

LANGDON AREA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2025 | Langdon Area School Board Meeting Room

Present: Dave Hart, Dawn Kruk, Loren Fetsch, Tiffany Hetletved, Tyler Feist, Abby Borchardt, Daren Bachman, Jacy Bata (Elem. Principal), Ethen Askvig (MS/HS Principal), Daren Christianson (Supt.), and Shauna Schneider (Bus. Mgr.)
Visitors: Tina Olson, Hilary Nowatzki, Matt Wright, Jayla Askvig, and Lori Christensen
Chairman Dave Hart called the March 12, 2025, Board meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.
Communications: Lori Christensen reviewed the public meeting with the Board. Dave Hart and Daren Christianson will meet with the Park Board and City Commission with the proposed plan. Thank you was received from Cavalier County Health District. Chairman Dave Hart asked for ap-

proval of the consent agenda. Tiffany Hetletved made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included February 19, 2025, Board Minutes, Bills, and Business Manager Report. Abby Borchardt seconded the motion. Tiffany Hetletved made an amendment to the motion to include additional bills. Abby Borchardt seconded the amendment. Amended motion was unanimously carried. Motion was unanimously carried.
Administrators' Reports: Daren Christianson's report was reviewed by the Board. Topics of discussion included state legislature, ICS, and vehicles. He added that the legislature is looking at a 2% increase in state aid funding each year over the next two years. Ethen Askvig's report was reviewed by the Board. Topics of discussion included End of 3rd Quarter, STUCO

Blood Drive, Alive at 25, Testing, and Internet Crimes Presentation. He added that Drama will have a musical this spring. The Athletic Director report included Spring Sports, Congratulations on Girls Basketball State Appearance, and upcoming Boys Basketball Regionals. Jacy Bata's report was reviewed by the Board. Topics of discussion included Elementary Sports & Activities, Academics, Events, and Drills. She added that March is reading month and the K9 unit is coming to talk to the 5th and 6th graders.

Old Business: The Superintendent's evaluation was reviewed by the Board. Dawn Kruk made a motion to approve the Superintendent's evaluation as presented. Tiffany Hetletved seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

New Business: Dawn Kruk gave a Budget and Finance Committee update. Recommendations from the Committee are to create a new custodial/kitchen position next year to fill positions left open and use the additional general fund money from the Edmore District tax base for deferred maintenance within the District. Shauna Schneider reviewed the election for June. Abby Borchardt made a motion to hold the annual election on June 10, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. with the School District as the precinct, the High School commons as the polling place with Kari Phillips, McKenzie Blumhagen, Joni Henderson, Jordan Braunberger and Jayne Kitchen as election workers paid at \$22.50 per hour. Loren Fetsch seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried. Ethen Askvig shared the loss of Duke Klein and thanked

him for his 40 years of service to the District.

There was a discussion on the next Board meeting date and time. Tiffany Hetletved made a motion to have the next Board meeting on March 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Daren Bachman seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Loren Fetsch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dawn Kruk seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Board President
Business Manager

LANGDON AREA SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Langdon Area High School | April 3, 2025

Present: Dave Hart, Abby Borchardt, Loren Fetsch, Tiffany Hetletved, Dawn Kruk (by phone), Tyler Feist, Ethen Askvig (MS/HS Principal), Jacy Bata (Elem. Principal), Daren Christianson (Supt.), and Shauna Schneder (Bus. Mgr.).
Absent: Daren Bachman.
Visitors: Lori Christensen (Teams) and Kirk Ham with ICS (Teams), Kayla Lee, Amy Kram, Matt Kreklau, Daryl Timian, Tina Olson, Jenny Romfo, Marnie Thielbar, Julie Johnson, Stevie Bredeson, Lisa Gellner, Cregg Stein, Dave Zeis, Steph Fetsch, Hilary Nowatzki, Rachel Avdem, Angie Sanders, Susan Faye Crockett, Rich Olson, Kyle Rollness, Kaila Rollness, Amanda Coyle, Zach Jacobson, Sara Goodman, Sina Lawson, Jayla Askvig, Steve Swanson, Josh Krivarchka, Jane Hart, Mark Schneider, and Lisa Jacobson.
Chairman Dave Hart called the April 3, 2025, Special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees. Dave Hart welcomed visitors to the meeting and read the meeting note to the public.
Old Business: Dave Hart discussed moving forward with the bond vote. Daren Christianson reviewed deferred maintenance that is not in the current plan. Those items will be scheduled out. There was discussion on what will happen should the bond fail.
Lori Christensen with ICS reviewed the updated project scope, impact of the plan, cost of the plan, referendum election process, next steps and referendum branding. Kirk Hamm with ICS discussed communications and roles. He reviewed the election process, the need for a 60% yes vote to pass and why good levy proposals fail.
Daren Christianson explained the Elementary calendar change request of

using the last two days of the school year for professional development and evaluation of programs. Loren Fetsch made a motion to approve the Elementary calendar change as presented. Tiffany Hetletved seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
The April Board meeting date and time was discussed. Tyler Feist made a motion to move the April 2025 Board meeting to the 23rd beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tiffany Hetletved seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. Dave Hart invited the public to attend upcoming Board meetings to stay informed.
Dave Hart read the Initial Resolution for General Obligation School Building Bonds.

INITIAL RESOLUTION FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS
BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Langdon Area Public School District No. 23, Cavalier and Walsh Counties, North Dakota (the "School District"), that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to issue its general obligation school building bonds as hereafter described:
1. The maximum amount of bonds proposed to be issued is \$19,900,000.
2. The purpose for which the bonds are proposed to be issued is to provide funds, together with any other funds available, to construct improved safe and secure entrances at the high school, secured entrance, gymnasium and changing room addition at the elementary school, dedicated cafeteria space at the elementary school, ADA compliant restroom renovations at both schools, HVAC improvements at the high school, deferred maintenance at both schools including roof-

ing, tuckpointing, electrical, flooring, casework, PA, clock and bell system and exterior door, and to otherwise improve, renovate, remodel, construct and equip school property and make site improvements to school property.
3. The assessed valuation of all taxable property in the School District as defined in N.D.C.C. Section 21-03-01, is \$416,989,209 as last finally equalized for the year 2024.
4. The total amount of bonded indebtedness of the School District, all issued for school building purposes, is \$0.
Dated: April 3, 2025.

Abby Borchardt made a motion to approve the Initial Resolution for General Obligation School Building Bonds as presented. Tiffany Hetletved seconded the motion. Shauna Schneider reviewed the original approved bonds on the Elementary and High School buildings dated October 8, 1964, and November 21, 1968, respectively. All in attendance voting yes, roll call vote unanimously carried.

Dave Hart read the Resolution Calling Election to Vote on the Question of Approving Initial Resolution for General Obligation School Building Bonds.

RESOLUTION CALLING ELECTION TO VOTE
ON THE QUESTION OF APPROVING INITIAL RESOLUTION FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS
BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Langdon Area Public School District No. 23, Cavalier and Walsh Counties, North Dakota (the "School District"), as follows:
1. This Board has heretofore adopted an initial resolution proposing

the issuance of general obligation bonds of the School District in the principal amount of not to exceed \$19,900,000 for school building construction purposes to the electors. An election in the School District will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the School District the question of whether the initial resolution for general obligation school building bonds should be approved.
2. Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code, Section 15.1-09-13, the Board hereby designates one precinct for the election and one polling place.
3. The polling place for said election shall be: Location: Langdon High School Commons Area Address: 715 14th Ave., Langdon, ND 58249
The polls will be open at 9:00 a.m., Central Time, and shall remain open continuously thereafter until 7:00 p.m., Central Time.
4. The School Board authorizes the administration to employ individuals to act as the election officers of said election. Said election officers shall count the votes cast at said election and shall submit signed election returns to this Board for canvassing.
5. The Business Manager is hereby authorized and directed to cause typed or printed ballots to be prepared for use at said election which ballots shall be in substantially the form set forth in Exhibit A hereto.
6. The Business Manager is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of said election by:
(a) causing a notice thereof to be published once each week for at least two weeks in the official newspaper of the School District, the first of such publications to be at least 15 days before the date of said election; and
(b) posting the notice of election on

the website of the School District prior to the date of said election. 2
Said notice shall state the date of the election, the polling place and polling hours, shall contain a complete copy of the initial bond resolution, a statement that the question to be submitted at said election shall be whether said initial resolution shall be approved, and the estimated additional millage and equivalent dollar amount on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for the first taxable year after all of the bonds are issued.
7. The election shall be held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code. After the votes are canvassed, and within 24 hours after the polls are closed, the judges shall make their returns to the Business Manager of the School District, which shall meet thereafter pursuant to law for the purpose of canvassing the returns and declaring the results and taking such further action relative to the question voted on as may then be determined appropriate.
Dated: April 3, 2025.

Loren Fetsch made a motion to approve the Resolution Calling Election to Vote on the Question of Approving Initial Resolution for General Obligation School Building Bonds. Tyler Feist seconded the motion. All in attendance voting yes, roll call vote unanimously carried.
Loren Fetsch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dawn Kruk seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Board President
Business Manager

Cont'd. From Page A10 Federal funding cuts prolong anxiety for North Dakota institutions

in the state can get a State Library card and use it to access materials and databases online or have physical items sent to them directly.

Over 115,000 books were sent to patrons across the state through public libraries using the interlibrary loan services last year, and that's not counting what's distributed through K-12 libraries or at higher education institutions, Soucie explained.

Three full-time employees at the State Library, as well as the rent paid by the library to use the space in the Liberty Memorial Building on the capitol grounds in Bismarck, are also covered by federal funding.

If cuts do go through, the State Library would have to go to the state Emergency Commission to see if those funds could be covered fully or in part by the state.

"If the funding is not received, we would have to look at what services we could make changes to, because a third of our budget comes from those federal dollars," Soucie said.

Research disruptions, anxiety
Scott Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of North Dakota, said the university had dodged significant

cuts seen at other institutions around the country so far, but has had some federal grants canceled in recent months.

Those four grants totaled around \$1.4 million and included a \$900,000 National Institute of Health (NIH) grant to help introduce undergraduate students to biomedical science fields, pair them with faculty mentors, and provide travel grants to gain experience at other laboratories.

"It was really to bring students who might not have otherwise gone into biomedical sciences into the fold," Snyder said.

Two grants canceled in cuts to the Centers for Disease Control included one looking at disparities in the treatment of Covid within various populations in the state, and another for a health ambassador program for students at the university. A NIH grant related to breast cancer research was also terminated, but did not have a monetary impact since the project was already completed. Snyder said. One area of uncertainty for the university is a proposal to cap NIH coverage of indirect costs for universities at 15%, shifting billions of dollars in research cost burdens directly to the universities themselves.

UND currently has an indirect cost rate of 41%, already lower than many other universities.

The reform of NIH indirect cost rates was halted by an April 4 federal district court injunction in the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts, setting the stage for a court battle that may eventually be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The future remains very cloudy, though," Snyder said. "What happens is everything is moving along and then all of a sudden another policy drops or another series of cuts."

Snyder said another immediate impact from funding turmoil is that formal and informal notifications for awards continue to come in, but funds do not always get disbursed.

"So, we're seeing big time delays in these agencies' ability to get money out the door and support the work they said they were going to support," Snyder said. "We're flying a bit in the dark, and that has the potential to get more disruptive if that money doesn't continue to move."

At North Dakota State University, history professor Angela Smith was impacted by the loss of a grant from the National Endowment for the Human-

ities secured by Michigan Tech Institute in December last year.

The grant would have provided a team of scholars including Smith at NDSU along with others in Canada, Brazil, South Carolina and Oklahoma to learn how to use a deep mapping system.

For the Smith project, that would have meant mapping the Red River Valley and setting up a system where the public could see the past in new ways. Think of it like a series of layers of history that can be unpeeled for a particular location, with oral histories, historical maps, archeology, and land records all providing narratives throughout time for that location.

"We are trying to weave these narratives using GIS and place-based primary source tags so that the public can understand the deep layers of how history unfolds," Smith said.

That could mean scoping back to the glacial period to examine Lake Agassiz, then scoping out to when large grasslands burst forth to support vast herds of bison roaming the drying lakebed.

Then out again to detail how the grasses and bison laid down the rich topsoil that became hugely productive farmland for the bonanza farming

era in Minnesota and the Dakotas from the 1870s to 1920.

Smith is still planning on taking her own project forward as much as she can with future grants.

"This is a multi-year project," Smith said. "What this grant did is it helped us to build a plan so that we can go back for bigger grants to build it out." Smith said the value of this work and of many other researchers like herself is to pass on knowledge and enrich the lives of others.

"It's why I do what I do, it's why I chose this profession," she said. "So now the federal government doesn't value that and they slash indiscriminately. They don't even pick what's important to them. It's indiscriminate. It's across the board."

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