

Board Report

Jim Knott –High School Principal

DC West

February 4, 2026

January and February are usually prime hiring months for school districts looking to add or hire teachers. Generally, contracts haven't been signed, allowing teachers looking for new jobs to explore options. We currently do not have any teaching openings for next year at the high school. However, I know jobs can come open very quickly for a variety of reasons. Because of this, and the pending teacher shortage, we continue to prioritize attendance at college job fairs. On January 16, I participated in the Midland Job fair, along with Dr. Kerns and Mr. Sarka. We all interviewed a variety of candidates throughout the morning and made several connections should a position come open. On Friday, February 6, I will be attending the Wayne State Education Fair. This will be the first time I have attended the Wayne job fair so I am looking forward to what it has to offer.

February 3 was our 3rd annual Teacher Appreciation Night. Eighteen Senior DC West basketball players, cheerleaders, and dance team members, along with nine Syracuse senior basketball players participated in the event. These athletes from both schools selected their most influential teacher and honored them at half time of the varsity games by accompanying them to center court for recognition. High School teacher, Ms. Heather Cox said, "Teacher Appreciation Night was very well done. What a great way to showcase teachers and staff. I loved the participation from both schools and to hear the numerous ways teachers and staff have had a positive impact on students." DC West Superintendent Dr. Melissa Poloncic stated, "I love teacher appreciation night because our staff members make DC West the BEST, and our students are their daily motivation. The night is a perfect pairing of that recognition, and it is heartwarming."

The following are some important upcoming dates for the high school:

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| *February 16 | No School – Teacher Professional Development |
| *March 11 & 12 | Parent Teacher Conferences |
| *March 13-20 | Spring Break |
| *April 1 | Junior ACT, 9 th & 10 th Grade PreACT |
| *April 11 | Junior / Senior Prom |