

# **ZEELAND SCHOOL NEWS**

## **MAY 2026**



From the Superintendent's Desk.....

As we approach the end of the school year, we find ourselves closing a truly meaningful and emotional chapter in the history of Zeeland School District. This will be the final year that we welcome students through our doors, and that reality brings with it a deep sense of sadness. Zeeland has long been a place defined by close relationships, community pride, and a commitment to doing what is best for students. While this ending is difficult, it also represents a transition—one that will provide our students with opportunities to continue their education in larger districts that can offer broader programming, expanded extracurriculars, and new experiences for growth.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our teachers, who have continued to serve our students with professionalism, care, and dedication throughout this year of change. Their focus has remained where it matters most—on supporting students and ensuring a positive, meaningful educational experience. In particular, I want to recognize four individuals who have stepped forward to help fill the leadership gap created by my distance from the district—Mrs. Dockter, Mr. Streifel, Ms. Engelhart, and Mrs. Scherr. Their willingness to take on additional responsibility, lead with integrity, and support both students and staff has not gone unnoticed. Zeeland has been well served because of their efforts, and I am deeply appreciative of their commitment.

I would also like to thank our school board members. This has been a year that required difficult conversations and even more difficult decisions. Their thoughtful approach, steady leadership, and commitment to doing what is right for students and the community have been evident every step of the way. It has been a privilege to work alongside them, and I look forward to continuing that work in the coming year as we complete the process of closing Zeeland School District with the care and respect it deserves.

Finally, I look forward to celebrating graduation with the two seniors from the Class of 2026. This class represents the final group of students to walk across the stage as Zeeland graduates, joining the many alumni who have come before them. It will be a moment of pride, reflection, and recognition of all that Zeeland School has meant to so many. While this chapter is ending, the legacy of Zeeland will continue through its students, staff, and community for years to come.

## Earn Extra Money!!!



Ashley Public School is looking for a bus driver for a rural route west of town. This will be a full-time position during the 2026-27 school year and beyond. We are looking for a person with a Bus license endorsement for a big bus, pay will depend on experience. **Ashley School will help pay to get your bus endorsement license, ask for details.** Ashley is also looking for sub bus drivers. If interested or need more information contact Jason Schmidt (701-288-3456).

### Mrs. Wolf's News

**State Music** is Saturday, May 2, on the campus of BSC. Congratulations and good luck to our state qualifiers Jaydan (3 events), Anaiah, and Conrad!

**Ashley Concert** takes place on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 pm. As we have been doing all year, Zeeland students in grades 6-12 should attend to perform with the Ashley groups at this concert.

**The Spring Piano Recital** will be on Monday, May 11, in the Zeeland School Gym at **7:30 pm**. All are welcome to attend.

**Graduations** – Likewise, we would like to have as many band and choir students that we can attend and perform for both schools' graduations. Any community member that would like to join in the band is welcome as well. Just contact Mrs. Wolf to obtain a copy of the music. Zeeland's graduation is Saturday May 16, at 7:00 p.m. with Ashley's graduation on Sunday May 17, at 3:00 p.m.

### **Farewell message:**

I came to Zeeland in the fall of 1993. Many people have heard the story of how the superintendent and school board member doing my interview at that time stated that the school would be closed within 5 years. I replied that I was OK with that as (being young and single) I did not intend to stay in Zeeland longer. And the rest is history.....

So, 32 years later the school and I are sunsetting our careers together. Seems fitting. Although I will continue to do some part-time teaching in the future, my time in administration is done and I will be slowly closing my music teaching career. Thank you to all the students, parents, community and colleagues who have supported me in my time here at the Zeeland school. We've made some memories!



Zeeland Public School had three students participate in the North Dakota FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) State Leadership Conference, held at the Bismarck Event Center from March 29–31. While there, students attended keynote speaker sessions, breakout workshops, and networked with peers from across the state. Most importantly, they competed against some of the top students in North Dakota.

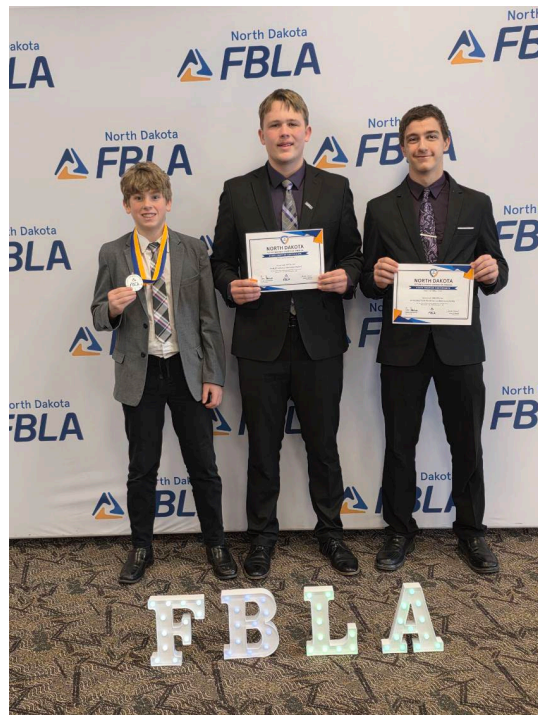
In the middle school division, Conrad placed 5th in Exploring Technology and 2nd in Digital Citizenship. His second-place finish qualified him for the National Leadership Conference, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas, from June 29–July 2.

In the high school division, James placed 8th in Introduction to Retail and Merchandising. Jaydan placed 13th in Economics and 5th in Public Service Announcement, earning him an alternate spot for the National Leadership Conference.

All three members will attend the National Conference in San Antonio. They are excited for the opportunity to compete at the national level and to visit sites such as the Alamo, the San Antonio Missions, and Six Flags.

To help cover the costs of transportation, hotel rooms, meals, activities, and conference registration, the students are selling raffle tickets. Tickets are \$10 each, and there will be ten \$100 cash prizes. The drawing will be held on May 14 following the end-of-year school picnic.

Thank you for your continued support. Because of your generosity, Zeeland FBLA has been able to attend the past five National Leadership Conferences.



As we say our goodbyes, here are final thoughts from our ZPS Staff!

We've been blessed to have had a staff who went above and beyond to make this final year a success! I wish them all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives!

As an International teacher from the Philippines, Zeeland Public School turns to be my second home. I found out that adjusting and building relationships with my co-workers, administrators and staff and even with the students has made it easier to navigate my new home since I arrived way back September 1, 2022. Living in the United States, especially in Zeeland, North Dakota has been an interesting experience so far, I appreciate that it has given me an opportunity to meet kind and nice people. Prior to coming here in the United States I was excited to experience a culture that is somewhat different from mine. Since arriving, I have enjoyed exploring the food, traditions and everyday life of Americans. So far, my most memorable experience during my 1<sup>st</sup> year here in the United States was celebrating the Thanksgiving Party last November 2022 in the house of our former Superintendent Mrs. Trudy Wolf together with her family. It reminded of Christmas back home in the Philippines. I tried some of the food like the carrot cake, grilled Turkey etc. which made me feel both welcomed and connected to new tradition. And for our Cultural experience, we showcased our tradition like Sinulog and Masskara Festivals held at a local church. We proudly carried our flag with joy and showcased the typical Filipino dish like Lumpia, Adobo, Valenciana, Maja Blanca, Leche Flan, Caldereta, Suman, Biko etc. It was truly and exciting, enriching and welcoming experience we had together with the American people in our community. And my favorite part of living in the United States has been an opportunity to meet people from around the world and broaden my knowledge both personally and professionally. I've also enjoyed exploring various places and even visited some states with my family and friends.

**LANDY GAYANILO (MR.G.)**





## Miss Yvonne Engelhart's thoughts on Zeeland Public School

Zeeland Public School holds a lot of memories for me and my family. My first day of school was August 28, 1972. Back in those days the moms had the little girls wear a dress on the first day of school. I remember wearing a new cotton dress and carrying my first ever school bag. It was tradition in our family to stand at the door and take a picture of the kids with our school bags on the first day of school. We had butterflies in our stomachs in anticipation of a new adventure every year. I was a tad witty in elementary school and had my mom write me an excuse not to go out for recess since I told her I wasn't feeling well. Actually, I kept a few of those notes in my plastic pencil bag just in case I ever wanted to skip recess. If I could find my pencil bag, I am sure I would still have a saved note in there, just in case! Fast forward many years and I would become a principal who would be the enforcer of rules. What I am trying to say is that Zeeland Public School holds many memories for me. My dad, James (Class of 1954) met my mom, Florence (Class of 1956) because of Zeeland Public School. Dad would pick up my mom at the Simon Mitzel farm and bring her to school with her siblings. Dad said eventually mom moved to the front seat and they started liking each other. I have had the great opportunity to be the part time guidance counselor at Zeeland Public School for the last four years after I retired from education. I have really enjoyed my time here and would have never imagined I would come full circle back to the school that started my education. Thank you Zeeland Public School for the great education and memories!

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I would like to thank all the administrators, staff, and school board members—past and present—for the opportunity to work at Zeeland Public School over the last ten years. I would also like to thank the community for their welcoming nature and continued support.

With such small numbers, we were truly able to get to know each student. I would like to thank the students for keeping every day interesting and memorable. They have given me a lifetime of stories.

It feels like just yesterday that I started at Zeeland Public School. I remember when I first interviewed and accepted a job in Zeeland, I knew it was going to be small and didn't expect to spend a long time here. What I didn't realize was just how small it was—and that I would end up spending the last ten years here.

I have truly enjoyed living and working in a small town. Zeeland Public School gave me the opportunity for my first teaching job, and it has meant a great deal to me. During my time here, I've also had the opportunity to do other things I enjoy such as coaching football, basketball and serving as the FBLA advisor, which allowed me to travel across the United States attending FBLA National Conferences.

Zeeland Public School has given me some of the most memorable experiences of my life. Thank you to everyone who made these past ten years so meaningful. I will always appreciate my time here.

Jacob Cline

## Finding a Home at Zeeland Public School

*Chloe Maravilla*

There's a saying, "Miracles begin the moment you choose to believe they are possible," and coming to the United States truly feels like one of those miracles. It has given me the opportunity to see, explore, and experience a new life and culture. Zeeland is a city I now consider my haven—a quiet and peaceful place filled with kind, friendly, and generous people who have made me feel welcome and appreciated.

My three years at Zeeland Public School have been both challenging and transformative in my teaching career. This experience has broadened my perspective and deepened my understanding of teaching, especially in building relationships with students who are bold and outspoken. Their strong personalities often tested my patience and understanding, but at the same time, they were incredibly sweet and caring. I truly felt that they appreciated me in their own ways—and I've grown to care deeply for them as well.

My time at Zeeland Public School would not have been as complete and comfortable without the support of so many wonderful people. I'm especially grateful to our former superintendent, Mrs. Trudy Wolf, who believed in me, consistently supported and helped me meet my professional responsibilities. I also appreciate our former principal, Mrs. Jeanne Cline, who patiently guided and mentored me in developing my teaching skills.

Our office/business manager, Mrs. Joyce Scherr, was always there to help with both my personal concerns and any questions I had. Our property custodian, Mr. Kevin Kocher, made sure I had everything I needed at school—from supplies to a safe and comfortable classroom environment.

I'm also thankful to Mr. Jayden Streifel, now our lead teacher, who is kind, approachable, and always willing to listen when I have questions or uncertainties. And to Mr. Jacob Cline, Mrs. Kim Dockter, and Mr. Kyle Anderson—thank you for always being approachable and ready to help whenever I needed favors and support.

Our guidance counselor, Mrs. Yvonne Engleheart, also became a mentor to me. Thank you for your valuable advice in helping me improve my teaching skills, and for encouraging me to be stronger and more confident when addressing challenges with students.

These people were more than just administrators and colleagues to me—they became my friends with whom I could share my thoughts, my joys, and even my struggles.

As Zeeland Public School nears its closing, I feel deeply grateful to have been part of this important chapter in its history. The memories and experiences I've gained here will not stay behind - they are things I will carry with me wherever I go. Being part of Zeeland Public School has truly been one of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences of my life.

As I move forward, I say goodbye with both a heavy and a grateful heart—to the school and to the community who welcomed me so warmly and took part in our cross-cultural programs at the church. Thank you for allowing me to share, learn, and grow with you.

And now, as Mrs. M, I sign off as a teacher—with gratitude, cherished memories, and a heart full of appreciation.



As the school year is coming to an end, it's a bittersweet feeling as the realization that Zeeland is officially done. I can't believe that I have been here for twenty years. I would like to thank you for letting me be part of your children's lives for the past twenty years. I wish everyone the best of luck in their future endeavors.

**Kyle Anderson**

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**Lorie Bender**

Zeeland Public School holds a very special place in my heart as my first teaching job after spending 10 years holding administrative office jobs in Grand Forks and Bismarck. I was a part-time business teacher for the 1990-91 and 1991-92 academic years and returned in 2002 as a full-time teacher, for a total of 25 years.

So many students have come through the business/computer room, learning how to type, how to use computer applications, how to be good consumers and manage their money, as well as the accounting equation, debits and credits, and net income.

When I think about the learners in my classroom, I see proud Viking alumni accountants, authors, engineers, clergy, educators, soldiers, farmers and ranchers, business owners, nurses, mechanics, pharmacists, photographers, paramedics, construction workers, physical therapists, laborers, chiropractors, and computer professionals, to name more than a few.

It has been a pleasure sharing my passion for learning and encouraging students to also be lifelong learners, keeping knowledge and skills current in an ever-changing technological world.

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I began my teaching career as a substitute teacher at Zeeland Public School, where I immediately felt welcomed and supported. It was at this very school that I recognized a strong passion for teaching. While pursuing my teaching degree, I accepted a paraprofessional position at Zeeland Public School, which allowed me to further develop my skills and experience. Throughout this time, the staff consistently provided encouragement and support, contributing greatly to my professional growth.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the board members and administration for entrusting me with the opportunity to begin my career as an elementary teacher. With small class sizes I was able to offer one on one with all my students and develop meaningful relationships with each student. Over the years, I have created many lasting memories that I will always cherish.

I would like to thank Joyce for answering my many questions throughout the years. Over the years, you have become a dear friend, and I will truly miss working with you.

I would like to thank Mr. Dick and Ms. Engelhart for all your support and guidance this school year. It was an honor to work with you both.

Best of luck to everyone on their next adventure!

Mrs. Dockter

## **From Mr. Streifel**

It almost does not seem real that my time at Zeeland is ending. It is hard to believe that I have taught in this school for 10 and a half years already. I can still remember my last week of student teaching in 2015 when I received a call from Mrs. Wolf about being a math teacher in Zeeland Public School. I was graduating in December and never really had any plans to teach until the following school year in August, but Mrs. Wolf asked me to come tour the school and start teaching math right away in January.

I was reluctant at first but after meeting Mrs. Wolf, Mr. Ogren, Joyce, Kevin, the staff, and all the students, I accepted the position with the understanding that I would look and apply at other schools the coming fall. I had never planned to stay in North Dakota and figured I would look for other openings in South Dakota that fall. Well that half a year went by, then another year, and another year, and another, and all of a sudden over 10 years have gone by without me ever applying at any other school.

What I didn't realize at the time was how much a home this place would become for me. Teaching here didn't feel like a job but became a place where I met amazing people, made unforgettable memories, and tried to have a positive impact on the students' lives. While every career has its good days and bad days, I can say that I have truly enjoyed my experiences here and will always remember this little school that gave me my first chance to be a teacher. I have so many memories, in the classroom, on field trips, chaperoning, coaching, and just being active in the community that I will never forget.

I am so grateful to have met so many members of the Zeeland community during my time here. So many of you have made an impact on my life and have put up with me all these years even when SDSU was playing NDSU. (GO JACKS!). I want to thank Mr. Ogren and Mrs. Wolf for hiring me and believing in me all these years. I have so many other great colleagues that I have worked with over these 10 years, and I wish all of you the best. Thanks to Mr. Dick and Mrs. Engelhart for assisting Mrs. Dockter and myself through this transition this year. It would not have been possible without you. It has been a great pleasure to work with our staff this year as everyone has had to step up and contribute to keep Zeeland Public School operational this year. Also, I cannot thank Joyce and Kevin enough for all they have done over the years. Their impact on this school has been incredible, and they go way above and beyond what is required of them to make all this work.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our 2 seniors who are the 2026 graduating class of Zeeland Public School. I have known both Taylor and Joseph for my entire career here and I am so excited to see where their next steps take them. Best of luck to you!

Zeeland Public School  
Zeeland Board of Education  
April 13, 2026  
(Unofficial Minutes)

President Meier called the regular meeting to order. Board members present were Francis Meier, Neil Meidinger, Jen Meier, Josh Rossow and Donavon Bender. Others present were Kim Dockter, Jayden Streifel, Kristi Ebel and Kyle Anderson. Brandt Dick attended virtually.

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

Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed. Rossow made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, second Bender and carried unanimously to approve.

Financial reports were presented by the Bs. Mgr. Meidinger made a motion to approve the financial reports and payment of the following claims, second Rossow. BEK 106.97; City of Zeeland 83.91; CREA 1,568.55; Dakota Dust Tex 228.42; DRN 360.00; Emmons Co Record 93.21; MDU 1,920.88; Professional Speech Therapists, 547.50; L. Wolf 318.50; Zeeland Activity 170.50; Zeeland Oil LLC 12, 067.89; BCBS 3,920.74, MCARE 621.60 and TFFR 5,874.29. All Aye.

Supt. Report – None.

Lead Reports.

HS – Small Groups, Accalympics and FBLA are finished. Several qualified for FBLA nationals. Track season has begun. MAP testing has also started.

Elem – April is Youth Financial Literacy Month. Elementary students received piggy banks that will be painted and taken to the bank. Butterflies were purchased.

No Public Comment.

**Old Business** – Update on dissolution. Staff turned in lists on what they would like. Supt. Dick reminded the board that the staff agreed to no raises for this school year. Most of the items are outdated. Consensus of the board was to allow staff to take their laptops and books/supplies on their lists. Question came up whether the city or any other organization would have interest in the building. Several board members have concerns on how it will be taken care of after it is sold.

**New Business** – Reviewed tuition paperwork for our students in our district. Bender made a motion to approve the tuition/cost sharing forms we have received, second J. Meier and carried unanimously to approve.

Consensus of the board to hold the annual parent student picnic the last day of school, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Board would like Supt Dick to stay on in 2026-27 dissolution year. An Admin Contract will be looked at during the May regular meeting.

Graduation will be May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.. Seniors have requested who they would like to speak. Board Approved the speaker.

Next meeting will be May 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

No further business J. Meier made a motion to adjourn, second Bender and carried unanimously to approve.

ATTEST:

Joyce Scherr  
Business Manager

Francis Meier  
President

**JUNIOR'S LAST EVER WRESTLING BREAKFAST!**

**EGGS, SAUSAGE AND  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
JUICE, COFFEE, BARS**

**SUNDAY, MAY 3rd 2026  
9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

**ZEELAND PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**FREE WILL OFFERING  
PROCEEDS WILL GO TO**

**ZEELAND PEE WEE & SOUTH BORDER WRESTLING PROGRAMS**

# ***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026***



***MOTTO: "He who is not courageous to take risks will accomplish nothing in life." Muhammed Ali***

***COLORS: Kelly Green, Black and Silver***

***Graduation will  
be on May 16,  
2026***

***At 7:00 p.m.  
at the  
Zeeland Public  
School.***



***FLOWER: ROSE***