

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES, JULY 14, 2025

**EPS BOARD MEETING
JUNE 16, 2025**

The Ellendale Public School Board met in regular session on June 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. with the following board members present: Michele Thorpe, Kristi Gilbert, Jeff Goehring and Cresta Miller. Absent was Val Wagner. Others present were Lana Norton, Cindy Rall and Allison Radermacher.

Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed visitor Pam Cook. There were no communications. Agenda Additions: New Business d. Additional bill for approval.

The board talked with Jason Elliot regarding the Owners Representative position. It was the consensus of the board to modify the current MOU with Mr. Elliot.

Randal Brockman presented general Southeast Region Career & Technology Center information and financial facts.

The consent agenda included the minutes, financial reports and bills as presented. Goehring reviewed the bills and the following bills were presented for payment:

May Payroll DD 356-359, 6954-7019 Ck#16081-16097 \$326,046.92

27346 Agile Sports 8,500.00, Streaming Cameras/Services

27347 Matthew Thorpe 480.00, Garage Cleanup

27348 Allard Trophy 165.00, Retirement Clocks

27349 Arbitersports 669.00, Activity Scheduler/Widgets

27350 Avel Ecare 800.00, Behavioral Health Sessions

27351 Avera 27.00, DOT Testing

27352 Bismarck Public Schools 3,371.44, 1st Semester Tuition

27353 Blumhardt Chevrolet, 430.63 Repairs

27354, Void

27355 Central Business Systems Inc. 397.58, Managed Print Service

27356 Cole Papers Inc., 2,924.06 Supplies

27357 CREA 17,937.50, 4th Qtr. Services

27358 DPCU 852.00, Supplies

27359 Dickey County Leader, 34.90 Publishing

27360 Dickey County Senior Citizens 33.00, Transportation

27361 DRN 1,558.99, Monthly Service

27362 DRN 29,808.00, Chromebooks/Licenses

27363 Dollywood Foundation 80.10, July Imagination Library

27364 Ellendale City Of 1,935.30, Utilities

27365 Ellendale True Value 314.73, Supplies

27366 Farmers Union Oil Co. 775.25, Fuel/LP/Supplies

27367 Fire Safety First 65.40, Extinguisher Service

27368 Government Leasing & Finance 80,011.04, Energy Equipment Lease

27369 Travis Graves 3,000.00, Server Maintenance

27370 Greater SE ITV Consortium 1,500.00, 1st/2nd ITV Fees

27371 Joyce Grueneich 172.50, Election Worker

27372 Innovative Office Solutions 656.25, Vacuum

27373 J & M Elliott 1,350.00, May '25 Owner's Rep

27374 Jerke Irrigation 624.34, Sprinkler Start Up

27375 Michael Land 240.00 Accompanist Hours

27376 La Quinta 192.60, Lodging

27377 Mackin 122.74, Books

27378 Betty Martin 172.50, Election Worker

27379 Mertz Lumber & Supply, 297.45 Supplies

27380 Midamerica Books 489.80, Books

27381 Rebekah Middlestead 77.29, Library Supplies

27382 Napa Central 40.72, Supplies

27383 NDASBM 50.00, Dues

27384 NDHSCA 185.00, Coaching Dues/Registration

27385 NDSBA Legal Direct 390.00, May Legal Services

27386 NDSCS 95.00, Student Meals

27387 Olson's Pest Technicians 175.00, Monthly Services

27388 Pauer Sound & Music Inc 7,555.98, Stage Sound/Microphones

27389 Petty Cash 27.45, Postage

27390 Allison Radermacher 280.00, Student Admission

27391 Renaissance Artists 950.00, Stage Light Box

27392 Sanford 35.00, DOT Testing

27393 Scholastic Book Fairs 329.32 ,Books

27394 Spaces Inc 1,488.00, Mobile Bookcases

27395 Arlene Steiger 172.50, Election Workers

27396 Duane Sundberg Jr 241.79, Mileage/DOT

27397 Bernice Thielges 172.50, Election Worker

27398 Carrin Thorpe 510.00, Mowing

27399 Matthew Thorpe 600.00, Mowing

27400 USPS 154.00, PO Box Rental

27401 Verizon Wireless 443.09, Hotspot Billing

27402 Z'S Fresh Market 111.50, FACS Supplies

27403 Cenex Fleetcard 619.72, Gas/ Diesel

20250602 MDU 5,982.79, Electricity

20250610 EPS 62.61, eFund Fees

20250611 TMS 50.40, Monthly Fee

20250617 LEAF 448.00, Copier/Printer Lease

\$181,236.76

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Gilbert to approve the items on the consent agenda minus the review of the EPS Smart Restart Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

EPS Spotlight:

- Recognition of the graduating Class of 2025 and the class of 1975 for participating in our graduation ceremony.
- Recognition of Evan W on 2025 State FFA Degree.

Recognition of the 7-12th graders who made the Semester 2 Honor Roll.

Recognition of the teachers and staff concluding their service to EPS: Hal Phoenix (retiring), Deanne Olson, Acacia Schiltz, Trisha Ordonio, Kendal Fischer, and Chip Sundberg.

Recognition of Porter G for SRCTC May Award of Excellence.

Recognition of NASP Archery competing at Worlds in Myrtle Beach.

Recognition of the State Track athletes for a successful meet: Aidan T placed 5th in the 800, 1600, and 3200 runs, and the 4 x 800 relay team for placing 8th (team members: Evan W, Walker M, Eli W and Aidan T with sub Jaeger S)

The quarterly progress tracker was completed for the Be Legendary Board Training. The objectives were rated as follows:

Objective 1. The board has adopted student outcome goals — Advanced, 15 points

Objective 2. The board has adopted goal progress measures aligned to each student outcome goal - Advanced, 15 points

Objective 3. The board has adopted a monitoring calendar for student outcome goals and student outcome goal progress measures — Proficient, 16 points

Objective 4. The board has structured operations for success — Proficient, 12 points

Objective 5. The board has adopted guardrails — Proficient, 13 points

Objective 6. The board promotes active teamwork and advocacy — Proficient, 18 points

Gilbert gave a Thunder Coop updated, they have met to review coop policies.

Rall reported on the Vital Networks survey, Cognia Review, drivers ed, James River Special Ed and updates on personal electric device policy. She also provided a school construction update.

Radermacher reported on attendance, behavioral health, student testing data, the after school program, Maple River Colony, upcoming kindergarten numbers and upcoming year end reporting.

The Board canvassed the ballots and poll books from the election. One director position was voted upon for the City of Ellendale. Out of 30 ballots the outcome was as follows:

City of Ellendale Michele Thorpe – 28 votes

Abstain – 2

It was also voted upon whether or not to publish the proceeding for the two (2) succeeding years. Out of 30 ballots the outcome was as follows:

Yes to Publish Proceedings – 27 votes

No to Publish Proceedings – 2 votes

Abstain – 1

Motion by Miller, seconded by Goehring, that the above is a true and correct canvass of the vote and the poll books related to the count therein described, and that Michele Thorpe be declared the winner of the City of Ellendale, for a three (3) year term and that the school board proceedings be published for the two (2) succeeding years. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Goehring motioned, seconded by Gilbert to appoint Mrs. Cynthia Rall as the James River Special Education Unit representative. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Miller motioned, seconded by Goehring to table the building loan approval.

Gilbert motioned, seconded by Miller to approve paying of two CO-OP Architecture invoices in the amount of \$3,712.50 and the other in the amount of \$5940 out of the building fund. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Gilbert, seconded by Miller to approve the open enrollment application from SD with transportation. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Gilbert motioned, seconded by Goehring to approve the activity director agreement for Brian Vance as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Gilbert moved to offer \$15,000 for the Bagley/Flaherty property, with an additional \$8,000 allocated for demolition, which will be the responsibility of the seller. Seconded by Miller. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Special Board Meeting Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.

Next School Board Meeting is Monday, July 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Lana Norton, Business Manager Formally Approved by the Board

(August 21, 2025)

**EPS BOARD MEETING
JUNE 26, 2025**

The Ellendale Public School Board met in special session on June 26, 2025 at 7:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Val Wagner, Kristi Gilbert, Jeff Goehring, Cresta Miller and Michele Thorpe. Allison Radermacher, Cindy Rall, Lana Norton and Jeff Rings-tad were also present.

Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were no visitors or communications.

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Wagner to take Building Loan Approval off the table and approve the document as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Goehring motioned, seconded by Miller to approve the purchase agreement for the Flaherty/Bagley property in the amount of \$17,500 plus an allowance of up to \$8,000 for demolition. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Wagner motioned, seconded by Gilbert to approve paying of the fiscal year end bills. On a roll call vote, all voted

yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 a.m.

Lana Norton, Business Manager Formally Approved by the Board

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27401 Verizon Wireless 443.09, Hotspot Billing

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(August 21, 2025)

Applied Digital announces groundbreaking of Polaris Forge 2 on new Harwood campus



This site rendering of Applied Digital Polaris Forge 2 is based partly on the existing structures at Ellendale, recently renamed Polaris Forge 1. The image was received from Applied Digital representative Jo Albers, who remarked that this and ongoing developments put North Dakota and America's heartland *"at the forefront of the global AI Infrastructure race."*

Jo stressed several bullet points:

- Applied Digital Corporation (Nasdaq: APLD), recently named Best Data Center in Americas, plans to break ground on a \$3B AI Factory, Polaris Forge 2, near Harwood, N.D., this September.
- This will be a 280-megawatt (MW) campus (with scalability to grow beyond).
- Applied Digital has contracted more than 900 acres for the campus.
- Power is secured through Cass County Electric Cooperative.
- 200 jobs, along with long-term contractors, are expected once fully operational.
- The full announcement below highlights the economic and innovation impact this project will have on an often overlooked region in America's Heartland and features quotes from North Dakota public officials and non-profit organizations, including: Blake Hankey, Mayor of Harwood, Governor Kelly Armstrong, Chris Schilken, Commerce Commissioner, Joe Raso, Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, Paul Matthys, Cass County Electric Cooperative President and CEO, Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative President and CEO.

Globe Newswire, August 18, 2025

Applied Digital Corporation (Nasdaq: APLD) announced today it plans to break ground in September 2025 on Polaris Forge 2, a \$3 billion, 280-megawatt (MW) AI Factory near Harwood, North Dakota. Designed with the ability to scale beyond its initial 280MW, the campus—with initial capacity in 2026 and reaching full capacity in early 2027—further advances Applied Digital's rapid growth and reinforces North Dakota's position as one of the most strategically important destinations for AI infrastructure in the United States.

The new project comes as demand for AI computing capacity continues to surge, with hyperscalers, enterprises, and research organizations seeking scalable, high-performance infrastructure. Polaris Forge 2 builds on the success of Applied Digital's Polaris Forge 1 Ellendale campus, expanding the company's presence in a state that offers abundant energy, available land, and a pro-business climate.

"We believe Polaris Forge 2 represents the next stage in Applied Digital's rapid growth and our position as a leader in delivering high-performance AI infrastructure," said Wes Cummins, CEO of Applied Digital. "The demand for AI capacity continues to accelerate, and North Dakota continues to be one of the most strategic locations in the country to meet that need. We have strong interest from multiple parties and are in advanced negotiations with a U.S. based investment-grade hyperscaler for this campus, making it both timely and prudent to proceed with groundbreaking and site development. We believe this new campus will strengthen our operations, increase our ability to scale, and create lasting value for both our customers and the communities we serve."

"North Dakota wins when companies like Applied Digital choose to be more than an employer. In Ellendale, they invested in people through workforce housing and created strong local partnerships that strengthen the community," Governor Kelly Armstrong said. "We're excited that they are committing to expanding their presence in North Dakota with a Harwood location, continuing the trend of being a positive corporate citizen and helping to develop our rural communities while contributing to our strong economy."

The proposed development initially includes two facilities with capacity for future expansion. Applied Digital has contracted more than 900 acres for the campus and secured power through Cass County Electric Cooperative. Once fully operational, the site is expected to employ more than 200 full-time employees, in addition to long-term contractors.

Cass County Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative serving counties across North Dakota:

"We are excited to have the opportunity to provide Applied Digital with the power they need to drive innovation and technology in a way that benefits our communities and legacy members. As we work

through the final stages of an agreement, we will continue to keep our cooperative values at heart while preparing to meet the needs of future generations," said Paul Matthys, Cass County Electric Cooperative President and CEO.

Minnkota Power Cooperative is committed to delivering safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity across North Dakota:

"We're proud to work with Applied Digital to help bring a state-of-the-art data center to our region. This project represents an important opportunity to drive technological progress and create lasting benefits for our cooperative membership," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative President and CEO. "As we work toward a final agreement, our focus is on making sure it is integrated in a way that strengthens our communities, supports reliable and responsible power, and builds on the strong foundation we have established through more than 85 years of service to this region."

The Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation (GFMEDC) works to cultivate an economic environment where all people and organizations flourish:

"The Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC is excited about the opportunity to support this preliminary dynamic project for our region," stated Joe Raso, GFMEDC President & CEO. "Having worked with Applied Digital on various aspects of this project, including a recent visit to their Ellendale, ND, datacenter currently under construction, we can see the substantial economic benefit this project will have for the greater Fargo region. EDC staff have already conducted various workforce assessments that show our market's ability to provide the talent needed to support this facility and are confident Applied Digital's operations will fit nicely with our region's talent pool."

With abundant power resources, including renewable, available land, and a growing base of technical talent, we believe North Dakota is rapidly becoming a preferred destination for AI infrastructure. Polaris Forge 2 is expected to advance Applied Digital's mission to build sustainable, high-performance digital infrastructure that powers innovation and delivers lasting economic and community benefits.

"Applied Digital's investment in Ellendale is a model for rural innovation—bringing high-tech infrastructure, workforce housing, and long-term economic opportunity to North Dakota," said Commerce Commissioner, Chris Schilken. "Their expansion into Harwood builds on that success and is exactly the kind of strategic partnership and investment that strengthens our communities and positions our state for the future."

"This groundbreaking marks the start of a project that will put Harwood on the map as a key player in the future of AI infrastructure. Applied Digital's investment reflects confidence in our people and our potential, and we're proud to be part of this moment," said Blake Hankey, Mayor of Harwood.

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