



Lead-Deadwood School Board Considers Banning Controversial Classroom Displays and Divisive Concepts

BY CORY ALLEN HEIDELBERGER ON 2022-05-10

To protect students and staff from controversy, the Lead-Deadwood school board is giving first reading this afternoon (Tuesday, May 10, 4 p.m. MDT, high school cafeteria) to the following draft policy:

LDSD Policy on Classroom Displays and Decorations

Materials and decorations displayed by school employees on district property will not represent any controversial subject matter or political or religious messages. Such materials include, but are not limited to signs, posters, fliers, banners, flags, or decorations, including images, symbols or text.

Neither the United States flag nor the flag of any state of the Union, in an unaltered form, are considered controversial for the purposes of this policy.

Materials, symbols, etc. that are temporarily displayed in the classroom or other instructional areas will be exempt from this policy as long as they are displayed as part of a lesson based on the approved curriculum and content standards, and as long as they are school appropriate, grade level appropriate, relevant and significant to the applicable lesson. This clause shall in no way exempt the employee or the school district from any laws or policies prohibiting the teaching of divisive concepts.

Materials displayed on school property can be reasonably construed as endorsed or permitted by the district and may be removed by the principal, superintendent, or designee if they are determined to be in violation of this policy.

Controversial materials include:

- **Materials endorsing a candidate, platform, position, political party, or slogan**
- **Concepts, images, slogans, or phrases that have appeared in the media and have been associated with controversy or a movement or cause**
- **Concepts, images, slogans, or phrases that a reasonable person would deem offensive, obscene, or inflammatory**



If an employee feels that this policy is being unfairly enforced, the LDSD staff grievance procedure will serve as the appeal process. If a district employee, student, or patron wishes to report a suspected violation of this policy, they must follow this procedure. Report to the building principal, and the building principal will make a determination within 5 school days whether the object in question is in violation of the policy. At that point the building principal will either have the employee remove the object or notify the employee that a complaint has been made and that the object in question does not violate this policy. The building principal will report back to the complainant on the status of the complaint. An appeal of the principal's determination by the complainant must be submitted in writing to the superintendent within 5 school days of notification of the building principal's determination. The next level of appeal beyond the superintendent is to the board of education and must be submitted in writing within 10 days of notification of the superintendent's determination [Lead-Deadwood school board, draft policy on classroom displays and decorations, updated 2022.05.06, in [board agenda packet](#), 2022.05.10].


A teacher in the Lead-Deadwood system says this policy has been prompted by concern from multiple teachers who [find this sign controversial and off-putting](#):



Controversial sign targeted by Lead-Deadwood school district draft policy, [tweeted by Lenessa Keehn](#), 2022.05.09.

A former teacher in the district cites [the following sign](#), taken from a suicide prevention course [previously promoted by the South Dakota Department of Education](#) and posted by a school counselor, as another target of the draft policy:



Dr Bree Oatman (she/her)  @sodaknerd · 17h

Also the presentation below on the agenda from Gwen Hess. She is one of the teachers. The poster that was put up by the school counselor, looks like this. It was obtained via a suicide prevention course through the Trevor Project that was linked on the DOE website until recently.



Dr. Bree Oatman, [tweet](#), 2022.05.09.

Safe spaces, respecting everyone's rights, and welcoming all may thus be deemed too controversial by the Lead-Deadwood school board. Logically we may assume that declaring Lead-Deadwood schools dangerous spaces where some people's rights are not respected and some people are not welcome is uncontroversial and, apparently, factual.

Also on this afternoon's Lead-Deadwood school board agenda is a resolution prohibiting the advancement of "inherently divisive concepts":



WHEREAS, the School District is appreciative of the current debate in society over what may or may not constitute the advancement of certain ideas and concepts that may be in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

AND WHEREAS, the School District considers it prudent to adopt a policy prohibiting the advancement of “inherently divisive concepts”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that no administrator, teacher, or employee of the Lead-Deadwood District shall take or support any action directed towards the students of the district that advance “inherently divisive concepts” including, but not limited to the following concepts:

- (i) that one race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin is inherently superior to another race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin;
- (ii) that an individual should be discriminated against or adversely treated solely or partly on the basis of his or her race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin;
- (iii) that an individual’s moral character is inherently determined by his or her race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin;
- (iv) that an individual, by virtue of the individual’s race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or subconsciously;
- (v) that an individual, by virtue of the individual’s race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin, is responsible for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin; or
- (vi) that meritocracy or traits, such as a strong work ethic, are racist or sexist, or were created by a particular race or sex to oppress members of another race or sex [Lead-Deadwood school board, draft resolution, [agenda packet](#), 2022.05.10].

The six examples of “inherently divisive concepts” are copied verbatim from Governor Kristi Noem’s [Executive Order 2022-02](#), which she issued one month ago under the [false pretense](#) of banning “critical race theory” from South Dakota’s classrooms. The six verboten concepts are also part of [House Bill 1337](#), the thought-control bill the Governor was [unable to push through the Legislature this Session](#).



The policy banning rainbows and Black Lives Matter posters and the resolution banning divisive concepts are toward the bottom of the board's agenda. Meeting starts this afternoon at 4 p.m. Mountain in the Lead-Deadwood high school cafeteria.

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MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

June 20, 2022

These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next regular Board Meeting

The Lead-Deadwood School District held their regular meeting on June 20, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria, Lead-Deadwood High School building. President Suzanne Rogers presided.

Suzanne Rogers, Chair
Tessa Allen, Member
Amber Vogt, Member
Margie Rantapaa, Business Manager

Tim Madsen, Vice-Chair
Amber Diers, Member
Dr. Erik Person, Superintendent
Mary Schumacher, Recording Secretary

Tim Kusters, Elementary Principal
Jay Beagle, MS Principal Special Ed Dir.
Bill Snow, Trans/Maint Supervisor

Mark Jacobs, Secondary Principal
Paul Nepodal, 6-12 Asst. Principal/A.D.
Jamie Hohn, Network Director

Forty-two guests were present.

189. President Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call disclosed all board members present.

The audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

190. Madsen moved and Allen seconded to **approve the agenda with the following change: Move Item 200) Public Forum to Item 196.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

191. No action was needed on Waiver Authorization Pursuant to SDCL 3-23-3.

192. Vogt moved and Diers seconded to **approve the minutes from the May 10, 2022 meeting and the June 8, 2022 meeting.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

193. Allen moved and Madsen seconded to **approve the expenditures** as presented. Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

June 20, 2022

A. General Fund	55,832.12
Capital Outlay	158,669.63
Special Education	12,189.31
Food Service	7,169.47
B. Prepaid Checks	27,503.58
C. Insurance	142,379.72

- 194.A. Diers moved and Allen seconded to **approve the May 31, 2022 financial statements** as attached. Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

June 20, 2022

B-I. The May 31, 2022 Fiduciary Funds financial statements showed:

	BEG. BALANCE	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	END. BALANCE
PSUF	5,144.77	0.55	200.77	4,944.55
USF	110,060.80	11,470.85	10,631.28	110,900.37
Scholarships	156,218.63	383.16	3,745.00	152,856.79
Medical Acct	4,154.81	0.00	0.00	4,154.81

J. The Budget Report was reviewed by the Board.

K. Publication of Payroll	SDCL 6-10-10
Instruction	447,438.20
Administration	24,585.34
Operation and Maintenance	30,095.87
Transportation	11,442.53
Special Education	99,263.45
Food Service	12,994.15
Driver's Ed	<u>0.00</u>
	625,819.54

195.A. Bruce Hintz, Department of Legislative Audit, summarized with the Board the FY2021 audit closing. There were no written findings in the audit. He noted the audit went well and thanked Margie Rantapaa for her assistance.

196. Ten members of the public spoke during the Public Forum.

197.A. Madsen moved and Vogt seconded to **adopt the Policy on Classroom Displays and Decorations.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

B. Vogt moved and Allen seconded to **adopt the Transfer of Online Credit Policy.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

C. Madsen moved and Diers seconded to **adopt the Re-Enrollment and Placement of Alternative Instruction Students Policy.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

198.A. Vogt moved and Madsen seconded to **approve the Contracts/Resignations List as presented.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.** (Copy attached.)

B. Madsen moved and Diers seconded to **approve the FY2023 Property/Liability Insurance annual renewal rates from HUB International Mountain States Limited in the amount of \$173,207.00** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

C. Madsen moved and Allen seconded to **approve the FY2023 annual renewal premium for Workers Compensation Insurance from HUB International Mountain States Limited in the amount of \$25,325.00.00.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

D. Vogt moved and Diers seconded to **approve waiving the longevity benefit deadline.**
Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

E. Vogt moved and Madsen seconded to **approve the transfer of \$1,000,000.00 from Capital Outlay Fund to General Fund to balance the FY2022 Budget.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

F. Madsen moved and Diers seconded to **approve the \$.20 increase to the Student Meal prices. The 2022-2023 Student Meal prices are as follows: Breakfast: Reduced \$0.30, Students \$2.30, Adult \$2.80; Lunch: Reduced \$0.40, K-5 Students \$3.10, 6-12 Students \$3.35, Adults \$4.40, Milk \$0.50.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

G. Vogt moved and Madsen seconded to **approve Change Order #3 for an increased amount of \$4,903.04 and Change Order #4 for a decreased amount of \$4,014.24 for Phase IIIB at the Elementary.** Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

H. A first reading was held on the 2022-2023 High School Student Handbook.

I. A first reading was held on the 2022-2023 Middle School Student Handbook.

J. A first reading was held on the 2022-2023 Elementary Student Handbook.

K. A first reading was held on the 2022-2023 Elementary Staff Handbook.

L. A first reading was held on the 2022-2023 Activity Handbook.

M. A first reading was held on the 2022-2023 1:1 Handbook.

N. The Board reviewed the Safe Return to Schools Plan. There was no public comment on the Plan.

199.A. A thank you from Pam Smith was presented to the Board.

200.A. Dr. Person, Superintendent, discussed with the Board the 2022 & 2023 Valuation/Mill Levy.

B. Dr. Person reviewed with the Board Phase IIIB final additions at the Elementary. He informed the Board that the Belle Fourche School District purchased surplus busses #1 and #5 in the amount of \$14,010.00. The auction sale has been set for July, 26, 2022.

201. The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 4:00 p.m. with the Annual Board meeting to follow at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Lead-Deadwood High School building.

202. Madsen moved and Allen seconded to **adjourn the meeting** at 7:11 p.m. Aye-All. **Motion carried.**

Suzanne Rogers, President

Margie Rantapaa, Business Manager

Accounts Payable - June 2022

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Total</u>
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General Fund

Ace Hardware - Lead	Supplies	221.77
ACT	Pre-Act Test/Score	480.00
Architectural Specialties, LLC	Repair	544.72
Belle Fourche School Dist. 9-1	Region Golf Fees	71.78
Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel	Lodging - State Track	259.99
Big D Oil Company	Pizza For TATU Party	32.00
Black Hills Pioneer	Minutes, Budget, Ads - May 2022	891.87
Cash-Wa Distributing, Inc.	Food - FFV Program	3,003.40
City of Deadwood	Utilities	307.38
City of Lead	Utilities	1,293.11
Comfort Inn & Suites - Sioux Falls	Lodging - State Track	5,070.00
First Interstate Bank - Mastercard	See Attached	19,343.23
Food Service	May 2022 Adult Meals	350.10
Gardner Construction LLC	Sand - Pit at Mountain Top	7,054.00
Koala Electric, Inc.	Repair	586.49
Lead-Deadwood Sanitary Dist	Utilities	426.91
Lynn's Dakotamart-Lead	Supplies	277.50
M.S. Mail, LLC	Commencement Programs 2022	550.00
Popham, Julie	Professional Development	600.00
Public School Utility Fund	Expense Reimbursement	200.00
Rainbow Gas Company	Gas Commodity - April & May	5,638.27
Rapid City School - MS Activities	Reg - MS West River Track Meet	80.00
Rapid Delivery, Inc.	Delivery Service	4.13
SASD	Dues & Reg - Wild West Conf	1,039.00
South Dakota Retirement System	Participant fee/401(a) SPP	45.00
SouthSide Oil	Fuel & Def Fluid	6,611.12
Sturdevant's Auto Parts	Repairs	216.61
Sturgis Optimist Club	Registration - MS Track Meet	80.00
Twin City Hardware	Supplies	96.36
Vance Peterson Memorial Clinics	Registration	400.00
Vanway Trophy & Award, Inc.	"L" Club Medals, Engraving - Band Awards	57.38

<u>Total General Fund</u>	Fund Total	55,832.12
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Capital Outlay Fund

ACE Services	Asbestos Sample & Lab Analysis	186.27
Culinex	Elementary Kitchen Equipment - Phase III	24,472.02

Capital Outlay Fund - Cont.

CVD Construction, Inc.	Level Auditorium Floor - ESSER II	49,980.00
First Interstate Bank - Mastercard	See Attached	10,117.21
Flooring America	Carpet - Superintendent's Office	1,726.25
Hauff Mid-America Sports, Inc.	MS wrestling singlets	770.75
ICS Consulting, LLC	Consulting Fees - Phase III	15,330.00
JLG Architects	Elementary Project - Phase III	6,750.00
L & L Insulation, Inc	Asbestos Abatement - Phase III	21,807.50
MAC Construction Co., Inc.	Elementary - Phase IIIB	27,529.63

Total Capital Outlay Fund**Fund Total 158,669.63****Special Education Fund**

Black Hills Special Services	Tuition	10,680.00
First Interstate Bank - Mastercard	See Attached	54.64
Lynn's Dakotamart-Lead	Pre-K Graduation Supplies	44.01
Sioux Falls - Instr Planning Center	Tuition - March 2022	1,410.66

Total Special Education Fund**Fund Total 12,189.31****Food Service Fund**

Cash-Wa Distributing, Inc.	Food	5,490.38
East Side Jersey Dairy Inc.	Food - Milk	1,667.84
Harris School Solutions	EZ School Pay Transaction Fees	11.25

Total Food Service Fund**Fund Total 7,169.47**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check Total</u>
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General Fund**First Interstate Bank - Mastercard****Credit Card Statement - See Attached**

Amazon	Label Maker	39.99
Amazon	Supplies	25.95
Amazon	PBIS Training Supplies	97.97
Amazon	Supplies	24.48
Amazon	Port Replicator	129.00
Amazon	Supplies	11.98
Athletic.net	Stat Tracking for Coaches - Credit	(59.99)
Climate Control	Filters	2,056.06
Climate Control	Ventilator/Steam Radiator Upgrade	6,439.00
Grainger	Repair	423.07
Harlow's Bus Sales	Repair	528.54
Hillyard	Filter	15.80
Howard Wood Relays	Registration	200.00
Kieffer Sanitation	Waste Removal	1,664.31
Master Teacher	Award	69.95
Medco Supply	A/T Supplies	94.29
Music in Motion	End of Year Awards - Band & Choir	496.34
On-Site First Aid	Supplies	829.43
Picaboo Yearbooks	MS Yearbook	745.20
Pipe & Drape Online	Drama Department Supplies	364.74
RDO Equipment	Repair	2,073.41
Sanford Health OccMed	Employment Screening - DOT	35.00
Servall	Supplies	570.72
United Supply	Repair	219.45
US Assure	Insurance - Builder's Risk Phase III	1,540.00
Varitronics	Supplies	708.54

Total General Fund**Fund Total****19,343.23****Capital Outlay Fund****First Interstate Bank - Mastercard****Credit Card Statement - See Attached**

ABDO Publishing	Books	554.70
Amazon	Books	424.75
Century Business	Printer Usage	2,111.21
Century Business	Printer Usage	1,949.48
M-F Athletic	Track & Field Equipment	4,729.55

Capital Outlay Fund - Cont.

Perma-Bound	Books	150.12
Time Management	TMS Attendace on Demand	197.40

<u>Total Capital Outlay Fund</u>	Fund Total	10,117.21
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Special Education Fund

First Interstate Bank - Mastercard	Credit Card Statement - See Attached
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NCS Pearson	Supplies	3.30
Verizon	Utilities	51.34

<u>Total Special Education Fund</u>	Fund Total	54.64
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Food Service Fund

First Interstate Bank - Mastercard	Credit Card Statement - See Attached
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<u>Total Food Service Fund</u>	Fund Total	-
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ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - May 2022

Prepaid Checks

Bill List

5/3/2022	Vast Ck #89161	Utilities	\$2,641.13
5/11/2022	Wells Fargo CC Ck #2175	Auto Pay	\$1,334.05
5/9/2022	BH Energy Ck #2173	Auto Pay	\$12,524.21
5/11/2022	Butler Ck #2180	Auto Pay	\$260.41
5/11/2022	Kone Ck #2181	Auto Pay	\$1,526.05
5/11/2022	MDU Ck #2176	Auto Pay	\$3,427.31
5/11/2022	Wells Fargo Ven Fin Ck #2171	Auto Pay	\$1,059.17
5/11/2022	Wex Bank Ck #2179	Auto Pay	\$156.61
5/23/2022	MDU Ck #89196	Utilities	\$604.64
5/24/2022	Paul Nepodal Ck #89197	Meal Allow - State Track	\$120.00
5/24/2022	Will Malde Ck #89198	Meal Allow - State Track (24)	\$3,696.00
5/24/2022	Erik Person Ck #89199	Meal Allow - State Track	\$154.00
		Total	<u>\$27,503.58</u>

MAY 2022 INSURANCE PAYABLES

Check #	Date	Payee	Description	Amount
2178 AutoPay	5/2/2022	DD	May 2022 Dental Insurance Premiums	\$10,400.78
89162	5/2/2022	ST	May 2022 Life/Add Life Insurance Premiums	\$1,664.94
2177 AutoPay	5/2/2022	WBCBS	May 2022 Health Insurance Premiums	\$130,229.00
89163	5/5/2022	CM	April 2022 Flex Fees	\$85.00
TOTAL				<u>\$142,379.72</u>

LEAD-DEADWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT #40-1						
Financial Statement						
May 31, 2022						
	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL OUTLAY	SPECIAL EDUCATION	JENSEN ESTATE	FOOD SERVICE	ENTERPRISE FUND
BALANCE 4/30/2022	\$1,671,928.54	\$4,892,111.95	\$75,896.12	\$735,318.78	\$156,213.43	\$10,913.94
RECEIPTS:						
TAXES	\$2,092,198.80	\$913,454.48	\$653,808.68			
TAX DEED						
TUITION & FEES						\$1,200.00
EARNINGS ON INVESTMENTS	\$67.11	\$669.65		\$169.67		
EARNINGS ON CO CERTIFICATES		\$717.24				
ADMISSIONS						
PROSPECTOR BOWL						
SALES TO PUPILS						
SALES TO ADULTS					\$835.80	
A LA CARTE SALES					\$988.00	
OTHER SALES						
EZ SCHOOL PAY FEE					\$22.50	
SMALL CLAIMS FEE						
BOOKSTORE SALES	\$36.00					
COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	\$750.00					
LIBRARY FUNDRAISER						
OUTLAW RANCH						
RENTALS						
ELEMENTARY POP RENTAL						
MIDDLE SCHOOL POP RENTAL						
HIGH SCHOOL POP RENTAL						
DONATIONS/CAPITAL CONTRIB		\$5,367.00				
ELEMENTARY DONATIONS						
MIDDLE SCHOOL DONATIONS						
HIGH SCHOOL DONATIONS						
WELLNESS DONATIONS						
LEAS W/IN THE STATE						
REFUND Pr/Yr EXPENDITURES						
RESTITUTION						
LAPTOP INSURANCE	\$370.00					
MEDICAID ADMIN PROGRAM	\$2,396.24		\$439.00			
OTHER REVENUE - LOCAL	\$787.10					
REVENUE - COUNTY	\$14,877.67					
REVENUE - STATE	\$15,472.00					
REVENUE - FEDERAL	\$140,425.41	\$1,805.00	\$60.00		\$38,476.01	
CO CERTIFICATE PROCEEDS						
COMP FOR LOSS OF GFA						
SALE OF GFA						
Total Receipts	\$2,267,380.33	\$922,013.37	\$654,307.68	\$169.67	\$40,322.31	\$1,200.00
TRANSFERS IN						
DISBURSEMENTS:						
Verified Claims:	\$760,126.14	\$105,234.21	\$135,839.62	\$0.00	\$29,898.59	\$0.00
TRANSFERS OUT						
Payables(accts,contracts,employer matching)	\$7,635.07		(\$1,803.86)		(\$6,124.41)	
Interfund Loan						
Other non cash expenses						
BALANCE 5/31/2022	\$3,186,817.80	\$5,708,891.11	\$592,560.32	\$735,488.45	\$160,512.74	\$12,113.94
BALANCE 5/31/2021	\$4,220,326.11	\$5,024,454.62	\$582,695.49	\$690,036.33	\$112,455.69	\$11,108.80

2022 CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTE**\$100 DAY**

Kooima, Lacey

2022 CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTE

Kooima, Lacey

\$13.00/hour

2022-2023 ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT

Percy, Darcy

District Nurse

\$58,000.00

2022-2023 CERTIFIED WORK AGREEMENT

Cupp, Brenda

Elementary Instructor

\$49,500.00

2022-2023 CLASSIFIED WORK AGREEMENT

Reichert, Jamie

Elementary Food Service

\$15.00/hour

Reif, Jeanne

Elementary Para (Library)

\$16.50/hour

McKeown, Joe

Elementary Para (ACE Room)

\$16.50/hour

2022-2023 EXTRA DUTY CONTRACT

Papousek, Sonya

Asst. MSVB Coach

\$1,157.00

Janssen, Dan

C-team BBB Coach

\$1,708.00

Todd, Amy

School Store Supervisor

\$3,313.00

Kappen, Brooke

Head HS Volleyball Coach

\$3,808.00

Lux, Alexandra

FB Cheer Advisor

\$743.00

Lux, Alexandra

BB Cheer Advisor

\$1,708.00

McKeown, Joe

Asst. XC Coach

\$2,065.00

2022 RESIGNATION

Kneip, Tami

Elementary Instructor

effective May 27, 2022