

ZEELAND PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

News from Superintendent Brandt Dick

Thank you to everyone who came out on a foggy evening to participate in a conversation about the state of the Zeeland School District. Attached below are the four options that were presented for consideration. The school board will be reviewing these options and determining which direction to pursue. This is a difficult decision, and one the board is thoughtfully working through to determine what is best for the district and for the students we serve.

Options for Zeeland School District

(In no particular order)

- 1) Make a decision to continue to function as a school district. Work with area banks to secure an operating loan until taxes come in.
 - a. This would likely need to include Reduction in Force action as revenue will be reduced due to decrease student numbers as evidenced by the 26-27 Worksheet.
 - b. If an increase in property taxes is considered, the earliest that vote can take place is November of 2026, which means it would take into effect for the 27-28 school year.
- 2) Seek another district to enter into a Cooperative Agreement to educate the children of Zeeland School District.

(NDCC 15.1-27-1

15.1-27-16. Per Student payments – Cooperating districts.

1. If any school district receiving payments under this chapter cooperates with another School district for the joint provision of educational services under a plan approved by the superintendent of public instruction, the superintendent of public instruction shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section 15.1-27-03.2, create and assign a separate weighting factor that allows the cooperating districts to receive, for a period of four years, a payment rate equivalent to that which each district would have received had the cooperative plan not taken effect. The Superintendent of public instruction shall compute the separate weighting factor to four decimal places and that weighting factor is effective for the duration of the cooperative plan.
2. A school district that is cooperating with another school district under a cooperative plan approved by the superintendent of public instruction, and which has taxable property located in the same city as the other school district under the cooperative plan, may not be required as part of the cooperative plan to:
 - a. Provide unduplicated grade level services; or
 - b. Share administrative personnel.

On a different note, it was my pleasure to present an award from the ND School Boards Association to Neil Meidinger for 30 years of service on the Zeeland School Board, and to Francis Meier for his 33 years of service. These two gentlemen have dedicated hundreds of hours over the years to support and strengthen the quality of education in Zeeland. They are truly deserving of recognition and gratitude for their many years of service and commitment to the patrons of the Zeeland School District. Thank you!



Notes from Mr. Streifel

Happy Holidays!

Another year is flying by as we enter the holiday season for the 25-26 school year. We passed the halfway point of the second quarter, and all parents should be on the lookout for midterms coming out shortly.

I would also like to add another reminder to have students dress appropriately for winter conditions. Make sure students have their hats, gloves, and winter coats.

School closing and late start announcements will go out with an all text and/or email to parents and can be found on the Zeeland Public School Facebook page.

If you have any questions, you can contact Joyce Scherr (**Home:** 701-423-5422 / **Cell:** 701-731-0005)

I hope you have a great Thanksgiving Break and look forward to finishing out 2025 strongly.

Important Information!

To help us maintain a safe and secure environment for all students and staff, we ask that students remain in the school building only during regular school hours unless they are directly supervised by a staff member. Our school hours are 8:15am to 3:35pm on days when school is in session. If students need to stay in the building beyond those times, they should be accompanied by a staff member. For everyone's safety, areas such as the gym, weight room, and classrooms should only be used when a staff member is present.

--Yvonne Engelhart

Music News

The annual Christmas concert takes place Thursday, **December 11** at 7:30 p.m. in the Zeeland School gym. Once again, Ashley junior high and high school students will be joining us for the concert. The craft-and-goodies auction sponsored by the booster club will be held following the concert. Please bring any donations.

A piano recital by the students of Trudy Fraase Wolf will be held Sunday, **December 14** at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym. The public is invited to attend.

The Zeeland students have been invited to join the Ashley students to play in the pep band for their home games. The first pep band date is **December 5** at the Ashley school. There will be a rehearsal for community members joining the band and any students who can make it on December 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ashley music room. Please use the back door close to the music room.

January 9 is the HS All-State Band, Choir and Orchestra auditions live in Bismarck. Good luck to all our high school students trying out for these groups.

Congratulations to James! He has been accepted into the ND JH/Middle School All-State Choir, which is open to students in grades 7-9. Avery was named 2nd alternate and will be called up should at least two other bass singers not be able to attend. The JH/Middle School All-State Choir will take place in Grand Forks February 6-7.



The Booster Club will be doing their Christmas auction On December 11th at the Christmas concert. If you would like to donate or make something for the auction, it would be greatly appreciated. It can be dropped off at the Zeeland Public School or brought in the night of the concert. All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Wolf at 423-5429.



Zeeland Lions Christmas Lighting Contest!

1st Place \$100.00

2nd Place \$50.00

Judging will take place Saturday, December 20, 2025.

Have your lights on!!!!



The Speech Team will be hosting a Free Will Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 8:00 am to Noon at the Zeeland Public School. We appreciate your past and present support!

From Mrs. Dockter

Reminder: We're already halfway through the 2nd quarter! Students still have plenty of time to keep adding reading points and work toward their goals. Keep up the great reading at home! Even though Halloween was a bit chilly, our students still had a wonderful time trick-or-treating downtown! A big thank you to McIntosh County Bank and the Post Office for welcoming us and making the day extra fun.



Our elementary students are excited to take part in the North Dakota School Boards Association art contest! This year's theme invited them to create their very own holiday greeting card, and they've been having a great time designing their festive artwork.



Zeeland Public School
Zeeland Board of Education
November 10, 2024
(Unofficial Minutes)

President Meier called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Francis Meier, Neil Meidinger, Jen Meier, Donavon Bender and Josh Rossow. Others present were Jayden Streifel, Kim Dockter, Kyle Anderson, Kristi Ebel and Joyce Scherr, Bs. Mgr.

Meidinger made a motion to approve the agenda, second J. Meier. All Aye.

Minutes were reviewed. J. Meier made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, second Bender. All Aye.

Financial reports were presented. Rossow made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented by the Bs. Mgr. and payment of the following claims, second Meidinger. BEK 107.59; City of Zeeland 83.91; CREA 938.60; Dakota Dust Tex 251.80; DRN 360.00; Emmons Co Record 141.76; Y. Engelhart 36.40; J.W. Pepper & Son 103.28; Johnson Controls 956.70; Matheson Tri Gas 57.14; MDU 830.45; Northwest Blade 53.00; Northwest GF Mutual 529.00; Popplers Music 141.15; Professional Speech Therapists 603.75; Zeeland Activity 1,448.39 and Zeeland Oil LLC 1,218.63. All Aye.

Supt. Report – Supt. Dick talked a bit about the meetings he has been having with Engelhart, Dockter and Streifel and feel all is running good. Also congratulated the FB team for making it into semi-finals.

H. S. Lead Report – One cell phone violation, disciplinary action taken.

BB practice is beginning. Suggested attending board meetings may be a problem if the meeting time changes to 4:00 p.m.

Elem. Lead Report – NDSBA is offering an Art contest where prizes are offered to the student and the classroom. All elementary will be participating and it has been offered to the high school.

Mrs. Bender will again be doing the hour of code with the students.

November 24th the elementary will be going to Gateway to Science.

No Public Comment.

Old Business – Supt Evaluations is completed.

New Business – Supt. Dick reviewed state payment worksheets. The November weighted factor went down a bit from October. Less students drops the total formula payment. At this time it appears we will lose approximately \$32,000.00. Revenue will need to be adjusted.

Supt. Dick suggested having a public meeting to keep the public informed. With decrease in numbers we will be getting less state funding. Bank representative will be asked to attend. He will explain what the future state aid payments look like for 2026-2027 and the challenges that will create. Board was then given options for the school district to think about for our future.

Public meeting will be November 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the school.

Next meeting will be December 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Rossow made a motion to adjourn, second J. Meier. All Aye.

Attest:

Joyce Scherr
Business Manager

Francis Meier
President



CHRISTMAS SCRAMBLER



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