25
IMPREST/JESSE STRICHERZ	OFFICIAL	210.00
IMPREST/CAIN KOLAR	OFFICIAL	210.00
IMPREST/TRAVIS LADSON	OFFICIAL	283.70
IMPREST/HETTINGER SCHOOL	WRESTLING FEE	250.00
IMPREST/AT&T	PHONE SERVICE	86.77
IMPREST/NEWELL SCHOOL DIST	WRESTLING FEE	50.00
IMPREST/RCAS	WRESTLING FEE	150.00
IMPREST/JUSTO TOBAR	OFFICIAL	226.50
IMPREST/TODD ALBERTSON	OFFICIAL	165.00
IMPREST/ADAM NESS	OFFICIAL	166.50
IMPREST/WAYNE JOHNSON	OFFICIAL	20.00
IMPREST/HC REGISTER	TRANSFER FEES	30.00
IMPREST/ROGER PAGE	REIMBURSE SUPPLIES	159.28
IMPREST/DYLAN KESZLER	OFFICIAL	382.35
IMPREST/TYSON CHASE	OFFICIAL	403.70
IMPREST/FRANK PAVICH	OFFICIAL	422.00
IMPREST/SPEARFISH HS	WRESTLING FEE	100.00
NATION CENTER NEWS	PUBLISHING/ADVERTISING	412.74
NEW VISION SECURITY	ANNUAL SUPPORT	143.37
OLSON CONSTRUCTION	BUS MAINTENANCE	875.59

OLSON FUELS	FUEL	2,205.95
OLSON PROPANE	PROPANE	9,310.45
PAULSON, DARREN	WRESTLING OFFICIAL	400.00
PITNEY BOWES	POSTAGE / INK	482.79
S&T CUSTOM PLUMBING	REPAIRS & MTNCE	1,352.39
TMS	CONTRACT SERVICE	72.00
TOWN OF BUFFALO	UTILITIES	354.97
WAMMEN, ERIN	REIMBURSE SUPPLIES	78.41
WRCTC	PHONE SERVICE	548.35
WOLFFY'S GARAGE	VEHICLE MTNCE	95.53
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>47,991.83</b>
<b>CAPTIAL OUTLAY</b>		
ABM	COPIER LEASE	1,731.19
FOLLETT	LIBRARY SERVICE	1,154.83
HAUFF MID AMERICA	EQUIPMENT	199.99
WRCTC	PHONE LEASE	267.13
	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>3,353.14</b>
<b>SPED</b>		
HEALTH EQUITY	FEES	
NWAS	ASSESSMENT	25,967.00
SMALL TALK SPEECH	SPEECH SERVICES	1,620.00
WAGNER, KYLEE	OT SERVICES	2,398.75
	<b>TOTAL SPED</b>	<b>29,985.75</b>
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>		
H&L SUPERVALU	SUPPLIES	81.57
SYSCO	FOOD	1,350.22
US FOODS	FOOD	3,716.44
	<b>TOTAL FOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>5,148.23</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>86,478.95</b>

**25-097 Resignation.** Motion by Doll, second by Cordell to accept the resignation of paraprofessional Lydia Mueller. Motion carried.

**25-098 ASBSD Resolution.** Supt Page shared information regarding a resolution from the Associated School Boards of South Dakota and the proposed voucher program bill for the upcoming legislative session. Motion by Olson, second by Routier to approve Resolution 2025-4 "Opposition to School Voucher Program"

**WHEREAS** South Dakota public schools are a cornerstone of the state and the pride of their communities, welcoming all children, educating and feeding them, connecting them with friends and mentors and helping shape their future while preparing them to be the next generation of our state's workforce;

**WHEREAS** the proposed Education Savings Account (ESA) – for the 2025 legislative session – is simply a different title for a school voucher program;

**WHEREAS** research indicates school voucher programs consistently fail to improve academic outcomes;

**WHEREAS** the proposed program will be implemented by using millions in public taxpayer dollars to fund non-public schools that may pick and choose who they admit while also charging tuition and

raising millions of dollars in scholarship funds or to fund homeschool programs with no transparency or accountability measures to prove success similar to those required of public schools;

**WHEREAS** the state budget, which provides the funding increase for public education, faces constraints due to stagnant revenue collections and as a result, the proposed increase in state aid for public schools is less than the level of inflation;

**WHEREAS** with lower than expected revenue collections creating a lean state budget the introduction of a new, ongoing funding system for a school voucher program will eventually lead to an unbalanced state budget or a decrease in funding for public education;

**WHEREAS** the school voucher program will not stop at the initial amount, as the intention to grow school voucher funding has already been stated even before it has been adopted;

**WHEREAS** the school voucher program's planned and inevitable growth will be damaging to the future of our public school system, students and communities;

**WHEREAS** we, as School Board members, insist our legislators oppose the proposed school voucher program because of the foreseeable detrimental impact it will have on South Dakota's public school system at the expense of our students;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we, the Harding County School Board, oppose the proposed school voucher program for the 2025 legislative session.

**Signed:** William C Clanton, Board President

Taz Olson, Board Vice President

Tawni D. Cordell, Board Member

Clint Doll, Board Member

Randy Routier, Board Member

**Attest:** Elizabeth Henderson, Business Manager

Motion carried.

The board discussed sending a letter to the local legislators regarding the proposed voucher program and its detrimental effects on rural school communities.

The board also discussed pending legislation SB 70 which would amend the current sparsity aid for sparse districts. Motion by Cordell, second by Olson to support Senate Bill 70, "An Act to modify the maximum sparsity benefit a sparse school district is eligible to receive." Motion carried.

**OPEN FORUM:** None

**25-099 Surplus Items.** Supt Page shared that there are 12 football helmets that have expired and are no longer approved for competition but could be sold for decorative purposes if anyone is interested. Motion by Doll, second by Routier to surplus the 12 expired Riddell Speed football helmets and to sell them for \$50 each, first come first served. Motion carried. If interested, please reach out to the district.

**25-100 Election Date.** Business Manager Henderson shared since it is an odd year, the district will combine with the Town of Buffalo and Town of Camp Crook for an election. Motion by Routier, second by Doll to set the Election for June 3, 2025. Motion carried. There are two board positions up for election this year.

**25-101 NWAS Report.** The NWAS report was discussed. There will be a joint meeting on January 22 with all parts of the cooperative. Not much has changed from previous meetings. The expectancy is now two more years for the mobile units, though the district needs to begin putting together a future plan.

**25-102 Business Manager.** Henderson gave the Business Manager report. The

**25-103 K-12 Principal Report.** Principal Messmer gave the Principal/AD report. Congratulations to the December students of the month and character counts winners:

- Buffalo Elementary – Composure – Copper Olson
- HC Middle School – Appreciative – Evelyn Ginsbach
- HC High School – Appreciative – Cash Hansen
- HC Middle School – Student of the Month – Kaylee Lermeny
- HC High School – Student of the Month – Cohen Smith

Thank you to Mrs. Routier and the all the teachers and staff who helped make the Christmas Program a success. Thank you also to the volunteers who helped make the wrestling tournament on Dec 30 a success; there were 15 teams and 150 wrestlers to make it a great event. Thank you to the PTO, Charlie, and Tanya for all their work on Muffins for Moms. Attendance for the 24-25 fall semester was up an average of 2% overall compared to the 23-24 fall semester. The district average was 96.8% compared to the state average of approximately 88%.

**25-104 Superintendent Report.** Supt. Page gave the Superintendent report. Thank you to the Beef to School Donors – Price Family, Matt & Carmen Gilbert, Taz & Amanda Olson, and Mary Peterson and to the Harding County Stockgrowers for covering the processing costs. Thank you to Continental Resources for their donation of a treadmill and multiuse weight machine for the district. The fire marshal inspection was completed, and we are in the process of submitting a final report to the state.

President Clanton declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Submitted By:

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Elizabeth Henderson  
Business Manager  
The approximate cost of this publication is \$115.00.

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William Clanton  
Board President