

North Dakota ‘DOGE’ to take a slower approach to cost savings

BY MICHAEL ACHTERLING
NORTH DAKOTA MONITOR

North Dakota’s version of DOGE is poised to begin work this week, but members say it won’t be just like the federal government version that inspired it.

“The federal thing seems to be ‘Gotcha. I caught you doing something wrong,’ instead of looking at what are our outcomes and how to do things better,” said Senate Minority Leader Kathy Hogan, D-Fargo.

North Dakota lawmakers this year established the Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency, similar to the Trump administration’s Department of Government Efficiency. The 10-member

group meets for the first time Wednesday to begin looking for potential efficiencies in state government.

Rep. Nathan Toman, R-Mandan, who will chair the effort, said his goal for the task force is to work with state agencies to ensure they are running effectively.

“We’re trying to view it as a partnership saying, ‘We want to help you guys succeed and we want the employees to succeed,’” Toman said.

The first meeting will include presentations from the departments of Health and Human Services, Information Technology and Commerce. Joe Morrisette, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said those agencies,

along with higher education and K-12 education, have some of the largest budgets.

“If the end result is going to be an impact on the overall state budget, you’ve got to look at those big areas,” Morrisette said.

(Michael Achterling/North Dakota Monitor)

North Dakota’s task force will not have Elon Musk’s chainsaw, with DOGE seeking out savings without the approval of Congress. The state version will submit a report before the 2027 legislative session that details possible cost savings, plus recommended legislation.

Toman also said the executive branch members of the task force may be able to take ac-

tion to adjust some programs, if those changes are allowed under state law without needing additional legislation.

Lawmakers earlier this year approved a state budget of \$20.3 billion for 2025-27, including federal and other funds. Toman said he believes the task force could find more than \$1 billion in cost savings, though he said a more realistic goal would be saving hundreds of millions.

Toman said examples of efficiencies could include reducing funding allocated to programs, cutting staffing levels, reevaluating state partnerships with vendors and streamlining processes.

He added the task force will be looking at

federal funding cuts to the state and their effects on state programs and agencies.

State Auditor Josh Gallion, one of the members, said he hopes the task force reduces redundancies and improves outcomes.

“But I also think we have to have a goal of reducing overall spending,” Gallion said. “Our state budget, the growth that we’ve had over the last decade is just not sustainable.”

Joe Morrisette, director of the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget, speaks to lawmakers during a meeting of the Budget Section on June 25, 2025. (Michael Achterling/North Dakota Monitor)

member of the task force, said finding government program efficiency does not always mean finding things to cut.

“I hope the committee has an open mind when we look at things because there could be some opportunities where in order to do something better and be more effective, it may cost more resources,” he said.

For example, he said his office recently hired a leasing agent for government facilities to take the leasing burden off of state agencies. The office also added a state construction supervisor so all state construction projects are handled under one roof, making it more efficient.



RICHLAND COUNTY

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Regular Meeting Minutes 7-7-25			
CITY OF HANKINSON			
Mayor Krump called the regular council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on July 7, 2025, at the Hankinson Community Center. Council members present were Post, Falk, Steffens, Pearson, Roeder and Bladow (via phone). Others present were Mike Riskey and Kennedy Campbell, City of Hankinson; Grant Kuper, Bolton & Menk Inc.; Deputy Keller and Deputy Grenz, Richland County Law Enforcement; Sam Hernandez, Municipal Judge; Bob Wurl and Ryan Wallock, Hankinson CDC; Kelly Hubrig, Hankinson Housing Authority; and Elissa Novotny, Dovetail Development.			
Motion by Steffens/Falk to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 2, 2025. Carried.			
A motion by made by Post to approve the purchase of technical equipment to provide Microsoft Teams of up to \$4,000.00 and an amount of up to \$50.00/month for technical support. Second by Steffens. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Motion by Steffens/Falk to accept the June law enforcement report. Carried.			
Motion by Post/Roeder to accept the June Municipal Judge's report. Carried.			
Campbell discussed the floors at the Community Center. She will research companies and pricing to strip and wax the floors.			
Motion by Falk/Post to approve the June financial report. Carried.			
Steffens/Falk made a motion to accept the June bills for payment, as presented. Carried.			
FCCU	\$4,591.45	Farm City Supply	\$102.97
FCCU	\$808.01	Canon Financial Serv	\$99.00
Bank Service Fees	\$402.33	Dacotah Paper Co	\$299.45
NDPERS	\$3,610.93	Nadine Julson LLC	\$3,600.00
NDPHIT	\$4,493.03	Signature Homes Inc	\$36,250.00
City of Hankinson	\$87.56	Pipe Master's Plumbing	\$905.00
ND Child Support Div	\$318.34	Newman Signs Inc	\$744.93
ND Tax Commissioner	\$170.50	Core & Main LP	\$3,552.00
Dakota Valley Electric	\$7,913.00	Mutchler Bartram Arch	\$3,000.00
Red River Comm	\$560.31	Team Lab	\$1,575.00
FUOSV	\$175.00	Signature Homes Inc	\$100,000.00
MZM Service LLC	\$1,200.00	Otter Tail Power Co	\$4,965.70
HB Sound & Light	\$3,053.46	Hankinson Insurance	\$9,010.00
Hankinson CDC	\$2,500.00	Miller's Fresh Foods	\$15.85
Mark Sand & Gravel	\$133.95	Southeast Water Users	\$8,614.33
Verizon	\$42.54	Hankinson CDC	\$1,000.00
Hankinson Park Dist	\$850.73	FUOSV	\$120.47
Hankinson Public Lib	\$850.73	Lies Bullis & Hatting	\$1,220.00
Hankinson Housing	\$567.16	Lee Stein	\$85.00
Hankinson CDC	\$5,104.40	Hunter Wollschlager	\$250.00
Hankinson Park Dist	\$3,402.94	City of Fargo	\$14.00
Hankinson Housing	\$3,402.94	Loffler	\$307.73
Hankinson CDC	\$3,402.94	NDLC	\$1,383.00
Hankinson Public Rec	\$1,211.75	Dakota Water Solutions	\$124.00
City Payroll		FUOSV	\$120.47
Kristi Kelley	\$50.00	Hiway Service Polaris	\$86.97
Nick Pohl	\$50.00	Wheaton Dumont	\$398.76
Mike Riskey	\$50.00	Richland County Rec	\$3.50
Sean Johnson	\$50.00	Red River Comm	\$560.29
Kennedy Campbell	\$50.00	ASP of Moorhead Inc	\$136.00
Richland County Admin	\$2,900.00	Summit Fire Protection	\$419.00
GSI	\$1,210.00	TG Sanitation Inc	\$6,825.77
Krause Brother's Const	\$532.50	MZM Service LLC	\$300.00
Bolton & Menk Inc	\$4,020.00	Lyle Signs LLC	\$847.41
Hankinson Drug	\$99.90	Post's Hardware Hank	\$329.31
ASP of Moorhead Inc	\$136.00	ND One Call Inc	\$29.35
Falk Drilling Inc	\$727.20	Dakota Valley Electric	\$7,054.00
Sanitation Products	\$73.17	Bolton & Menk Inc	\$6,274.00
Hubrig was present to discuss water, sewer and street plans in Wieser's 3rd Addition. Hubrig requested to borrow from the City's investment fund to install this infrastructure. A motion was made by Falk/Pearson to assist the Hankinson Housing Authority with an amount up to \$71,593.32 from the investment fund for infrastructure costs for Wieser's 3rd Addition, contingent on an agreement drawn up by the city attorney and signed by both parties. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Motion by Bladow/Post to hire American Pipe Solutions for ice pipping at the north well field's transmission line for \$70,536.00. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Motion to approve the July Consent Agenda made by Falk/Post as follows: Transfer Balances: \$11,343.13 from 225 City Sales Tax Fund to 535 Community Center Operations/Building Permits: Gary Moen, Justin O'Hara, Richland-Wilkin JPA, BoHo Moxie LLP, Faye Stack, Jesse Krump, and Jeremy Post; Gaming Permits: Hankinson Community Betterment Club; Liquor Licenses: None. Carried.			
Motion by Post/Falk to approve the purchase of a new pump to replace one that failed at the water reservoir for \$4,247.00 from Watersmith Inc. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Motion by Post/Falk to approve the Renaissance Zone Board's recommendation to approve project 63-HK for 8 years at 100%. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Motion by Roeder/Pearson to approve the Renaissance Zone Board's recommendation to approve project 64-HK for 5 years at 100%, contingent on a replat of the property. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Motion by Post/Steffens to approve the Renaissance Zone Board's recommendation to approve project 65-HK for 5 years at 100%, contingent on a replat of the property. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Steffens/Roeder made a motion to approve an agreement for the 2025 haying season with Reggie Bladow on the land around the lagoon. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Steffens offered Resolution 25-12 Resolution for Bond of City Auditor (City of Hankinson). Second by Pearson. Carried.			
Post offered Resolution 25-13 Resolution for Bond of City Auditor (Hankinson Housing Authority). Second by Falk. Carried.			
Falk offered Resolution 25-14 Resolution for Bond of City Auditor (Hankinson Public Library). Second by Post. Carried.			
Motion by Steffens/Falk to approve a one-year lease renewal with Vicky Lynn Photography for upstairs room above the library with all terms remaining the same. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Motion by Falk/Steffens to approve Glacier Dust Control to lay chemical on gravel city roads up to \$18,000.00. Roll call: all aye. Carried.			
Steffens/Roeder made a motion to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Carried.			
The next regular city council meeting will be held Monday, August 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Hankinson Community Center.			
Minutes subject to council approval.			
Jordan Krump, Mayor Kristi Kelley, City Auditor Date: July 30, 2025 NMO000381			

Fairmount School Board Minutes	
July 9, 2025	
The Fairmount School board held the regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2025.	
Members present: Stephen Campbell, Tim Campbell, Nikki Davis, Markus Geffre, Cassandra Metcalf.	
Others present: Steve Hall, Jay Townsend, Amy Gebro.	
The meeting was called to order by President Campbell at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.	
The agenda was approved with additions, Policy BCBA and Set Levy Date with a motion by Geffre. Second/Metcalf. Motion carried.	
The financial report for the month of June was approved with a motion by Geffre. Second/S. Campbell. Motion carried.	
The claims for the month of June were approved with a motion by S. Campbell. Second/Davis. Motion carried.	
The minutes from the June 11, 2025 regular meeting and the June 23, 2025 special meeting were approved with a motion by Geffre. Second/Metcalf. Motion carried.	
Old Business: none.	
The meeting was turned over to Superintendent Hall for reorganization of the board.	
Election of Officers: Motion by S. Campbell to elect Tim Campbell for Board President. Having no other nominations motion by Metcalf to seize nominations. Second/Davis. Motion carried for Tim Campbell for Board President.	
Meeting was taken over by President T. Campbell.	
Motion by Metcalf to nominate Markus Geffre as Vice President. Second/S. Campbell. Motion carried.	
Motion by Davis to consent all organization items 1 to 18 with the exception of numbers 10 & 12 and have all items be the same as previous year. Second/Metcalf. Motion carried.	
Board Committees: Negotiations Committee - Davis and S. Campbell.	
Building and Grounds Committee - Geffre & Metcalf.	
Southeast Career and Tech Board - Geffre.	
South Valley Board - Mr. Hall.	
Tri-State Sports Co-op Board - S. Campbell and Metcalf	
Homeless Liaison - Mr. Townsend	
Designate the Superintendent as representative for all Federal Programs including, but not limited to Title I, II, III.	
Official Depository for Fairmount Public School - Peoples State Bank	
Official Newspaper - Richland County News Monitor	
Declarations of conflict of interest - Tim Campbell declared Conflict of Interest due to his spouse being a teacher at Fairmount School. S. Campbell declared Conflict of Interest due to moving snow in the winter time and doing odd jobs for the school.	
Admission prices for games will be the prices that the Tri-State Coop Board recommends.	
Board Compensation will be \$100 per meeting.	
Business Manager for the Fairmount Public School will be Amy Gebro.	
Signers for checks on all accounts will be Amy Gebro - Business Manager, Tim Campbell - Board President, and Steve Hall - Superintendent.	
Authorized representatives for direct deposit of payroll will be Amy Gebro, Jay Townsend and Steve Hall, authorized representative to verify payroll will be Jay Townsend and Steve Hall.	
Board Meetings for the 2025-2026 year will be the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm.	
Motion by Geffre to accept the Pledge of Assets as presented from Peoples State Bank. Second/S. Campbell. Motion carried.	
Motion by Metcalf to increase student lunches and breakfast by 20 cents and adult meals increase by 50 cents for the 2025-2026 school year. Second/S. Campbell. Motion carried.	
The claims for the month of July were reviewed and approved with a motion by S. Campbell. Second/Davis. Motion carried.	
Standing reports were heard. Motion by Geffre to accept the Tri-State Coop Coaching Schedule as presented from the Coop Board. Second/S. Campbell. Motion carried.	
New Business: Building & Grounds meeting from July 2 - Mr. Hall gave an update from the meeting. Discussion followed.	
Tuition Agreement - Motion by Geffre to accept a tuition agreement for a student to attend Wahpeton during the 2025-2026 school year. Second/Metcalf. Motion carried.	
Electronic Device Policy - Mr. Townsend presented the first reading of the Electronic Device Policy that will be in effect for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion by Geffre to accept as presented. Second/Davis. Motion carried.	
Policy BCBA - Public Participation at Board Meetings. Motion by S. Campbell to accept the first reading of Policy BCBA - Public Participation at Board Meetings as presented. Second/Metcalf. Motion carried. Policy BCBA-BR - Rules of Decorum at Board Meetings - Motion by Geffre to accept as presented. Second/Davis. Motion carried.	
Levy Date & Time - Motion by Metcalf to set the Levy Hearing for September 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm Second/Geffre. Motion carried.	
Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 10, 2025 with the levy hearing at 6:00 pm and the board meeting to follow.	
School picnic will be Tuesday, August 19, 2025 from 5-7 pm at the Fairmount Park.	
Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.	
Amazon	\$292.81
American Recycling	\$100.00
Anderson Ceiling	\$5250.00
Apptegy	\$4917.27
Boiler Inspection	\$70.00
Breckenridge Econo	\$15.16
Buettner, Hailey	\$15.00
Capital One	\$553.93
Child Nutrition Office	\$165.00
City of Fairmount	\$48.55
Column Software	\$281.70
Culinex	\$97.63
Daily News	\$139.16
Dakota Water	\$120.00
Edutech	\$20.00
Farmers Union	\$1875.21
Fairmount Post Office	\$154.00
G & R controls	\$1259.90
Gerrells Sports	\$3885.00
GreatAmerica Financial	\$1087.81
Gripper Sports	\$214.80
Hall, S.	\$118.10
Hampton Inn	\$428.00
Hankinson School	\$732.13
Hillyard	\$639.30
Irish, D.	\$324.48
Jamesstown Golf course	\$50.00
JB Therapy	\$2028.06
KBMW	\$75.00
Lamp Group	\$948.45
Laney's	\$820.00
Menards	\$29.98
NDSCB	\$2500.48
NDCEL	\$861.00
ND Bureau of Criminal	\$40.00
Nelson, R.	\$1284.03
Network Services	\$932.24
Ottertail Power	\$425.40
Red River	\$527.00
Rosholt School	\$17576.58
Ruhl, D.	\$150.00
Schmit, K.	\$150.00
Scott's Electric	\$65875.00
Software Unlimited	\$3200.00
Solo Tech	\$2264.96
Summitt Fire	\$617.30
SouthEast Tech Center	\$4450.00
Storbakken	\$329.00
Swanson, C.	\$150.00
Taylor,	\$150.00
TwoTrees Tech	\$788.00
UMB Bank	\$50565.63
US Foods	\$1798.68
Verizon	\$51.97
Village	\$1167.00
Wahpeton Ace	\$226.91
Wahpeton Glass	\$245.16

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL.
Tim Campbell, School Board President
Amy Gebro, Business Manager
Date: July 30, 2025
NMO000380

BOARD MINUTES

Hankinson Public School District 8

School Board Meeting

June 23, 2025

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Aaron Medenwaldt at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Aaron Medenwaldt, Jason Semerad, Nick Foertsch, Melissa Schmidt, Jodi Severson

Others Present: Chad Benson, Sarah Pohl, DeeAnn Bilben, Kari Hubrig, Beth Tiegs

Agenda: Motion by Schmidt, second by Severson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Foertsch, second by Schmidt to approve the consent agenda as follows: Minutes of May 12, 2025 Board meetings; Vocational; SEEC; Bus reports; Activity and Hot Lunch reports; Invoices. Roll call: All yes.

Balance Sheet and Revenue Report: Motion by Foertsch, second by Severson to approve the balance sheet and revenue reports as presented. Roll call: All yes.

Semerad entered the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Elementary and Secondary Principal's report: Sarah Pohl presented the Elementary Principal's Report in Principal O'Meara's absence. Sarah Pohl presented the Secondary Principal's Report.

Canvas Election Results: Election results were reported as follows: Thirty-five individuals cast ballots for the open Board positions. Nick Foertsch was declared the winner of the rural seat with 35 votes. Melissa Schmidt was declared the winner of the at-large seat with 34 votes. Thirty-four votes were cast on the question of publishing minutes in the official newspaper of the district. The question carried with twenty-six voting for publishing the minutes. Motion by Schmidt, second by Severson to approve the election results as presented. Roll call: All yes.

Insurance Quote: Motion by Foertsch, second by Semerad to approve the ND Insurance Reserve Fund quote with the increase required for the addition of musical instruments to the Inland Marine Policy. Roll call: All yes.

Resignation: Motion by Foertsch, second by Schmidt to accept the resignation of Brian Eizen effective the end of the 2024-2025 contract. Roll call: All yes.

Contract Approval: Motion by Foertsch, second by Severson to approve the contract with Kianna Ogilvie for the 2025-26 school year at a salary of \$48,575 subject to change with the 2025-2027 negotiated agreement and pending appropriate certification and licensure from the NDESPB. Roll call: All yes.

2025-2027 Teacher Negotiated Agreement: Motion by Schmidt, second by Severson to approve the 2025-2027 Teacher Negotiated Agreement as presented. Roll call: All yes.

Ancillary Salary Schedule: Motion by Foertsch, second by Severson to approve a \$1.00 per hour raise for ancillary employees and an increase of the base pay to \$18.00 per hour. Roll call: All yes.

Bus 26: Motion by Schmidt, second by Severson to keep Bus 26 pending inspection. Roll call: Severson – yes; Foertsch – abstain; Semerad – yes; Medenwaldt – yes; Schmidt – yes.

West Gym: Motion by Schmidt, second by Severson to accept the quote from Gerrells for new backboards, rims and backboard padding including installation for the west gym. Roll call: All yes.

VFD Quote: Motion by Foertsch, second by Semerad to approve the quote from Climate Makers in the amount of \$6,490 to install a ABB VFD on AHU for the 2 nd floor. Roll call: All yes.

Locker Room Heat: Motion by Semerad, second by Foertsch to approve the quote from Climate Makers in the amount of \$23,900 to install two heating coils in the east locker rooms. Roll call: All yes.

Football Field Projects: Motion by Foertsch, second by Semerad to approve the quote for football field lights from Parsons Electric in the amount of \$108,950. Roll call: All yes.

Early Childhood Grant: Motion by Foertsch, second by Semerad to decline to participate in the Early Childhood Grant Program for 2025-2026. Roll call: All yes.

Business Manager Evaluation: President Medenwaldt reported a satisfactory evaluation for Business Manager DeeAnn Bilben. Motion by Severson, second by Foertsch to accept the Business Manager evaluation as presented. Roll call: All yes.

Adjournment: President Medenwaldt adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Aaron Medenwaldt
President

DeeAnn Bilben
Business Manager

A&A ON SITE

\$ 200.00

ALLARD TROPHY COMPANY

\$ 600.05

AMAZON.COM, INC.

\$ 454.67

BREWTFUL DAY COFFEE & TEA

\$ 128.25

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

\$ 15.00

BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE

\$ 134.43

BYTESPEED

\$8,136.00

CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

\$ 891.49

CDW GOVERNMENT

\$1,487.06

CENTRAL CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT

\$ 600.00

COLUMBIA SOFTWARE PBC

\$ 198.00

DAKOTA MAILING

\$ 181.67

DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS

\$ 60.00

EFUNDS

\$ 169.25

FDI SERVICE CENTER

\$ 872.23

FEDEX

\$ 16.67

HANKINSON, CITY OF

\$ 536.46

JOSTENS INC

\$ 162.55

LINCOLN STATE BANK

\$ 640.00

LISBON PUBLIC SCHOOL

\$ 765.00

LOFFLER

\$1,826.00

M & T REPAIR

\$ 81.50

MAUER OIL CO

\$ 912.33

MILLER'S FRESH FOODS

\$ 77.85

NATIONAL INS SRVCS

\$ 449.87

NDESPB

\$ 60.00

ND HS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

\$ 95.00

NDCEL

\$ 250.00

NDSCB LEGAL DIRECT

\$ 117.00

NEWS MONITOR

\$ 96.00

OAKES PUBLIC SCHOOL

\$ 600.00

P-CARD TRAVEL

\$ 635.68

PCARD GENERAL FUND

\$ 59.10

POPLERS MUSIC INC

\$ 56.95

POST'S HARDWARE HANK

\$ 309.21

PROCHNOW, CARLY

\$ 15.00

QUALITY INN

\$ 198.00

RED RIVER COMMUNICATIONS

\$ 118.10

SANFORD HEALTH OCC MED

\$ 210.00

SCHMITT MUSIC

\$2,943.80

SCHOOLINSTITES

\$2,030.00

SEVLAND, HEATHER

\$ 15.00

SISSETON AMERICAN LEAGION

\$ 200.00

SOFTWARE UNLIMITED INC

\$6,550.00

STITCHERY UNLIMITED

\$ 86.13

T & G SANITATION

\$1,401.00

TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

\$ 130.00

WEX HEALTH INC.

\$2,172.94

Date: July 30, 2025

NM0000379