

NSA board meeting brings changes

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The New Salem-Almont School Board met on Monday, June 16, at 6:00 p.m. in the New Salem-Almont high school conference room. President Austin John called the meeting to order by beginning with the pledge of allegiance.

Superintendent Brian Christopherson updated the board on the May financial report. He noted that the year-to-date expenditures were right on track with the budget that was approved by the board. Leftover money will be used to pay for bills for the 2025-2026 school year.

Business Manager Annie Dukart provided the board with updates on House Bill 1176. Vice President Meagan Miller motioned to approve the previous consent agenda of the minutes of the board and committee meetings, bills, and May financial report. Kendra Hoovestol seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Supt. Christopherson shared he wanted to include an addition to the new business section of the agenda regarding FFA Travel for the National Convention in Indianapolis. Tammy Gilstad moved to approve the agenda including the addition, with Miller seconding. All voting aye, the motion passed.

New Business covered at the meeting included school board election results, registration prices, policy changes, teachers resignation and changes to the handbooks.

Assistant Coach Tony Soupir provided public comments on behalf of the Girl's Basketball team regarding the NSA Policy on Sunday, Holiday, and Inclement Weather Activities. The policy committee discussed this policy prior to the board meeting and recommended no further action. The committee asked for a better exchange of communication between coaches and parents going forward. Jackie Lausch motioned to table the policy, with Miller seconding. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Election results for AREA 1 and AREA 4 were presented by Dukart to the board. Gilstad received the

most votes for AREA 1, and Justin Thompson received the most votes for AREA 4. With Thompson declining, the board asked Mark Feland if he would take up the position for one year. Feland agreed to the position for one more year, but stated someone else will have to be on the ballot next June. Lausch motioned and Hoovestol seconded to approve the election results presented by Dukart, with Feland being appointed to a one-year term. All voting aye, the motion passed.

The board was presented with the 2025-2026 registration and school lunch prices. Supt. Christopherson stated that school lunch prices are to be raised, but with the state increasing the poverty level, parents are encouraged to apply for free and reduced meals. Driver's ed and participation fees will increase for the 2025-2026 NSA school year. Monica Reiner-Pletan motioned, and Lausch seconded to accept the 2025-2026 registration and lunch prices. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Supt. Christopherson noted to the board in the 1st reading of the Policy ABAC Virtual Learning that policy changes will need to be reflected in the handbook as well. Lausch motioned and Gilstad seconded to approve the 1st reading of the Policy ABAC. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Supt. Christopherson engaged the board on the conversations held by the policy committee regarding FFI Student Use of Technology Policy. Board members, Christopherson, and principals Bennett and Olson discussed ways to adhere to new state law mandating phones to be kept silent and put away while on school grounds. Reiner-Pletan motioned, and Miller seconded to approve the 1st reading of the FFI Student Use of Technology Policy. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Supt. Christopherson brought forward the topic of resignation of Ashley Tietz to the board. Tietz was approved as the new third-grade teacher for the 2025-2026 school year in May but has accepted the position of principal at Center-Stanton High School. A plan to com-

bine 4th and 5th grade and to have combination classes was introduced by Principal Bennett. A move to accept the resignation of Ashley Tietz was introduced by Miller and seconded by Lausch. All voting aye, Tietz' resignation was approved.

Small changes to the staff handbook were explained by Supt. Christopherson. A motion to approve the staff handbook was introduced by Reiner-Platen and seconded by Hoovestol. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Changes to the Prairie View Elementary parent-student handbook for the 2025-2026 school year were presented by Principal Bennett. Emphasis on tardiness and damaged or lost books were part of the changes to the handbook. Lausch motioned and Gilstad seconded to approve the changes to the PVE parent-student handbook. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Principal Olson shared changes that were being made to the high school parent-student handbook. The board will look over changes in the high school handbook in July and consider approval then.

Reiner-Pleten motioned to approve FFA travel for the National Convention in Indianapolis with Hoovestol seconding. All voting aye, the motion passed.

Supt. Christopherson shared that with the decreasing number of bus drivers, alternate bus routes are being considered, potentially impacting individuals who ride on route 9. An email and letter had been sent out according to Christopherson which updated parents on the potential change.

President Olson shared that summer reports were finished, with the most impactful being choice ready reports. 80% of students graduated as choice ready according to Olson, an increase from last year's percentage at just below 75%. Olson shared they've also transitioned all school devices to a new device management system.

The next school board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Conference room.

Tuning up for Kaleidoscope showcase

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performance takes place at the Mandan High School Auditorium on the last Wednesday and Thursday in June every year, allowing it to serve as a prelude to the Mandan Rodeo Days with a rotating set of musicians and entertainers. In addition to their usual band, chorus line, and choir, this year's selection includes several local soloists- including Barb Jiskra, Laure Hartze Turner, Sommer Engleman, Rebecca Wilhelmi, and Kris Kitko (better known as Kittyko).

"There is a Kaleidoscope committee," said Stockert, "and everybody on the committee scouts acts to perform at the show. Each year we have a theme, and this year's theme is "Iconic Women Singers." You will hear music from Joni Mitchell, Bonnie Tyler, Janis Joplin, Stevie Nicks from Fleetwood Mac, Laura Branigan, Linda Ronstadt, and Nancy Sinatra sung by equally iconic female performers from the Bismarck/Mandan area! You will also get to hear a barber shop quartet, the 188th Army Band Sax Quartet, and everybody's favorite, the Dakota Keys accordion group."

This combination of musical genres and

covers is one that the Association believes will appeal to a wide variety of people, and combine them all into a truly unforgettable show- not only for the attendees, but for those giving their time and talents to Kaleidoscope as well.

"For the audience," said Stockert, "it is a show with a huge variety of performances. There is something for everybody to enjoy. For the performers, it is a chance to dance, sing, and play with people that they love performing with. The talent is incredible."

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Our mission is to support
‘Music for Life’
~ President Brad Stockert


Most importantly, the association believes Kaleidoscope serves as a way to help ease the minds of Bis-Man residents who may be dealing with frustrating situations. There is something to be said for the idea of music soothing savage beasts, and those behind the event hope that attending the event will leave with a fond memory to help them power through whatever challenges may come in the future.

“Our mission is to



support ‘Music for Life’,” said Stockert,” and Kaleidoscope promotes just that. Its importance can be summed up by them being one of those parts of life that allow all of our troubles to be forgotten, and let us simply enjoy life for an evening. Each audience member can take away something unique from the show, from having a favorite moment, performance, or performer from the evening’s entertainment.”

This year’s Kaleidoscope show takes place on both June 25 and 26th at the new Mandan High School Auditorium. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. each night, and the Kaleidoscope Band will take the stage at 6:45. before the variety show begins at 7:30. Tickets to the performance are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children twelve and under, and available at the door in advance at Butcher Block Meats, Eckroth Music, Fried’s Restaurant, or the Mandan Bandshell.


More information on the Bismarck-Mandan Musicians Associations’ other musical programs and upcoming events, as well a list of local musicians for hire, can be found on their website at musiciansassociation.org.



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