

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, October 13, 2025 7:00 PM

Blair Central Office
1326 Park Street
Blair, NE 68008

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Information concerning the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska State Statutes, is posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public and attached to the online agenda.

Mrs. Kari Loseke, Board President, will call the Board of Education Regular meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

The Board Secretary will conduct roll call attendance.

2.1. Approval of Absent Board Members

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Students from Otte Middle School will lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Emergency Additions to the Agenda

5. Call for Removal of Consent Agenda Items

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

6.1. Waiver of reading minutes from previous meeting

6.2. Acceptance of minutes of the previous meeting as published

- September 8, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- September 17, 2025, Board of Education Emergency Meeting Minutes
- September 22, 2025, Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes

6.3. Receipt of Communications

6.4. Treasurer's Report

- General Fund

- Building Fund and Savings & Depreciation

6.5. Audit of Claims

- Activity Fund
- General Fund

7. Business

7.1. Items removed from Consent Agenda

7.2. Recognitions

7.3. Acceptance of Gifts

7.3.1. Blair Fine Arts Boosters

The Blair Fine Arts Boosters would like to make the following donations:

- High School Art Department - Cabinet Pull Out Drawers: \$2,627.29
- High School Show Choir — New sound system including 4 speakers, 2 stands, 12 cables, small sound board, a rack mount, direct box, travel covers for speakers; new updated lighting equipment including 12 wash lights, 12 lighting clamps, 12 safety cables, 12 DMX cables, 2 lighting tree stands, DMX wireless system; new updated costume racks for easier travel including 4 heavy-duty Z racks, with shelves and covers for each: \$7,980.21
- Totaling - \$10,607.05

7.3.2. Sonic Tools

Sonic Tools would like to donate four 61-piece MCS Socket and Bil Socket Sets to Blair High School. These are intended to be awarded to the most outstanding student in each of our four high school Engine Mechanics sections. The value of this donation is \$1,640.

7.3.3. Otte Middle School 8th Grade Football

The Otte Middle School 8th Grade football team received a donation from JW Services, LLC in the amount of \$2,750 for new football pants.

7.3.4. Blair FFA Chapter

The Blair FFA Chapter has received a donation from the Sam Viersen Foundation in the amount of \$2500. The funds will be used to help offset some

of the cost of the National FFA Convention for students and other costs associated with a variety of activities for the Blair FFA Chapter.

7.3.5. Blair PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization)

The Blair PTO would like to donate a total of \$1,000, with \$500 going to Deerfield Elementary and \$500 to Arbor Park Elementary, to help purchase new ice makers for their teachers' lounges.

7.3.6. Cargill/Blair Bear Backers

Cargill would like to donate \$1,000 to the Blair Bear Backers, which will be allocated to the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program for the Feed a Farmer initiative.

7.4. Consideration of Communications

7.4.1. Blair Volleyball Club

Review and possible approval of the Blair Volleyball Club request for use of facilities contract.

The Blair Volleyball Club, represented by Mary Policy, is seeking approval to use the gym facilities at Otte Middle School. The request includes a time for tryouts on Sunday, November 23rd, from 4:00 to 6:00pm. Additionally, the club is requesting access for practice sessions every Sunday from December through mid-March, scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00pm.

7.5. Comments From The Public

This is the portion of the meeting when members of the public may address the board about matters of public concern.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

- Getting started: When you have been recognized, please stand and state your name.
- Time Limit: The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation and unless stated otherwise, will employ a time limit of 5 minutes or less.
- Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require you to follow the district's complaint procedure before addressing the board. Board members will generally not respond to any questions or comments you make about individual staff members or students. Please remember that slanderous comments will not be tolerated.

- General Rules: This is a public meeting for the conduct of business. Comments from within the audience while others are speaking will not be tolerated. Offensive language, personal attacks, and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.
- No action by the Board: The Board will not act on any matter unless it is on the published agenda.

7.6. Committee Reports

7.6.1. Americanism/Policy/Curriculum Committee

The Americanism/Policy/Curriculum Committee met on Monday, September 15, 2025. The Policy/Curriculum met on Monday, October 6, 2025. Meeting minutes are attached.

203.09-Standing Committee on American Civics
 500.4-Full-Time & Part-Time Enrollment
 500.5-Resolution
 402.08-Employee Travel Compensation
 1101-Community Use of Facilities
 1102-Community Use of Facilities — Procedures
 402.20-Use of School Facilities and Equipment by Employees
 403.10-Employee Use of Social Media
 403.10R1-Guidelines for Employee Use of Social Media
 304.03-Handbooks and Directives
 301.03--Succsion of Authority to the Superintendent
 205.04-Policy Communication
 300.01-Principles and Objectives of Administration
 1100-Community Use of School Facilities
 1102-Community Use of School Facilities - Procedures
 706.01-Purchasing Procedures
 706.01R-Administrative Regulation
 706.01E1-Cardholder Agreement
 409.1-Professional Memberships, Conferences, and Substitute Coverage
 409.15-Teachers Serving as State Officers in Professional Organizations
 627.50-National Student Organization Trips

7.6.2. BG&T Committee

The Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. Meeting minutes are attached.

7.6.3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, October 7, 2025. Meeting minutes are attached.

Policy 313.20-Internal Controls

7.7. Approval of New Teachers

7.8. Acceptance of Resignations

7.9. Board of Education Goals

A discussion will focus on developing Board of Education goals for 2025-26.

7.10. Superintendent Report

7.11. Informational Items

Monthly Board Reports

- Blair High School
- Otte Middle School
- Arbor Park Elementary
- Deerfield Elementary

8. Adjournment

THE NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT
NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 through 84-1414

A. BASIC PROVISION. The basic statement of our state policy on public meetings is found at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1408. That statute provides, “[i]t is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.”

1. **History.** Section 84-1408 was passed as a part of LB 325 in 1975. That bill repealed previously existing public meetings provisions and substituted new provisions which were intended to preserve the features of the previous law and strengthen and expand their authority. Government Committee Statement on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1975). LB 325 was passed to ensure that all meetings of public bodies would be open to the public, except when protection of the public interest clearly called for a closed session concerning specific matters. *Id.* 2004 Neb. Laws LB 821, § 34 formally established the name of §§ 84-1407 through 84-1414 as the “Open Meetings Act.”

2. **Purpose.** The Nebraska open meetings laws are a statutory commitment to openness in government. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Board*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002); *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Board*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994); *Grein v. Board of Education of the School District of Fremont*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984). Their purpose is to ensure that public policy is formulated at open meetings of the bodies to which the law is applicable. *Dossett v. First State Bank, Loomis, NE*, 261 Neb. 959, 627 N.W.2d 131 (2001); *Marks v. Judicial Nominating Commission for Judge of the County Court of the 20th Judicial District*, 236 Neb. 429, 461 N.W.2d 551 (1990); *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979). In Nebraska, the formation of public policy is public business, which may not be conducted in secret. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010); *Johnson v. Nebraska Environmental Control Council*, 2 Neb. App. 263, 509 N.W.2d 21 (Neb. Ct. App. 1993).

3. **Construction.** The open meetings laws should be broadly interpreted and liberally construed to obtain their objective of openness in favor of the public. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010); *State ex rel. Upper Republican Natural Resources District v. District Judges of the District Court for Chase County*, 273 Neb. 148, 728 N.W.2d 275 (2007); *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Board*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (Neb. Ct. App. 2007); *Alderman v. County of Antelope*, 11 Neb. App. 412, 653 N.W.2d 1 (Neb. Ct. App. 2002); *Rauert v. School District I-R of Hall County*, 251 Neb. 135, 555 N.W.2d 763 (1996); *Grein, supra*. The beneficiaries of the openness sought by the Open Meetings Act include citizens, members of the general public, and reporters or other representatives of the news media. *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Board*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (Neb. Ct. App. 2007).

4. **Exceptions.** Section 84-1408 requires open meetings except “as otherwise provided by the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.” The Attorney General has concluded that the Nebraska Legislature is not covered under the open meetings statutes because the Nebraska Constitution separately provides for public access to that body. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 120 (July 25, 1985).

5. **Subsequent Legislative Limitations.** The Legislature holds the power to decide the scope of citizen access to governmental meetings. As a result, the Legislature has the right to limit access to public meetings and the effect of the Open Meetings Act through later statutory provisions which provide that certain information in the possession of government should remain confidential without exception or limitation. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Board*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).

B. PUBLIC BODIES COVERED UNDER THE ACT. Under § 84-1409(1), public bodies covered by the Open Meetings Act include: (1) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State; (2) governing bodies of all agencies of the executive department of state government created by law; (3) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created pursuant to law; (4) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the state whether of continuing or limited existence; (5) advisory committees of the governing bodies of political subdivisions, of the governing bodies of agencies of the executive branch of state

government, or of independent boards, commissions, etc.; and (6) “instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions.”

1. **History.** The initial portion of § 84-1409(1) defining public bodies was originally part of LB 325 passed in 1975. It has been amended several times to add additional entities to the list of bodies covered, and the Certificate of Need Review Committee was removed in 1997. See 1997 Neb. Laws LB 798; 1989 Neb. Laws LB 429 and LB 311; 1983 Neb. Laws LB 43. The language concerning “instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions” was added in 1989 to reach entities such as the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority. Floor Debate on LB 311, 91st Nebraska Legislature, First Session, May 9, 1989, at 6039, 6040.

2. **Cases and Opinions.** A number of cases and opinions of the Attorney General deal with various aspects of the definitions of public body found in § 84-1409(1).

a. “Political subdivision” is not defined within the public meetings statutes. However, the Attorney General has indicated that generally the term denotes any subdivision of a state which has as its purpose carrying out functions of the state which are inherent necessities of government and which have always been regarded as such by the public. 1979-80 Rep. Att’y Gen. 140 (Opinion No. 98, dated April 25, 1979). Presumably, this term includes cities, counties, villages, etc., and their governing boards are covered by the open meetings statutes.

b. In *Nixon v. Madison County Agricultural Society*, 217 Neb. 37, 348 N.W.2d 119 (1984), the Court held that a county agricultural society, organized under the Nebraska statutes, was subject to the provisions of the open meetings law. The Court noted that, although the society at issue resembled a private corporation in some respects, the fact that it had the right to receive support from the public revenue gave it a public character. The agricultural society apparently was an “independent board . . . created by constitution, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law.” Based upon the *Nixon* case, the Attorney General concluded that county extension services which have the right to receive support from public revenues are subject to the open meetings law. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 219 (July 24, 1984). Also based upon the *Nixon* case, the Attorney General has indicated that county agricultural societies are subject to the

open meetings statutes. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 91007 (January 28, 1991). In addition, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-238 requires that result.

c. In *Marks v. Judicial Nominating Commission for Judge of the County Court of the 20th Judicial District*, 236 Neb. 429, 461 N.W.2d 551 (1990), the Court held that the open meetings statutes do not apply to the activities of a judicial nominating commission which is meeting to select nominees for judicial vacancies. Such a nomination procedure does not involve the formulation of public policy subject to the Act.

d. The Nebraska Court of Appeals, in *Johnson v. Nebraska Environmental Control Council*, 2 Neb. App. 263, 509 N.W.2d 21 (Neb. Ct. App. 1993), held that the open meetings statutes apply to the governing bodies of all agencies of the executive branch of government, including the Nebraska Environmental Control Council.

e. In *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Board*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (Neb. Ct. App. 2007), the Nebraska Court of Appeals concluded that the electors of a Nebraska township, when assembled at the township’s annual meeting, constitute a governing body of the township which is subject to the Open Meetings Act and its provisions concerning notice and preparation of an agenda.

f. The Nebraska Court of Appeals indicated in *Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009), that a county board of equalization is a public body as defined in § 84-1409. The court also held in that case that when two boards are made up of the same members, the duties and functions of the two boards, rather than their membership, determine if they are the same or separate and distinct bodies.

g. Committees of faculty, administration and students created by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska to advise the Chancellor of the University in his administrative/management function with respect to budget cuts were part of the management structure of the University and not public bodies subject to the open meetings statutes. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 92020 (February 12, 1992).

h. In Op. Att’y Gen. No. 11 (January 20, 1983), the Attorney General indicated that the Environmental Control Council is a public body subject to the open

meetings law. On the other hand, the Department of Environmental Control is not. Section 84-1409 applies to governing bodies of state agencies, not the agencies themselves.

i. An employee grievance appeal hearing conducted by a hearing officer is not a meeting of a public body since the word “body” is commonly understood to refer to a group or number of persons, and thus does not include an individual conducting a hearing. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 210 (May 16, 1984).

j. In 1989, the Attorney General indicated that the Central Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission was not subject to the Nebraska open meetings law because it was a multi-state body which was not created by constitution or statute and which was not a governing body of a Nebraska state agency. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 89008 (February 14, 1989). However, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-3521 (the Waste Compact agreement itself) provided that meetings of the Compact Commission must be open to the public with reasonable advance publicized notice, and that the Compact Commission must adopt by-laws consistent in scope and principle with the open meetings law of the host state. Section 71-3521 was repealed by 1999 Neb. Laws LB 530, § 2, and Nebraska withdrew from the Central Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact.

k. A county welfare board is subject to the open meetings law as an independent board created by statute. 1979-80 Rep. Att’y Gen. 351 (Opinion No. 244, dated March 4, 1980).

l. In Op. Att’y Gen. No. 95014 (February 22, 1995), the Attorney General indicated that the Mayor’s Citizen Review Board, appointed by the Mayor of Omaha to advise the Mayor with respect to alleged misconduct of police officers, was not subject to the open meetings statutes because it did not fall under the definition found in § 84-1409(1), and because the board was essentially an administrative body which was part of the management structure of the City.

m. In Op. Att’y Gen. No. 93065 (July 27, 1993), the Attorney General concluded that parole reviews under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 83-1,111 may be closed, and are not subject to open meetings requirements.

n. The Excellence in Education Council created to make recommendations to the Governor regarding selection of projects for Education Innovation grants is a public body which is subject to the open meetings statutes, and its decisions concerning specific recommendations must be done in open session. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 94092 (November 22, 1994).

o. The Quality Jobs Board created under the Quality Jobs Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 77-4901 through 77-4935 is a public body subject to the Open Meetings Act. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 96071 (October 28, 1996).

p. A County Hospital Authority formed under the Hospital Authorities Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 23-3579 through 23-35,120 is a public body which is subject to the Open Meetings Act. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 97012 (February 14, 1997).

q. The Nebraska State Board of Agriculture (the State Fair Board) is not a public body which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, primarily because it has no statutory right to public revenue and also because of case law which indicates that it is a private corporation. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 01038 (November 27, 2001).

r. A county clerk, county attorney and county treasurer acting as a group under § 32-567(3) to make an appointment to fill a vacancy on a county board constitute a public body which is subject to the Open Meetings Act. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 97050 (September 18, 1997).

s. The Attorney General has indicated informally that the Nebraska Board of Pardons and the Board of Inquiry and Review created under Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 80-317 through 80-319 to receive and act upon applications submitted for membership in Nebraska Veterans Homes are subject to the state’s open meetings statutes.

t. In Op. Att’y Gen. No. 15016 (October 29, 2015), the Attorney General concluded that the Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA) constituted a hybrid public/private entity subject to the Open Meetings Act. The Attorney General based his conclusion on the fact that MECA was a creation of city ordinance and was responsible for managing and controlling the City of Omaha’s public events facilities.

3. **Other Statutes.** Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-238 requires county agricultural societies and county fair boards to comply with the open meetings statutes. Previously, under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-1502 all coordination activities conducted by the association of community college area boards were subject to the open meetings statutes. This provision was repealed in 2013 Neb. Laws LB 211, § 3.

4. **Exceptions.** Section § 84-1409(1)(b) exempts two types of entities and the Judicial Resources Commission from the provisions of the Open Meetings Act:

a. **Subcommittees.** Subcommittees of the various bodies described earlier in § 84-1409 are not public bodies under the Open Meetings Act unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting, or unless those subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy or taking formal action on behalf of the parent body. For example, in *Meyer v. Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska*, 1 Neb. App. 893, 510 N.W.2d 450 (Neb. Ct. App. 1993), the court indicated that meetings of an executive subcommittee of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents with the University President to discuss his tenure were not subject to the open meetings laws because of that portion of the statute. Section 84-1409(1) was also amended by 2011 Neb. Laws LB 366 to specifically provide that all meetings of subcommittees of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board established to rate grant applications under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act.

- i. In *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 880-881, 725 N.W.2d 792, 805-806 (2007), the court indicated that while “subcommittee” is not defined in the Open Meetings Act, a subcommittee is generally a “group within a committee to which the committee may refer business.” In addition, “making policy,” which subjects a subcommittee to the Open Meetings Act under § 84-1409, apparently includes “receiving background information about a policy issue to be decided.” *Id.* In contrast, “nonquorum gatherings” of members of a public body “intended to obtain information or voice opinions” do not seem to involve violations of the Act. *Id.* See also *Koch v. Lower Loup Natural Resources District*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (Neb. Ct. App. 2019) (Notwithstanding statements from staff and/or committee members that committee meetings were open to the public, the Nebraska Court of Appeals found that the committee was a

subcommittee of the NRD board and, therefore, not subject to the Open Meetings Act.).

ii. The language applying the open meetings statutes to certain subcommittee meetings when there is a quorum of the public body present was added to § 84-1409(1) as a result of LB 1019 passed by the Legislature during the 1992 regular session.

b. **Entities Conducting Judicial Proceedings.** Entities conducting judicial proceedings are not public bodies under the Open Meetings Act unless the court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders. LB 325, the original open meetings statute of 1975, was directed strictly at policy making bodies which were legislative or quasi-legislative. Floor Debate on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session, May 14, 1975, at 4618.

- i. In *McQuinn v. Douglas County School District No. 66*, 259 Neb. 720, 612 N.W.2d 198 (2000), the Nebraska Supreme Court held that a hearing before a school board on the question of the nonrenewal of a probationary certificated teacher's contract where the matters before the board pertained solely to disputed adjudicative facts involved a judicial function, and on that basis, the hearing was not subject to the open meetings statutes. In that context, a school board exercises a judicial function if it decides a dispute of adjudicative fact or if a statute requires it to act in a judicial manner. Adjudicative facts are those ascertained from proof adduced at an evidentiary hearing which relate to a specific party. The *McQuinn* case is discussed further in *Bligh v. Douglas County School District No. 0017*, 2008 WL 2231063, 2008 Neb. App. LEXIS 106 (Neb. Ct. App. 2008) (Not approved for publication).

ii. The Attorney General has determined that hearings before various agencies are judicial and not subject to the open meetings law: 1975-76 Rep. Att'y Gen. 127 (Opinion No. 105, dated July 14, 1975) (hearing before a County Board of Mental Health); Op. Att'y Gen. No. 184 (January 31, 1984) (hearing before the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission); Op. Att'y Gen. No. 210 (May 16, 1984) (hearing before a hearing officer appointed by the State Personnel Board); Op. Att'y Gen. No. 02016 (May 21, 2002) (contested case hearing

before the Power Review Board on application of electricity suppliers for construction or acquisition of generation facilities); Op. Att’y Gen. No. 05014 (October 19, 2005) (appeal hearing regarding the Nebraska Veterans’ Aid Fund before the Nebraska Veterans’ Advisory Commission). But, the Attorney General has concluded that a hearing before the Certificate of Need Review Committee is covered by the open meetings statutes. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 87019 (February 13, 1987).

iii. Parole hearings conducted by the Board of Parole are judicial in nature and not subject to the open meetings statutes. However, other statutes specifically pertaining to operation of the Board of Parole require that such parole hearings be conducted with elements of notice and in a manner open to the public. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 93065 (July 27, 1993).

iv. When the State Board of Education holds hearings in contested cases under the state Administrative Procedure Act, such hearings are not subject to the Open Meetings Act. The Board is not required to give notice of such hearings to the public under those statutes, and it may conduct its deliberations and decision-making process for such hearings by a telephone conference call. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 99046 (November 15, 1999).

c. **Judicial Resources Commission**. During the 2022 legislative session, language was added to § 84-1409(1)(b) excluding “the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission” from the list of public bodies subject to the Act. See 2022 Neb. Laws LB 922, § 12.

C. MEETING DEFINED. Under § 84-1409(2), meetings, for purposes of the open meetings statutes, are defined as "all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body." Section 84-1410(5) also provides that the open meetings statutes shall not apply to "chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power."

1. The legislative history of LB 325, from 1975, indicates that meetings of a public body do not include social meetings or meetings which were not called

by the body. Government Committee Hearing on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1975) at 2-3.

2. However, § 84-1409 was amended by LB 43 in 1983 to include "formal or informal" meetings. The legislative history of that bill indicates that a meeting between a state senator and the members of a local school board to discuss legislation would constitute an "informal called meeting." Government, Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee Hearing on LB 43, 88th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1983) at 5-8.

3. The provision of § 84-1410(5) pertaining to "chance" meetings, etc., was added by LB 43 in 1983.

4. The legislative history of LB 43 from 1983 indicates that a "meeting" does not occur absent a quorum. Government Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee Hearing on LB 43, 88th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1983) at 19. In addition, the Attorney General has concluded that the presence of a majority of the members of a public body is necessary for a meeting to occur. 1975-76 Rep. Att'y Gen. 150 (Opinion No. 116, dated August 29, 1975). In *Johnson v. Nebraska Environmental Control Council*, 2 Neb. App. 263, 509 N.W.2d 21 (Neb. Ct. App. 1993), the Nebraska Court of Appeals indicated that "private quorum conferences" are an evasion of the law. The Nebraska Supreme Court also indicated that subgroups of the Omaha City Council constituting less than a quorum of that body were not public bodies on that ground. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).

5. Even when a quorum of public body is present in one location, there is no meeting under the Open Meetings Act if there is no interaction or discussion among members of the body regarding policymaking for the public body. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010). The secret formation of public policy forbidden by the Open Meetings Act is the formation of public policy as a group. *Id.* As a result, there is no meeting of a public body based upon the unspoken thoughts of its members who happen to be sitting in the same room. *Id.* The Open Meetings Act is not so broad and sweeping as to require public access to any gathering of any sort that is attended by a quorum of a public body. *Id.* See also *Salem Grain Company, Inc. v. City of Falls City*, 362 Neb. 548, 924 N.W.2d 678 (2019), in which the Nebraska Supreme Court found that a dinner attended by members of the Falls City Community Redevelopment Authority and emails exchanged

between authority members did not constitute a “meeting” as defined in § 84-1409(2) of the Act.

6. In *Johnson v. Nebraska Environmental Control Council*, 2 Neb. App. 263, 509 N.W.2d 21 (Neb. Ct. App. 1993), the Court of Appeals held that informational sessions where the Council heard reports from staff of the Department of Environmental Control were briefings which were subject to the requirements of the open meetings statutes. The Court stated that listening and exposing itself to facts, arguments and statements constitutes a crucial part of a governmental body’s decision making. As a result, receiving information triggers the requirements of the statutes, and the open meetings law applies to meetings at which briefing or the formation of tentative policy takes place, as well as to meetings where action is contemplated or taken.

7. *Rauert v. School District I-R of Hall County*, 251 Neb. 135, 555 N.W.2d 763 (1996), involved allegations by the plaintiff that a quorum of the defendant school board met in the office of the superintendent of schools on a regular basis for “clandestine” meetings before the beginning of most scheduled board meetings where business was discussed and decided and checks were signed to pay claims which had not been approved in public session. The board then allegedly moved and voted on business at its public meeting with little or no discussion in order to deprive the public of the right to be fully informed. The Supreme Court held that the District Court properly failed to find a violation of the Open Meetings Act with respect to those allegations in the absence of any evidence as to the specific dates and details of the alleged “clandestine” meetings.

8. In *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010), the Nebraska Supreme Court considered the propriety of a situation where two separate groups of a city council, neither of which constituted a quorum of that body, toured an ethanol facility for informational purposes. The court ultimately concluded that there was no meeting of the city council as a result of the tours—there was no quorum of the council present, the small groups were merely acquiring information, and there was no evidence that the council was, through the tour, attempting to reach a consensus and form public policy in secret.

9. In *Schauer*, the court also noted that the Open Meetings Act does not require policymakers to remain ignorant of the issues they must decide until

the moment the public is invited to comment on a proposed policy. Moreover, the public would be ill served by restricting policymakers from reflecting on and preparing to consider proposals, or from privately suggesting alternatives. As a result, the court indicated that the Legislature, by excluding nonquorum subgroups from the definition of a public body, balanced the public's need to be heard on matters of public policy with a practical accommodation for a public body's need for information to conduct business. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010) (citing *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007)); *Koch v. Lower Loup Natural Resources District*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (Neb. Ct. App. 2019).

10. The Attorney General has indicated that an "emergency meeting" may be conducted by electronic and telecommunications equipment including radio and telephone conferences. 1975-76 Rep. Att'y Gen. 150 (Opinion No. 116, dated August 29, 1975). On the other hand, the open meetings statutes do not generally authorize the use of telephone conference calls for non-emergency meetings of a public body, and absent members of a public body may not be counted to achieve a quorum through the use of a conference call. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 92019 (February 11, 1992). [Section 84-1411 has been amended a number of times to allow specified public bodies including the governing body of an entity formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, the board of an educational service unit, the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, a community college board of governors, the governing body of public power district, the governing body of a public power and irrigation district, or the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council to meet by telephone conference call in certain circumstances. See 1999 Neb. Laws LB 461; 2000 Neb. Laws LB 968; 2007 Neb. Laws LB 199; 2009 Neb. Laws LB 36, 2012 Neb. Laws LB 735, 2013 Neb. Laws LB 510 and Section D.2. below.]

11. An "informational and educational" meeting of a public body governing a political subdivision where members generally discuss matters pertaining to their subdivision, hear reports from various department heads of the subdivision as to their duties and learn the workings of the subdivision is a meeting of the public body for "briefing" purposes which is subject to the open meetings statutes. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 92043 (March 17, 1992). In

addition, the Attorney General has also indicated informally that a meeting of a public body “for the purpose of receiving training or doing planning (such as a retreat)” should probably be treated as subject to the Open Meetings Act.

12. In Op. Att’y Gen. No. 94035 (May 11, 1994), the Attorney General indicated that discussions and deliberations by the State Board of Education in connection with the selection of a Commissioner of Education were subject to the requirements of the open meetings statutes. In addition, that opinion indicated that interviews with individual candidates for the Commissioner position were also subject to the requirements of the open meetings statutes, if a quorum of the Board was present for those interviews. However, in the latter interview situation, a brief closed session (as discussed below) might be warranted for a candid discussion by the Board and the candidate which might potentially elicit responses injurious to the reputation of an individual.

13. A workshop held by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska with a professional facilitator to discuss communication practices and the roles of the Board and the University President was not subject to the Open Meetings Act on the basis of § 84-1410(5) which exempts chance meetings or attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops. The University also asserted that there would be no briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, vote, or taking of other action at the workshop. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 04027 (October 20, 2004).

D. PUBLIC MEETINGS; NOTICE AND AGENDA REQUIRED. Section 84-1411(1)(a) and (2)(a) require that (1) each public body must give **reasonable advance publicized notice** of the time and place of each meeting; (2) the notice must be transmitted to all members of the body and to the public; and (3) the notice must contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice, or a statement that such an agenda, which must be kept continually current, is readily available for inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours.

1. **Notice.** 2024 Neb. Laws LB 287, § 74 amended § 84-1411 to authorize public bodies to publish notice on newspaper websites and “a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers” (i.e., nepublicnotices.com) to satisfy publication requirements in instances when publication in a

newspaper is not feasible. These provisions became operative on April 17, 2024.

a. Until January 1, 2025:

- i. Governing bodies of political subdivisions and their advisory committees must publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on the newspaper's website. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(1)(b)(i).
- ii. Governing bodies of cities of the second class or villages and their advisory committees or governing bodies of rural or suburban fire protection districts must either publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on the newspaper's website, or post written notice in three conspicuous public places in the city, village or district. The posting locations must remain the same for each meeting. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(1)(b)(ii)(A)-(B).
- iii. For all other public bodies, notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(1)(b)(iii).
- iv. In case of the newspaper's refusal, neglect, or inability to timely publish the notice, the public body shall (1) post the notice on its website, if available, and (2) post the notice in a conspicuous public place within the body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting, which shall be evidence that posting occurred and fulfilled the publication requirement. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(1)(b)(iv).
- v. Governing bodies of political subdivisions and their advisory committees may also provide notice of their meetings by any other

appropriate method designated by the public body. Section 84-1411(1)(c). Section 84-1411(1)(d) requires each public body to record the method(s) and date(s) of such notice in its minutes.

b. Beginning January 1, 2025:

- i. Governing bodies of political subdivisions and their advisory committees must give notice by (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (2) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (3) posting on nepublicnotices.com. The newspaper shall place the notice in the newspaper and on the websites. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(2)(b)(i)(A).

OR

Give notice by (1) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (2) posting on nepublicnotices.com if no edition of a newspaper will be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. The newspaper shall place the notice in the newspaper and on the websites. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(2)(b)(i)(B).

- ii. Governing bodies of cities of the second class and villages, and their advisory committees, or governing bodies of rural or suburban fire protection districts must give notice by (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (2) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (3) posting on nepublicnotices.com. The newspaper shall place the notice in the newspaper and on the websites. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(2)(b)(ii)(A).

OR

Give notice by (1) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (2) posting on nepublicnotices.com if no edition of the newspaper will be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. The newspaper shall place the notice in the newspaper and on the websites. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(2)(b)(ii)(B).

OR

Give notice by posting written notice in three conspicuous places in the city, village or district. Notice must be posted in the same three places for each meeting. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(2)(b)(ii)(C).

- iii. For all other public bodies, notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(2)(b)(iii).

 - iv. In case of the newspaper's refusal, neglect, or inability to publish the notice, the public body shall (a) post the notice on its website, if available, (2) submit a post on nepublicnotices.com, and (3) post the notice in a conspicuous public place within the public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting, which shall be evidence that posting occurred and fulfilled the publication requirement. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(2)(b)(iv).
2. **Agenda.** Under § 84-1411(1)(e), an agenda maintained at the office of a public body for public inspection must be kept continually current and may not be altered later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the public meeting (or 48 hours before commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board if that meeting is noticed outside the corporate limits of the municipality). A public body may modify an agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

a. New language was added to § 84-1413 in 2021 requiring the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a metropolitan class, primary

class, or first class city, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and school boards to make available on their websites the agenda [and minutes] of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda must be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting. The public body shall make the agenda available on the website for at least six months. This requirement became effective July 31, 2022. 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 14.

3. **Specificity of the Agenda.** LB 898 from 2006 added language to § 84-1411(1) which states that agenda items shall be “sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting.” That statutory change arose out of a sense that lack of specificity in meeting agendas was a major issue of concern around the state. Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing on LB 898, 99th Nebraska Legislature, Second Session (2006) at 19. The intent of the change was to require public bodies to include sufficient detail in their agendas regarding issues to be discussed or acted upon so as to provide information and notice to the public. Floor Debate on LB 898, 99th Nebraska Legislature, Second Session, March 28, 2006 at 11701 (Statement of Senator Preister). The change was also intended to require sufficient detail in an agenda so that members of the public are not forced to look at past agendas in order to understand the issue to be discussed and/or the action to be taken. *Id.*

4. **Circumvention of Open Meetings Act.** Under § 84-1411(3), virtual conferencing may not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established by the Open Meetings Act. Neither may emails, faxes, or other electronic communication be used for such purposes.

5. **News Media.** Section 84-1411(4) requires that the secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to that list of media of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

6. **Virtual Appearance.** Under § 84-1411(7), a public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing. 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 12.

7. **History.**

- a. The provision of § 84-1411 which prohibits altering an agenda within 24 hours of a meeting was added in 1983 to prevent addition of last-minute matters to an agenda which did not really represent emergencies. Floor Debate on LB 43, 88th Nebraska Legislature, First Session, March 22, 1983, at 1896.

- b. In *Rauert v. School District I-R of Hall County*, 251 Neb. 135, 555 N.W.2d 763 (1996), the court stated that the Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of their meetings, in part so that the public may attend and speak at those meetings.

- c. The Legislature has imposed only two conditions on public bodies regarding the method of notification for their meetings: 1. the public body must give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting, and 2. the method of notification must be recorded in the public body's minutes. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007). There is no minimum time period for public notification of a special meeting, and an agenda for a public meeting can be created (not altered) later than 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. *Id.* In the *City of Elkhorn* case, the court held that notice of a meeting of the Omaha City Council posted and placed on the city's website at 10:15 a.m. for a meeting at 10:00 p.m. the same day was sufficient under the facts of the case where the local newspaper

printed an article about the meeting in its afternoon edition and four television broadcasters were present at the meeting. The court also indicated that any defect in notice intended for the benefit of council members would not invalidate a council meeting when all of the members of the council attended without objection.

- d. The purpose of the agenda requirement is to give some notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting so that persons who are interested will know which matters are under consideration. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010); *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979); *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Board*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (Neb. Ct. App. 2007). In *Pokorny*, the agenda at issue, considered with all the previous records of the city council involved, was sufficient to satisfy the open meetings statutes. *Pokorny* also indicates that posting notice at 10 p.m. on March 15 before a meeting at 10:30 a.m. on March 16 does not constitute reasonable notice. Posting notice one week ahead does.

- e. In *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Public Power District*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998), *aff'd*, 256 Neb. 1, 588 N.W.2d 589 (1999), the Court of Appeals considered whether an agenda item which simply stated "Work Order Reports" was sufficient to give adequate public notice of a decision to approve a work order which involved expenditure of over \$47 million for the construction of a 96-mile power transmission line across privately held property to connect two power substations. The court held that the agenda item was insufficient under the Open Meetings Act. The court also seemed to suggest, based upon the *Pokorny* case, that the sufficiency of an agenda item might be measured, at least to some degree, in the context of the other meetings of the public body immediately prior to the public meeting in question.

- f. A member of the public should not be required to hunt up and read the documents underlying an agenda of a public body to determine what is actually on that agenda. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Public Power District*, 6

Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998), *aff'd*, 256 Neb. 1, 588 N.W.2d 589 (1999).

- g. If a public body uses or publishes its agenda to give the required notice for a particular meeting, then the notice contained in the agenda must comport with the law for giving notice of what is to be considered at the meeting. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Public Power District*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998), *aff'd*, 256 Neb. 1, 588 N.W.2d 589 (1999).

- h. A notice of a hearing, given by a school board, which stated that a hearing would be held, and that an agenda would be available for inspection, once established, is not proper notice. An agenda must be available. *Allen v. Greeley County School District No 501*, 1994 WL 272223, 1994 Neb. App. LEXIS 186 (Neb. Ct. App. 1994) (Not approved for publication).

- i. When governmental subdivisions which hold annual meetings, such as townships, conduct their annual meetings, electors who participate in the annual meeting must place matters which they wish to discuss on the agenda for the annual meeting. *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Board*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (Neb. Ct. App. 2007). Electors under those circumstances may not simply appear at the annual meeting and bring up any subject falling within the broad powers of electors if that subject is not on the agenda. *Id.*

- j. Two separate public bodies may publish notice of their meetings on the same sheet of paper and need not use separate sheets when the notices contain only the time and place of their meetings, and when the notices direct interested citizens to the place where agendas for each body may be found. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009). In addition, two separate public bodies may combine their agendas when the combined agendas make it clear which

items are to be addressed by each body. *Id.* The same rule applies to combined minutes. *Id.* The *Wolf* case involved a situation where a county board met both as a county board and as a county board of equalization.

- k. Placing notice of future meetings in minutes of a prior meeting does not give sufficient notice under the Open Meetings Act. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009).
- Notice of recessed or reconvened meetings of a public body must be given in the same fashion as notice of the original meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009).
- m. In *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010), the Nebraska Supreme Court seemed to indicate that the requirement to formally record the method of notice in the meeting minutes may be met by a public body if it is possible, through the minutes of past meetings, to discern a customary and consistent method used by the public body to notify the public of its meetings. It does not appear that the choice of method for giving notice of meetings must be formally set forth in the minutes of the public body as such. *See also Robinson v. Morrill County School District #63*, 299 Neb. 740, 910 N.W.2d 752 (2018) (Failure to record the particular method of notice used by the school board in the meeting minutes does not nullify actual notice properly given. The record showed that Robinson and members of the public received reasonable advanced notice and attended the meeting. The record further showed that the method of notice for the meeting at issue was used by the school board and recorded in its minutes at least 21 times during the preceding two years.).
- The Attorney General has concluded that “advance publicized notice” means a separate, specific advance notice must be given for each

meeting. 1971-72 Rep. Att’y Gen. 314 (Opinion No. 137, dated August 8, 1972).

- o The Attorney General has also determined that (1) an agenda may not be used as the minutes of a meeting, (2) reasonable notice under the statute means notice reasonably calculated to give appropriate notice to citizens of the time and place of a meeting and notice which complies with the formal requirements of the statute. 1975-76 Rep. Att’y Gen. 150 (Opinion No. 116, dated August 29, 1975).

- p. In Op. Att’y Gen. No. 96071 (October 28, 1996), the Attorney General indicated that the Quality Jobs Board should give its normal 10-day published notice of meeting rather than an “informal’ notice where the Board had recessed a previous meeting on a tax credit application pending a renewed meeting call from the Governor after issuance of an opinion from the Attorney General.

E. PUBLIC MEETINGS BY VIRTUAL CONFERENCING. Section 84-1411(3) allows certain public bodies to meet by virtual conferencing. Virtual conferencing was added to the Open Meetings Act in 2021 with the enactment of LB 83. Virtual conferencing is defined as “conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.” Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1409(3), amended 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 11. Provisions relating to videoconferencing and telephone conference calls were struck.

1. **Public Bodies Eligible.** In 1993, § 84-1411 was amended by LB 635 to allow certain public bodies to meet by means of videoconferencing. Under the current version of § 84-1411(2), the public bodies allowed to meet by virtual conferencing include: (1) various bodies of state government including state agencies, boards, commissions, councils and committees, together with their advisory committees; (2) organizations created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act; (3) the governing body of a public power district with a chartered territory of more than one county in this state; (4) the governing

body of a public power and irrigation district with a chartered territory of more than one county in this state; (5) boards of educational service units; (6) the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council; (7) an organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act; (8) a community college board of governors; (9) the Nebraska Brand Committee; (10) a local public health department; (11) a metropolitan utilities district; (12) a regional metropolitan transit authority; and (13) a natural resources district.

a. The Judicial Resources Commission was removed from the list by 2022 Neb. Laws LB 922, § 13.

2. **Requirements.** The public bodies listed above may hold meetings by virtual conferencing if the following requirements are met:

a. Reasonable advance publicized notice is given pursuant to § 84-1411(1) and (2). The notice must include a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference.

b. There must be at least one physical site open to the public and identified in the notice.

c. The public body must make reasonable arrangements to accommodate the public's right to attend and participate as provided in § 84-1412, including reasonable seating.

d. The physical site must have at least one member of the public body or designee in attendance.

e. The virtual conference is recorded by audio or visual recording devices.

f. Members of the public are provided a reasonable opportunity to provide input, including public comment or questions, to the same extent if virtual conferencing was not used.

g. The physical site must have at least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting.

h. The public body must provide links to the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Act.

See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(3)(b)(i)-(iii).

3. Limitation on Number of Virtual Meetings. Except as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 70-1014(1), 70-1014.02(2) or 79-2204(4), public bodies authorized to conduct virtual conferencing can hold no more than one-half of their meetings by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. The following entities may hold more than one-half of their meetings by virtual conferencing if at least one meeting in a calendar year is not virtual: An organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, the governing body of a risk management pool and any advisory committee of the governing body, and any advisory committee of any state entity created in response to the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act. See § 84-1411(3)(b)(iv). Amended by 2024 Neb. Laws LB 287, § 74 and LB 399, § 4.

4. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(9) (enacted 2022 Neb. Laws LB 908) authorizes public bodies not listed in § 84-1411(3)(a) to hold meetings by virtual conferencing if the following requirements are met: (a) the purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted on at a subsequent in-person meeting of the public body; (b) no action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and (c) the public body complies with subdivisions § 84-1411(3)(b)(i) and (ii) (see E.2.a.-f. above).

5. Hybrid Meetings Not Allowed. Following the enactment of 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, the Attorney General considered whether one or more members of a public body could attend and participate virtually at an in-person meeting. The Attorney General informally concluded that § 84-1411 authorizes virtual attendance by members of the public body only at meetings that satisfy the requirements pertaining to virtual conferencing.

6. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 does not apply to meetings subject to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 70-1034 conducted by the Nebraska Power Review Board or a public power district, a public power and irrigation district, an electric membership association, an electric cooperative company, a municipality having a generation and distribution system, or a registered group of

municipalities. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(10), added as a result of 2024 Neb. Laws LB 1370, § 8.

F. EMERGENCY MEETINGS. Section 84-1411 allows public bodies to hold emergency meetings without reasonable advance public notice under two statutory schemes.

1. **Emergency Meetings Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(6).** In order to hold an emergency meeting under § 84-1411(6), a public body must meet the following requirements: (1) the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes, and any formal action taken shall pertain only to the emergency; (2) the provisions of § 84-1411(5) dealing with notice to the media shall be complied with in connection with an emergency meeting; and (3) complete minutes of the emergency meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public no later than the end of the next regular business day.

a. Emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 12.

b. In *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Board*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994), the Court indicated, in a case involving allegations of a violation of the open meetings statutes, that an emergency is defined as “any event or occasional combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action or remedy; pressing necessity; exigency; a sudden or unexpected happening; an unforeseen occurrence or condition.” In that case, the Court held that a township board meeting to consider the job status of a township employee, convened as an emergency meeting because of a snowstorm, was not a proper emergency meeting because the employee was given two weeks’ notice of his resultant termination, and because the reasons given for the employee’s termination were based upon his past performance.

c. In *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009), the Court of Appeals considered whether a number of items taken up at meetings of a county board without any listing on the board’s agenda were “emergency” items. In making that determination in each case, the court

focused upon whether there was anything in the record which indicated that a particular item required immediate action or involved pressing necessity.

d. The Attorney General has also stated that an item of an emergency nature is one that requires immediate resolution by the public body, and one which has arisen in circumstances impossible to anticipate at a time sufficient to place on the agenda of a regular, called, or special meeting of the body. 1975-76 Rep. Att'y Gen. 150 (Opinion No. 116, dated August 29, 1975).

e. In Op. Att'y Gen. No. 95063 (August 9, 1995), the Attorney General indicated that action taken during a meeting of the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission by a telephone conference call which did not comply with the requirements of the open meetings statutes for emergency meetings was void.

2. **Emergency Meetings Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(8)**. Section 84-1411(8) allows any public body in the state to meet by virtual conferencing if an emergency is declared by the Governor under the Emergency Management Act, and the territorial jurisdiction of the public body falls within the declaration. Unlike emergency meetings authorized under § 84-1411(6), public bodies may do any of the things set out in the definition of public meeting in § 84-1409(2): "Briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action" This provision was added to § 84-1411 by 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 12.

- a. **Requirements.** Public bodies must meet several requirements when holding meetings under § 84-1411(8): (i) reasonable advance publicized notice must be provided pursuant to § 84-1411(1) and (2); (ii) the notice must include information regarding meeting access for the public and news media; (iii) access to the meeting must be provided via a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference; (iv) the public body must provide links to the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; (v) reasonable arrangements must be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting; (vi) notice to the media under § 84-1411(5) must be provided; (vii) the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes; and (viii) complete minutes of the meeting specifying the nature of the

emergency and any formal action taken by the public body shall be made available in accordance with § 84-1413(5).

G. PUBLIC MEETINGS; RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING. Section 84-1412 establishes the rights of members of the public attending a meeting of a public body.

1. Members of the public have the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a public meeting except closed sessions under § 84-1410, may be videotaped, recorded, televised, broadcast, photographed, etc. by any person.

2. With the enactment of 2024 Neb. Laws LB 43, § 21, **public bodies must allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting, except for closed sessions.** This provision became operative on July 19, 2024.

3. Public bodies may make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, or recording their meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing.

4. Members of the public cannot be required to identify themselves as a condition for admission to a public meeting. In 2021, § 84-1412(3) was amended to require public bodies to have any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including providing an address and the name of any organization represented by such person. The public body may waive the address requirement to protect the security of the individual. 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 13.

4. No public body shall, to circumvent the open meetings laws, hold its meeting in a place known to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience. However, a public body shall not be in violation of this prohibition if it meets in its traditional meeting place in this state.

5. LB 898 from 2006 added language to § 84-1412 which provides that public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the

public. At the beginning of any meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information. The legislative history of LB 898 indicates that “posting” a copy of the Open Meetings Act means putting it up in some fashion, including attaching it to a bulletin board, hanging it by a chain or fastening it to a wall. Floor Debate on LB 898, 99th Nebraska Legislature, Second Session, March 28, 2006, at 11697 (Statement of Senator Preister). “Posting” does not include placing the Act on a table as a loose document which can be removed and therefore might not be available throughout the meeting. *Id.* If a meeting of a public body is moved to another location to accommodate a larger audience, then the posted copy of the Act should be moved and posted in the new location. *Id.*

6. In 2008, LB 962 amended § 84-1412 to provide that public bodies may not require that “the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to . . . [a] meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda.” That change was made so that members of the public are not required to place themselves on the agenda of a public body prior to a meeting in order to speak on agenda items during the times at that meeting set aside for public comment. Floor Debate on LB 962, 100th Nebraska Legislature, Second Session, February 28, 2008 at 2 (Statement of Senator Preister). That change in statutory language was not intended to affect the right of a public body to make reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, or recording its meetings. *Id.*

7. A public body may hold a meeting outside the State of Nebraska only if all the following conditions are met: a. a member entity of the public body is located outside of the state and the meeting is in that member’s jurisdiction; b. all out-of-state locations identified in the notice of meeting are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience; c. reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public’s rights to attend, hear and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an instate location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance; d. no more than 25% of the public body’s meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state; e. out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established by the Open Meetings Act; and f. the public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least 21 days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation. These requirements for out-of-state meetings were added to

§ 84-1412 by 2001 Neb. Laws LB 250, § 2, and amended to add meetings by virtual conferencing in 2021. 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 13.

9. A public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear discussion and testimony at a public meeting.

10. Public bodies shall make at least one copy of reproducible written material discussed at an open meeting available at the meeting or at the in-state location for virtual conferencing provided in § 84-1412(6)(c) for examination and copying by members of the public. The materials may be provided in paper or electronic form. 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 13.

11. **History.** Many of the initial provisions in § 84-1412 dealing with the rights of the public were added as a result of LB 43 in 1983.

a. The language requiring a reasonable effort to allow all parties to hear a public meeting does not involve an absolute requirement that all persons present shall be able to hear. Floor Debate on LB 43, 88th Nebraska Legislature, First Session, March 21, 1983, at 1794-1795.

H. PUBLIC MEETINGS; MINUTES AND VOTING PROCEDURES. Section 84-1413 contains several provisions regarding the minutes which are to be maintained by public bodies and the voting procedures for public bodies.

1. **Minutes.** Every public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed. The minutes of all meetings and evidence or documentation received or disclosed during open session shall be public records, open to public inspection during normal business hours. Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and available for inspection within 10 working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional 10 working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

- a. 2015 Neb. Laws LB 365, § 2 amended § 84-1413 to provide that minutes of the meetings of school boards and educational service units may be kept as an electronic record. In 2022, the Legislature extended the ability to keep minutes electronically to all public bodies. 2022 Neb. Laws LB 742, § 2.

- b. As noted in D.2.a. above, beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city councils of metropolitan class, primary class, and first class cities, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and school boards shall place their agenda and minutes on their websites. Minutes shall be posted once they are available for inspection as provided in § 84-1413(5). The information shall be available on the website for at least six months. 2021 Neb. Laws LB 83, § 14.

2. **Voting Procedures.** Any action taken on any question or motion duly made and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

a. **Electronic Voting Devices.** The roll call or viva voce vote requirements of the Open Meetings Act may be satisfied by a public body which uses an electronic voting device which allows the vote of each member of the governing body to be readily seen. 2016 Neb. Laws LB 876, § 1. Prior to the enactment of LB 876, only certain public bodies, e.g., a municipality, a county, a learning community, a joint entity created pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, a joint public agency created pursuant to the Joint Public Agency Act or an agency formed under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, were authorized to use electronic voting devices under the Act.

3. In *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1984), the Supreme Court held that the requirement of § 84-1413(2) that the record shall state how each member of a body voted could not be satisfied by a nunc pro

tunc amendment to the body's minutes showing that the recording of the vote in the minutes was performed prior to the time the actual recording in the minutes took place. However, when the same case was before the court a second time, the court held that, as a general rule, a public body may, if no intervening rights of a third person have arisen, order the minutes of its own proceedings at a previous meeting to be corrected according to the facts to make them speak the truth. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 214 Neb. 85, 333 N.W.2d 652 (1983).

4. Section 84-1413 is violated by a failure to make or take a vote in accordance with the statute rather than a failure to record a properly taken vote. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar* (1983), *supra*.

5. Section 84-1413(2) dealing with roll call votes does not require the record to state that the vote was by roll call but only requires that the record show if and how each member voted. Neither does that statute set a time limit for recording the results of a vote. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar* (1983), *supra*.

6. The statutory requirements here dealing with voting and minutes are mandatory since the Legislature provided that action taken in violation of this statute is void. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar* (1981), *supra*.

7. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009) seems to indicate that the Open Meetings Act does not require that minutes of meetings be "published," but only that they be written and available for inspection within 10 working days or prior to the next convened meeting of the public body.

8. The legislative history of the original open meetings statutes, LB 325 from 1975, indicates that the requirement of a roll call vote was directed at votes on questions that would bind the particular public body. Other procedural questions were not covered. Government Committee Hearing on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1975) at 10.

9. The Attorney General has stated that nothing in the open meetings statutes requires approval of the minutes of a public body prior to their publication. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 162 (December 28, 1981).

10. In Op. Att’y Gen. No. 98045 (November 4, 1998), the Attorney General indicated that detailed minutes of all matters discussed need not be maintained when a public body is meeting in closed or executive session, so long as the requirements of § 84-1410 pertaining specifically to the minute entries necessary for a closed session are met.

I. CLOSED SESSIONS OF A PUBLIC BODY. Section 84-1410, pertaining to closed sessions of public body, has generated the most controversy of all the portions of the open meetings statutes. Section 84-1410(1) provides that any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary (1) for the protection of the public interest, or (2) for the prevention of needless injury to an individual, if such individual has not requested a public meeting. Closed meetings may not be held for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body. Nothing in § 84-1410 should be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public.

1. Under § 84-1410(1), examples of reasons for a closed session include:

a. Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body.

b. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices.

c. Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct.

d. Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting.

e. For a Community Trust created under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster. [Amended into § 84-1410(1) by 2011 Neb. Laws LB 390.]

f. For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional

negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arm's length. [Amended into § 84-1410(1) by 2012 Neb. Laws LB 995.]

These examples are not exclusive; they are merely examples, and other reasons may exist. Government Committee Hearing on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1975) at page 3; 1975-76 Rep. Att'y Gen. 150 (Opinion No. 116, dated August 29, 1975); Op. Att'y Gen. No. 65 (April 17, 1985).

2. LB 898 from 2006 amended some of the provisions of § 84-1410 pertaining to the mechanics of holding a closed session. The subject matter of the closed session and reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to hold a closed session. The vote to hold a closed session must be taken in open session, and the entire closed session motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commences and ends must be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer shall restate on the record immediately prior to the closed session the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed session to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting must be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken, and "formal action" in that context is defined in § 84-1410(2) to mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy. Under an amendment to § 84-1410(2) effected by LB 621 in 1994, formal action by the body in that context does **not** include, "negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in a closed [strategy] session authorized [for collective bargaining, real estate purchases, etc.] under subdivision 1(a) of [Section 84-1410]."

3. Any member of the public body can challenge the continuation of a closed session if he or she determines that the session has exceeded the original reason for the closed session, or if he or she contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such a challenge can only be overruled by a majority vote of the members of the

public body. The challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

4. **History.** One of the purposes for the initial open meetings statute, LB 325 from 1975, was to tighten restrictions on closed or executive sessions of public bodies. Introducer's Statement of Purpose for LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1975). The fourth example of reasons for closed meetings was added by LB 43 in 1983. The provisions dealing with pending or imminent litigation and defining formal action in a closed session were added as a part of LB 1019 in 1992.

5. It is not entirely clear what vote of the public body is necessary to go into closed session. The statute states that "an affirmative vote of a majority of [the body's] voting members" is necessary for a closed session. On its face, the normal meaning of this language would presumably be a majority of those members present and voting. This is particularly true since the later subsection (3) of § 84-1410 requires a "majority vote of the members of the public body" to overrule a challenge to the continuation of the closed session. However, the legislative history of LB 325 makes it quite clear that the legislators intended to make the requirement for a closed session a vote of the majority of the body rather than a vote of the majority of those present and voting. Floor Debate on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session, May 14 and May 20, 1975, at 4616, 5015. Moreover, there is some indication that "voting" members in § 84-1410(1) refers to particular members of bodies such as the Board of Regents which has both voting and non-voting members. Government Committee Hearing on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1975) at 27-28. The safer approach is to authorize a closed session of the public body by a majority vote of the members of the body rather than by a majority vote of just those members present.

6. The landmark case for what is permissible in a closed session is *Grein v. Board of Education of the School District of Fremont*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984). *Grein* involved a closed session by a school board for discussion of the low bid on a construction project. The Nebraska Supreme Court held that the closed session was improper. That case indicates:

a. Provisions of the statute permitting closed sessions must be narrowly and strictly construed. *See also State ex rel. Upper Republican Natural Resources*

District v. District Judges of the District Court for Chase County, 273 Neb. 148, 728 N.W.2d 275 (2007).

b. The public interest which is protected in § 84-1410(1) is “that shared by citizens in general and by the community at large concerning pecuniary or legal rights and liabilities.” 216 Neb. at 165, 343 N.W.2d at 723. *See also Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Board*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).

c. Good faith motivation for a closed session is not a cure for non-compliance with the public meetings laws.

d. The prohibition against decisions or formal actions in a closed session proscribes crystallization of a secret decision and then ceremonial acceptance in open session.

e. There is a guiding principle with respect to closed sessions: “If a public body is uncertain about the type of session to be conducted, open or closed, bear in mind the policy of openness promoted by the Public Meetings Laws and opt for a meeting in the presence of the public.” 216 Neb. at 168, 343 N.W.2d at 724.

7. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler, supra*, indicates that there is nothing in the open meetings statutes which requires that negotiations for the purchase of land be conducted in open meeting, but deliberations of a public body as to whether an offer to purchase should be made must be done in an open meeting.

8. In a case involving the revocation of a land surveyor’s license, the supreme court held that a closed session was improper since there was no showing of either necessity or of the reasons set out in § 84-1410(1). *Simonds v. Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors*, 213 Neb. 259, 329 N.W.2d 92 (1983).

9. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-832 (1996), dealing with hearings involving cancellation, amendment or termination of a teacher’s contract mandates a closed hearing upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the school board’s members present and voting and upon specific request of the certificated employee or the certificated employee’s representative. However, under that section, formal action by the school board requires that the school board reconvene in open

session. *Stephens v. Board of Education of School District No. 5, Pierce County*, 230 Neb. 38, 429 N.W.2d 722 (1988).

10. The provisions of the open meetings statutes dealing with closed sessions, in part, reflect the Legislature's judgment of the appropriate balance between the public's interest in open discussion of governmental issues and the rights of individuals, such as state employees, to have their performance as employees considered in private if they so choose. *Meyer v. Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska*, 1 Neb. App. 893, 510 N.W.2d 450 (Neb. Ct. App. 1993).

11. If the primary purpose for a closed session of a public body is authorized under the open meetings statutes, then any necessary discussion of incidental matters is also authorized. *Meyer v. Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska*, 1 Neb. App. 893, 510 N.W.2d 450 (Neb. Ct. App. 1993). In the *Meyer* case, the Nebraska Court of Appeals indicated that the University Board of Regents could properly discuss the appointment of an interim president for the University during a closed session called to evaluate and consider the employment status of the president.

12. In *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Board*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002), the court held that if a person who is present at a meeting of a public body observes an alleged violation of the Open Meetings Act in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, then that person waives his or her right to object to the closed session at a later date. However, that case appears to be legislatively overruled by LB 898 from 2006 which provides that it shall not be a defense to a citizen lawsuit under § 84-1414(3) that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at that time.

13. There is no absolute evidentiary privilege which applies to all communications made during a closed session of a public body, and communications made during such closed sessions are discoverable. *State ex rel. Upper Republican Natural Resources District v. District Judges of the District Court for Chase County*, 273 Neb. 148, 728 N.W.2d 275 (2007). However, to the extent that communications made during a closed session implicate other recognized privileges such as the attorney-client privilege, those communications are protected. *Id.*

14. The statutory provision allowing public bodies to hold closed sessions for strategy sessions regarding litigation or threatened litigation by necessity encompasses discussions and decisions regarding whether to make or reject a settlement offer. Such decisions regarding litigation strategy should not have to be discussed publicly, during an open session, in front of the body's opponent. *Becker v. Allen*, 1996 WL 106217, 1996 Neb. App. LEXIS 73 (Neb. Ct. App. 1996) (Not approved for publication). In addition, the strategic meetings which a public body has with its attorney when threatened with or engaged in litigation, in which the public body may give direction to its attorney, are protected by the attorney-client privilege. *Id.*

15. **Opinions of the Attorney General:**

a. A closed session is not proper simply because matters permitting a closed session might arise. Such a closed session is permitted only when such matters do arise and must be dealt with. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 94035 (May 11, 1994); Op. Att'y Gen. No. 11 (January 20, 1983).

b. Discussions of legal matters between a county board and a county attorney involving pending litigation or legal consequences of specific action are suitable for a closed session. 1975-76 Rep. Att'y Gen. 150 (Opinion No. 116, dated August 29, 1975).

c. A public body can go into a proper closed session for discussion of personnel matters and then reconvene for a public vote with no lengthy explanation of the rationale underlying the decision. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 89063 (October 12, 1989).

d. The closed session exception for prevention of needless injury to reputation is for the protection of individual employees and not for the protection of governmental officers on the public body. *Id.*

e. In Op. Att'y Gen. No. 98045 (November 4, 1998), the Attorney General indicated that detailed minutes of all matters discussed need not be maintained when a public body is meeting in closed or executive session, so long as the requirements of § 84-1410 pertaining specifically to the minute entries necessary for a closed session are met.

f. A county clerk, county attorney and county treasurer acting as a group under § 32-567(3) to make an appointment to fill a vacancy on a county board may not go into closed session for evaluation of the merits of the candidates based upon the express language of § 84-1410(1). Op. Att’y Gen. No. 97050 (September 18, 1997).

g. In Op. Att’y Gen. No. 17-004 (June 5, 2017), the Attorney General indicated that the Public Service Commission may not discuss management and operational issues outside of a duly convened meeting which satisfies all requirements of the Open Meetings Act, except when conducting judicial proceedings. Alternatively, the commission could discuss these issues in closed sessions under limited circumstances or form subcommittees of less than a quorum, which are generally excluded from the act.

h. The Attorney General has indicated informally that developing testimony for an upcoming Legislative hearing is not a proper reason for a state agency to go into closed session. On the other hand, the Attorney General has also indicated informally that discussion of “sensitive medical and financial information” pertaining to specific individuals who applied for admission to a state home could be conducted in a closed session so long as the actual vote on admission was done in an open meeting.

J. CIRCUMVENTION OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT. Section 84-1410(4) prohibits a person or a public body from circumventing the purpose of the open meetings statutes by failing to invite a portion of its members to a meeting or by designating itself as a subcommittee of the whole body. That section also prohibits the use of any closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax or other electronic communication for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the open meetings statutes.

1. This provision was added to the open meetings statutes by LB 43 in 1983. This section was directed at the intentional circumvention of the open meetings statutes rather than inadvertent acts. Government, Military and Veterans’ Affairs Committee Hearing on LB 43, 88th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1983) at 5.

2. 2004 Neb. Laws LB 1179 added emails, faxes and other electronic communications to the list of mediums which could not be used to circumvent the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

3. Similar language prohibiting the use of virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communications to circumvent any of the public government purposes of the Open Meetings Act is contained in § 84-1411(3).

4. The Attorney General has indicated that intent is a necessary element of the conduct prohibited by § 84-1410(4), and that members of a public body can communicate with other members of that body by electronic means, even if that communication is directed to a quorum of the body, so long as there is no course of communication which becomes sufficiently involved so as to evidence an intent or purpose to circumvent the Open Meetings Act. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 04007 (March 8, 2004).

K. ACTIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT. Section 84-1414 sets out various enforcement options available to individuals who believe that the open meetings statutes have been violated.

1. Any motion, resolution, rule, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the public meetings statutes shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within 120 days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any such motion or other action taken in substantial violation of the public meeting statutes shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced after more than 120 days but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

2. Under § 84-1414(3), any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the open meetings statutes, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the open meetings statutes to discussions or decisions of the public body. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007). The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under

§ 84-1414(3). Under LB 898 from 2006, it shall not be a defense to such a suit that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object to violations at such time.

3. The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the provisions of the open meetings statutes.

4. **History.** The original version of § 84-1414(1), which was a part of LB 325 passed in 1975, simply provided that actions taken in violation of the public meetings statutes should be void. The void/voidable distinction was added by LB 43 in 1983. The apparent intent of that later language was to allow a court to void an action by a public body taken when there was any violation of the open meetings statutes if the action was filed within four months of the meeting in question. After four months, the violation of the open meetings statutes would have to be substantial to allow a court to void the action of the public body. In any event, no action could be brought after one year of the public meeting in question. Floor Debate on LB 43, 88th Nebraska Legislature, First Session, March 22, 1983, at 1892.

5. The legislative history of LB 325 from 1975 indicates that the initial intent of that statute was to have the county attorney responsible for enforcement proceedings involving public bodies at a local level. The Attorney General would be responsible for enforcement against state entities. Floor Debate on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session, May 14, 1975, at 4620.

6. The Nebraska Supreme Court has indicated that action by a public body which is proper under the open meetings statutes may cure defects in actions previously taken by the same public body. In such an instance, an action by a public body which previously might have been declared void will be declared proper. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler, supra*. On the other hand, under those circumstances, the original improper meeting itself is still void. *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Board*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994). *Pokorny* also indicates that the effect of an invalid public meeting under the open meetings laws is the same as if the meeting had never occurred.

7. A county lacks capacity to maintain an action to declare its official conduct void for noncompliance with the open meetings statutes. *County of York v. Johnson*, 230 Neb. 403, 432 N.W.2d 215 (1988).

8. Reading of a city ordinance in accordance with a city charter constitutes “formal action” of a city council which may be voided in a lawsuit under § 84-1414(1). *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).

9. A number of Nebraska cases deal with waiver of rights under the Open Meetings Act by a failure to make a timely objection to violations of the Act. *Stoetzel & Sons, Inc. v. City of Hastings*, 265 Neb. 637, 658 N.W.2d 636 (2003) (if a person who attends a meeting of a public body believes that copies of documents discussed by the body should be made available to the public at the meeting, a timely objection should be made, or that person waives his or her right to object); *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Board*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002); *Otey v. State*, 240 Neb. 813, 485 N.W.2d 153 (1992); *Witt v. School District No. 70, Frontier County*, 202 Neb. 63, 273 N.W. 2d 669 (1979) (any person who has notice of a meeting and attends the meeting is required to object specifically to a lack of public notice at the meeting or waive his rights to object on that ground under the open meetings statutes); *Hauser v. Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council*, 264 Neb. 944, 653 N.W.2d 240 (2002) (if a person present at a meeting observes and fails to object to an alleged open meetings violation in the form of a failure to conduct roll call votes before taking action on questions or motions pending, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date); *Alexander v. School District No. 17 of Thurston County*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976) (where teachers had notice of a termination hearing, appeared, and no objection was made to a failure of the school board to give proper notice under the open meetings statutes, those teachers waived any objection they might have had to violations of the open meetings law). Those cases appear to be legislatively overruled by LB 898 from 2006 which provides that it shall not be a defense to a citizen lawsuit under § 84-1414(3) that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at that time.

10. In *Robinson v. Morrill County School District #63*, 299 Neb. 740, 910 N.W.2d 752 (2018), the Nebraska Supreme Court declined to consider the propriety of the school board's closed session to deliberate on the cancellation of Robinson's teaching contract following an evidentiary hearing since Robinson failed to object to the closed session or the process followed by the school board in closing the meeting.

11. Actions for relief under the open meetings statutes are tried as equitable cases, given the fact that the relief sought is in the nature of a declaration that particular action taken in violation of the laws is void or voidable. Such cases are also considered as equitable cases on appeal. *Stoetzel & Sons, Inc. v. City of Hastings*, 265 Neb. 637, 658 N.W.2d 636 (2003); *Hauser v. Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council*, 264 Neb. 944, 653 N.W.2d 240 (2002); *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009); *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Public Power District*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998), *aff'd*, 256 Neb. 1, 588 N.W.2d 589 (1999).

12. The *Hansmeyer* case also discusses the distinction between "void" and "voidable" under § 84-1414. "Void" means ineffectual and having no legal force or binding effect, while "voidable" means that which may be avoided or declared void, not absolutely void. In *Hansmeyer*, the court considered factors such as whether any purpose would be served or whether decisions were made in secret without public discussion in determining whether a voidable vote by the Nebraska Public Power District should, in fact, be voided.

13. Once a meeting has been declared void pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, the members of the public body involved are prohibited from considering any information which they obtained at the illegal meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009); *Alderman v. County of Antelope*, 11 Neb. App. 412, 653 N.W.2d 1 (2002).

14. The decision to award attorney's fees to a "successful plaintiff" in an action under § 84-1414 is discretionary with the trial court. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Public Power District*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998), *aff'd*, 256 Neb. 1, 588 N.W.2d 589 (1999). The court in *Hansmeyer* also held that the plaintiffs in that case were "successful plaintiffs" who could recover attorney's fees under

§ 84-1414 because there was a finding that a substantial violation of the open meetings statutes had occurred, and because the public body involved amended its practices to prepare proper agendas after the plaintiffs filed their action. The court reached that conclusion even though it ultimately determined that the improper action of the public body at issue should not be voided. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009) also contains a discussion regarding the basis for an award of attorney's fees in that case, including the court's analysis of why it reduced a fee award on appeal.

15. Voiding an entire meeting is a proper remedy for violations of the Open Meetings Act. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009). The court in the *Wolf* case also specifically considered whether violations of the Open Meetings Act were "substantial" violations in determining whether it was appropriate to void actions of a county board when the enforcement lawsuit was filed more than 120 days after the meetings in question.

16. In *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (Neb. Ct. App. 2009) there was no evidence in the record which established that a county board had published notice of its meetings anywhere. The Court of Appeals held that in the absence of contrary evidence, it may be presumed that public officers faithfully performed their official duties. *Id.* In addition, absent evidence showing misconduct or disregard for the law, the regularity of official acts is also presumed. *Id.* In *Wolf*, the court also indicated that the plaintiffs had the burden at all times to show that it was more probable that notices of meetings were not posted than probable that they were.

17. The United States District Court for the District of Nebraska has indicated that it has supplemental jurisdiction over claims under § 84-1414 based upon 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a). *Buzek v. Pawnee County Nebraska*, 207 F. Supp. 2d 961 (D. Neb. 2002).

18. "Citizens," as well as members of the general public and reporters or other representatives of the news media, are the intended beneficiaries of the Open Meetings Act, and have standing to bring an action under that Act. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010). This is true even though individual citizens may not be able to allege a particularized injury as a result of action by a public body or the pecuniary interest in the public body's action

which might be necessary for common law standing. *Id.* An action under § 84-1414 is permissible when the ultimate result of the questionable meetings of the public body is annexation. *Id.*

19. The plaintiffs in *Pierce v. Drobny*, 279 Neb. 251, 777 N.W.2d 322 (2010), contended that a local school board held a number of secret meetings without notice or public participation to plan for a special election for the issuance of bonds for a new school. A resolution authorizing the special election was subsequently passed by the board at a public meeting, and at the special election, voters approved the school bond issue. The plaintiffs sought to void the board's resolution for the special election under the Open Meetings Act rather than filing an election contest. The Nebraska Supreme Court held that an election contest was the exclusive remedy under such circumstances, and that a separate challenge under the Open Meetings Act did not exist once the bond issue was voted upon by the public.

L. CRIMINAL SANCTIONS. Section 84-1414(4) provides that any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate the Open Meetings Act, or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of that Act, shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense, and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

1. The legislative history of LB 325 from 1975 indicates that the criminal sanctions included in this section were originally directed at intentional behavior rather than at inadvertence. Government Committee Hearing on LB 325, 84th Nebraska Legislature, First Session (1975) at 16.

2. The criminal sanctions for violation of the open meetings statutes were first increased as a result of LB 1019 passed in 1992. Also, that same bill in 1992 added language which made knowingly remaining at or attending a meeting in violation of the open meetings statutes a crime. The present language which applies criminal sanctions to those members of a public body who remain at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of the open meetings statutes was added by LB 621 in 1994.

3. Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-106 (2016), a Class IV misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of \$100 to \$500 and no imprisonment. In addition, a

Class III misdemeanor is punishable by up to 3 months imprisonment or up to a \$500 fine, or both. A Class III misdemeanor has no minimum penalty.

Rev. 7/2024

Board of Education Board Meeting

September 8, 2025 7:00 PM

Blair Central Office

1326 Park Street, Blair NE 68008

Information concerning the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska State Statutes, is posted in the room at a location accessible to members of the public and attached to the online agenda. The meeting notice was published in the Washington County Pilot-Tribune & Enterprise on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Courtney Tabor, Vice President, called the Board of Education Special meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Denise Cada, Steve Callaghan, Ginger Fredericksen, Nate Larsen, Bob Schoby, Melaini Sturm, and Courtney Tabor

2.1. Approval of Absent Board Members

Motion Passed: I move to approve the absence of Board Member(s): Kari Loseke passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Absent
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Members of the Blair High School Girls' Wrestling Team led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. 2025-26 Budget Hearing – Entered into at 7:02pm – 7:30pm

The Board convened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Board to consider amendments relative thereto. Mr. Tom Shearer, Business Manager, shared the Blair Community Schools Budget Hearing presentation. No public comments were heard.

5. Approval of Emergency Additions to the Agenda

Motion Passed: I move to approve the emergency addition, 8.4.2. Blair Volleyball Club, to the agenda passed with a motion by Melaini Sturm and a second by Steve Callaghan.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Absent
Bob Schoby	Yes

Melaini Sturm Yes
Courtney Tabor Yes

6. Call for Removal of Consent Agenda Items - None

7. Consent Agenda

Motion Passed: I move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada Yes
Steve Callaghan Yes
Ginger Fredericksen Yes
Nate Larsen Yes
Kari Loseke Absent
Bob Schoby Yes
Melaini Sturm Yes
Courtney Tabor Yes

7.1. Waiver of reading minutes from previous meeting

7.2. Acceptance of minutes of the previous meeting as published

7.3. Receipt of Communications

7.4. Treasurer's Report

7.5. Audit of Claims

8. Business

8.1. Items removed from Consent Agenda - None

8.2. Recognitions

8.3. Acceptance of Gifts

8.4. Consideration of Communications

8.4.1. FBLA 2023 National Fall Leadership Conference

A letter had been received from Mrs. Vicki Schrick, FBLA Advisor, requesting permission for FBLA members to attend the FBLA National Fall Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona from Thursday, November 6 through Saturday, November 8, 2025. Mrs. Vicki Schrick and Mrs. Kristi Rasmussen, Assistant FBLA Advisor, will provide guidance and support at this event. The advisor fees will be covered by Blair FBLA and students will cover their own expenses for the trip. The administration recommended approving this request.

Motion Passed: I move to approve the request for FBLA members to attend the FBLA National Fall Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona from November 6 through November 8, 2025 passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada Yes
Steve Callaghan Yes
Ginger Fredericksen Yes
Nate Larsen Yes
Kari Loseke Absent
Bob Schoby Yes
Melaini Sturm Yes
Courtney Tabor Yes

8.4.2. Blair Volleyball Club

Mary Policky owns the local Blair Volleyball Club and is hoping the school board would allow Sunday Bear Cub Volleyball training sessions. Mary would pay the gym fees and provide the staff through her club and Coach Lansman would promote it to our youth and attend so she could help coach the girls. The request is for six (6) Sundays starting Oct 19th-Nov 23rd from 1-3 pm. 1st- 6th graders would be the age groups. They did this two years ago and it was amazing as they had over 80 youth athletes in attendance. Since starting Bear Cubs, they have seen an amazing growth with their numbers and skills these past two years and can't wait to see how investing in our youth will pay off when they get to high school.

Motion Passed: I approve the request for the Blair Volleyball Club the use of facilities on six (6) Sundays from Oct 19 -Nov 23, 2025 from 1:00-3:00 pm passed with a motion by Melaini Sturm and a second by Steve Callaghan.

Denise Cada	No
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	No
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Absent
Bob Schoby	No
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

8.5. Comments from The Public - None

8.6. Committee Reports

8.6.1. Policy/Curriculum Committee

The Policy/Curriculum Committee met on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 12:00pm. A report from the committee was given by Denise Cada.

Motion Passed: I move to approve the first reading on new policy 504.55-Outside Behavioral Consultants (ABA and Similar Providers) as presented passed with a motion by Denise Cada and a second by Bob Schoby.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Absent
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

Motion Passed: I move to approve a one-year Early Childhood Teacher Lead position for the 2025-26 school year as presented passed with a motion by Denise Cada and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes

Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Absent
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

Motion Passed: I move to approve the first and final reading to policy 704.02-Financial Records as presented passed with a motion by Denise Cada and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Absent
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

8.6.2. BG&T Committee

The Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Committee met on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 12:00pm. A report from the committee was given by Steve Callaghan.

Motion Passed: I move to approve the purchase of an auto scrubber for Deerfield Elementary in the amount of \$5,910 from HD Supply passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Absent
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

8.6.3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 and Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 12:00pm. Reports from the committee was given by Bob Schoby

Motion Passed as Amended: I move to enter into interlocal agreement with Fort Calhoun Community Schools for participation in the Pioneer Learning Center Program passed with a motion by Bob Schoby and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Absent
Bob Schoby	Yes

Melaini Sturm Yes
Courtney Tabor Yes

8.7. Approval of New Teachers – None

8.8. Acceptance of Resignations – None

8.9. Superintendent Report

8.10. Informational Items

8. Adjournment

Motion Passed: I move to adjourn meeting at 8:15pm passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada Yes
Steve Callaghan Yes
Ginger Fredericksen Yes
Nate Larsen Yes
Kari Loseke Absent
Bob Schoby Yes
Melaini Sturm Yes
Courtney Tabor Yes

Angie Conety
Secretary Board of Education

Randall Gilson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board of Education Emergency Meeting

September 17, 2025 5:30 PM

Blair Community Schools Central Office

1326 Park St., Blair NE 68008

Information concerning the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska State Statutes, is attached to the online agenda for viewing. The online agenda can be viewed by visiting the Blair Community Schools website at www.blairschools.org. The meeting notice has been posted at central office, district website, and emailed to the news media editor in accordance with district policy.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Kari Loseke, President, called the Board of Education Special meeting to order at 5:32pm.

2. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Denise Cada, Steve Callaghan, Ginger Fredericksen, Nate Larsen, Kari Loseke, Bob Schoby, Melaini Sturm and Courtney Tabor.

2.1 Approval of Absent Board Members

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Callaghan led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Comments From The Public

Public comment was heard from five patrons.

5. Business

5.1. Blair Youth Football's Request for Use of Facilities on Sunday's

Motion Passed: I move to approve Blair Youth Football use of Krantz Field Stadium on the following Sunday's: August 31, September 7, September 21, September 28 passed with a motion by Bob Schoby and a second Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

6. Adjournment

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:08pm passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

Angie Conety
Board Secretary

Randall Gilson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board of Education Special Meeting

September 22, 2025 5:00 PM

Blair Community Schools Central Office

1326 Park St., Blair NE 68008

Information concerning the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska State Statutes, is attached to the online agenda for viewing. The online agenda can be viewed by visiting the Blair Community Schools website at www.blairschools.org. The meeting notice was published in the Washington County Pilot-Tribune & Enterprise on Tuesday, September 16, 2025.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Kari Loseke, President, called the Board of Education Special meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Denise Cada, Steve Callaghan, Ginger Fredericksen (5:09pm), Nate Larsen, Kari Loseke, Bob Schoby, Melaini Sturm and Courtney Tabor.

2.1 Approval of Absent Board Members

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Gilson led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Comments From The Public

Public comment was heard from one patron.

5. Business

5.1. Board Claims

Motion Passed: I move to authorize Administration to pay claims as presented passed with a motion by Bob Schoby and a second Denise Cada.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

5.2. Approval of the 2025-26 Budget

Motion Failed: I move to approve the 2025-26 budget for Washington County School District 89-0001 as presented failed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second Denise Cada.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	No
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	No
Bob Schoby	No
Melaini Sturm	No
Courtney Tabor	No

Motion Failed: I move to approve the 2025-26 budget for Washington County School District 89-0001 for \$68,340,990 total budgeted disbursements and transfers for all funds failed with a motion by Bob Schoby and a second Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada	No
Steve Callaghan	No
Ginger Fredericksen	No
Nate Larsen	No
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

Motion Passed: I move to approve the 2025-26 budget for Washington County School District 89-0001 for \$68,772,308 total budgeted disbursements and transfers for all funds, with \$38,875,819 for General Fund, \$3,745,998 for the Depreciation Fund, \$2,538 for the Employee Benefit Fund, \$880,076 for the Activity Fund, \$1,817,741 for the School Nutrition Fund, \$15,116,906 for the Bond Fund, \$7,825,889 for the Special Building Fund, \$3,878 for the QCPUF Fund, \$100,000 for the Cooperative Fund, \$403,463, for the Student Fee Fund, which includes an additional 1.5% additional revenue growth for property tax authority totaling an additional \$435,675 passed with a motion by Ginger Fredericksen and a second Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	No
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	No
Courtney Tabor	No

5.3. 2025-26 Tax Request Resolution

Motion Passed: I move to approve the 2025-26 Tax Request Resolution for Washington County School District 89-0001 as follows: \$18,270,960 for the General Fund, \$2,000,915 for the Bond Fund, \$2,442,820 for the Special Building Fund, totaling \$22,714,695 and reflects a levy for the General Fund set at \$0.608248, a levy for the Bond Fund set at \$0.066611, and a levy for the Special Building Fund set at \$0.081323, for a total levy set at \$0.756182 passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	No
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	No
Courtney Tabor	No

5.4. ABA – Applied Behavior Analysis

Motion Passed: I move to approve second and final reading of policy 504.55-Outside Behavior Consultants (ABA and similar Providers) as presented passed with a motion by Bob Schoby and a second by Courtney Tabor.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes

Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

6. Adjournment

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:29pm passed with a motion by Ginger Fredericksen and a second by Steve Callaghan

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

Angie Conety
Board Secretary

Randall Gilson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Blair Community Schools
 Financial Report to the Board of Education
 Cash-Bank Reconciliation
 September 30, 2025

9/01/2025 through 9/30/25

Book Balance

Beginning Balance		\$10,028,781.63
Total Receipts		\$2,522,276.00
Total Disbursements		-\$2,825,675.16
Reconciled Book Balance-Ending Balance		\$9,725,382.47

Bank Balance

Beginning Balance		\$1,576,180.11
Deposits	\$2,496,852.34	
Interest	\$318.83	
Total Receipts		\$2,497,171.17
Total Disbursements		-\$3,038,808.21
Bank Balance Ending Balance		\$1,034,543.07
Less Outstanding Checks/Wires		-\$83,983.97
Reconciled Bank Balance-Ending Balance		\$950,559.10

Reconciled Balance		\$950,559.10
Total Investments		\$8,774,823.37
Total General Fund Balance		\$9,725,382.47

Leslie Watts

 Leslie Watts, Board of Education Treasurer

10/3/25

 Date

Blair Community Schools
 Financial Report to the Board of Education
 Building Fund
 September 30, 2025

9/01/2025 through 9/30/25

Beginning Balance	\$4,395,528.34
Total Receipts	\$204,047.09
Total Disbursements	-\$25,221.52
Building Fund Balance	<u><u>\$4,574,353.91</u></u>

Bank Balance

Bank Balance Ending Balance	\$350,861.08
Less Outstanding Checks/Wires	\$0.00
Reconciled Bank Balance	<u>\$350,861.08</u>
Total Investments	<u>\$4,223,492.83</u>
Total Building Fund Balance	<u><u>\$4,574,353.91</u></u>

Blair Community Schools
 Financial Report to the Board of Education
 Savings Depreciation
 September 30, 2025

9/01/2025 through 9/30/25

Beginning Balance	\$2,270,577.39
Total Receipts	\$6,043.51
Total Disbursements	-\$44,598.31
Savings Depreciation Fund Balance	<u><u>\$2,232,022.59</u></u>

Bank Balance

Bank Balance Ending Balance	\$2,244,583.64
Less Outstanding Checks/Wires	-\$12,561.05
Total Savings Depreciation Fund Balance	<u><u>\$2,232,022.59</u></u>

ACTIVITY FUND & STUDENT FEE FUND-CHECKS ISSUED IN SEPTEMBER 2025 TO BE RATIFIED 10/13/2025

VENDOR	TOTAL	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION
WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS	\$890.00	DF/W ADV COUNCIL	K-5 ASSEMBLY
VISA	\$28.83	JR NATURALIST CLUB	BOMGAARS
WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS	\$890.00	AP ADVISORY COUNCIL	K-5 ASSEMBLY
LEARNIN THE ROPES	\$950.00	AP ADVISORY COUNCIL	AP JUMP ROPE SHOW
OFFICE DEPOT	\$103.89	AP ADVISORY COUNCIL	TOASTER
VISA	\$13.38	AP ADVISORY COUNCIL	DOLLAR TREE
VISA	\$525.00	AP ADVISORY COUNCIL	DULCE VIDA
BIG GAME FOOTBALL FACTORY	\$1,056.82	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	FOOTBALL SUPPLIES
THE SIGN DEPOT	\$583.60	BOOKS & FINES	STAFF SHIRTS
THE SIGN DEPOT	\$15.51	IN & OUT	STAFF SHIRTS
PATRICK HAYS	\$100.00	8TH GRADE SHOW CHOIR	SHOW CHOIR JUDGE
J W PEPPER & SON INC.	\$92.00	8TH GRADE SHOW CHOIR	SHOW CHOIR MUSIC
THE SIGN DEPOT	\$174.47	DO SOMETHING NOW CLUB	STAFF SHIRTS
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$401.87	OBMS STUDENT SENATE	CONCESSION SUPPLIES
PEPSI CO	\$618.32	OBMS STUDENT SENATE	CONCESSION SUPPLIES
VISA	\$626.29	OBMS STUDENT SENATE	SAMS CLUB-CONCESSIONS
PEPSI CO	\$441.20	OBMS STUDENT SENATE	CONCESSION SUPPLIES
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$24.26	WRESTLING	WRESTLING SUPPLIES
VISA	\$8.00	TRACK-BHS	KTA WEB/MOBILE PYMNT
OMAHA SPORTS COMMISSION	\$250.00	CROSS COUNTRY	XC ENTRY FEE
NICHOLAS CHRISTENSEN	\$70.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
BEN OHARE	\$70.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
ERIC HILTON	\$70.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
JARED SWAN	\$70.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
ARIC NIELSEN	\$70.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
TANNER WESTERHOLT	\$140.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
STEVE ZALKIN	\$140.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
JACOB POLLARD	\$140.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
TYLER MEURET	\$140.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
ZACHARY HUNNEL	\$75.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
THOMAS HINRICHS	\$75.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
JEREMY HOFF	\$75.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
JOSEPH CORTESE	\$75.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
JOSEPH CORTESE	\$75.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
ANTHONY RANDALL	\$75.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
JORDAN STEWARD	\$75.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
BRYCE KERKMAN	\$75.00	FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
FLEET US LLC	\$1,554.81	FOOTBALL	FB FIELD PAINT
BIG GAME FOOTBALL FACTORY	\$1,056.82	FOOTBALL	FOOTBALL SUPPLIES
MATTHEW MORGAN	\$155.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
ROBERT THESTOS	\$155.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
MARK GROTH	\$155.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
GLEN COBLE	\$155.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
MARK GROTH	\$240.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
COREY EGGERT	\$240.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
LANDEN SWIFT	\$240.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
GLEN COBLE	\$240.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
DARWIN ROHDE	\$240.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
DAVID CHRISTENSEN	\$240.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
SHAWN WILLIAMS	\$75.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
JOHN RASMUSSEN	\$75.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
FRED INTORRE	\$80.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
JAMES WICHMAN	\$240.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
FRED INTORRE	\$160.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
DAVID CHRISTENSEN	\$80.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
ELOISE HIEMKE	\$105.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
DAVE CAMERON	\$150.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
RODNEY MARTIN	\$150.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
DAVID CHRISTENSEN	\$150.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
GLEN COBLE	\$155.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
RODNEY MARTIN	\$155.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE
RODNEY MARTIN	\$230.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	UMPIRE

VENDOR	TOTAL	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION
BELLEVUE EAST HIGH SCHOOL	\$200.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	SOFTBALL ENTRY
4 SEASON AWARDS	\$79.25	GIRLS SOFTBALL	SOFTBALL AWARDS
VISA	\$13.74	GIRLS GOLF	WALMART
4 SEASON AWARDS	\$15.00	GIRLS GOLF	GIRLS GOLF AWARD
RIVER WILDS GOLF CLUB	\$816.00	BOYS GOLF	GOLF BALLS
JACKIE WARRICK	\$85.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
MERRI DIBBEN	\$45.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
RON MCCRACKEN	\$45.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
DAVID RADDATZ	\$60.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
RON MCCRACKEN	\$60.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
THARON FRED HEUSTON JR	\$85.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
ANGIE DIEHM	\$110.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
SUSAN BEVERLAND	\$110.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
TAYLOR KLASSEN	\$120.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
ANGIE DIEHM	\$120.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
JACKIE WARRICK	\$180.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
BILL KRIVOHAVEK	\$180.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
BRANDON RAY	\$180.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
CANDYCE MCLEAREN	\$190.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
ELOISE HIEMKE	\$190.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
JASON HARSTICK	\$100.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
RON MCCRACKEN	\$120.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
SUSAN BEVERLAND	\$120.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
ELOISE HIEMKE	\$180.00	VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
NEBR HS SPORTS HALL OF FAME	\$244.00	VOLLEYBALL	JAMBOREE
ROCKBROOK CAMERA & VIDEO	\$779.99	BEAR TRACKS	Canon R100 camera kit with two lenses
ROCKBROOK CAMERA & VIDEO	\$529.99	BEAR TRACKS	Canon R100 camera kit with one lens
ROCKBROOK CAMERA & VIDEO	\$139.99	BEAR TRACKS	CANON EF-R EOS MOUNT ADAPTER
HAUFF SPORTS	\$496.67	BASEBALL	BASEBALL SUPPLIES
4 SEASON AWARDS	\$27.00	BASEBALL	BASEBALL AWARDS
THE SIGN DEPOT	\$77.63	F. F. A.	FFA SUPPLIES
VISA	\$296.66	F. F. A.	COSTCO
VICKI SCHRICK	\$2,427.96	F. B. L. A.	FBLA CONFEREN AIRFARE
CISHIRTS	\$171.00	F. B. L. A.	FBLA OFFICER POLOS
CISHIRTS	\$135.00	F. B. L. A.	OFFICER POLOS
VISA	\$143.16	F. B. L. A.	WALMART
SPARTAN STORES LLC	\$37.95	F. B. L. A.	FBLA FOOD
OMAHA PERFORMING ARTS	\$135.00	MUSICAL	NTA YEARLY DUES
SYD KASPAR	\$1,200.00	DANCE TEAM	DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY
NO LIMITS DANCE AND ACROBATIC	\$250.00	DANCE TEAM	CANCELLATION FEE
COMPLETE	\$945.00	HS STUDENT SENATE	HOCO DJ
BERNARD BRIDGES	\$400.00	HS STUDENT SENATE	HOCO PHOTO BOOTH
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$686.83	HS STUDENT SENATE	HOCO SUPPLIES
WALSWORTH PUBL CO INC	\$8,485.92	TATTLER	YEARBOOKS
VISA	\$292.37	ALL SPORTS	CASEYS
VISA	\$32.99	ALL SPORTS	OMAHA WORLD HERALD
VISA	\$330.00	ALL SPORTS	COMP SPORTS MEDICINE
VISA	\$1,726.40	ALL SPORTS	NE COACHES ASSOC
4 SEASON AWARDS	\$27.00	ALL SPORTS	SPORTS AWARDS
KAILEY O'GRADY	\$250.00	CAMP-SOFTBALL	SB TEAM PHOTOS
MATT ASCHOFF	\$320.91	CAMP-GIRLS BASKETBALL	BBALL COACHING SHOES
HAUFF SPORTS	\$24.00	CAMP-VOLLEYBALL	VB SHIRTS
THE SIGN DEPOT	\$531.40	CAMP-STRENGTH & CONDITIONING	SUMMER WEIGHTS SHIRTS
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$72.21	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 27 SUPPLIES
PEPSI CO	\$670.67	BHS CONCESSIONS	CONCESSION SUPPLIES
PEPSI CO	\$720.68	BHS CONCESSIONS	CONCESSION SUPPLIES
PEPSI CO	\$1,045.05	BHS CONCESSIONS	CONCESSION SUPPLIES
VISA	\$467.74	BHS CONCESSIONS	SAMS CLUB
VISA	\$686.96	BHS CONCESSIONS	SAMS CLUB
PRIMA DISTRIBUTION INC	\$1,319.18	BHS CONCESSIONS	CONCESSION SUPPLIES
MATTHEW KRAUSE	\$60.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
MICHAEL HAGGE	\$60.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
BLAKE HOUGHTALING	\$60.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL

VENDOR	TOTAL	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION
JEREMY HOFF	\$70.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
BRYAN GONZALEZ	\$70.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
JASON HARTVING	\$70.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
MICHAEL HAGGE	\$80.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
JEREMY HOFF	\$80.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
MARK HARMAN	\$80.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
ZACHARY HUNNEL	\$80.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL
KILEY KASTRUP	\$90.00	JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
DAVID RADDATZ	\$90.00	JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
JESSICA SHARP	\$90.00	JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
KILEY KASTRUP	\$90.00	JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
KRISTI RASMUSSEN	\$90.00	JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
KILEY KASTRUP	\$90.00	JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
RON MCCRACKEN	\$100.00	JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL	OFFICIAL
VISA	\$373.80	HOME EC LAB FEES	COSTCO
VISA	\$28.06	HOME EC LAB FEES	WALMART
VISA	\$42.49	HOME EC LAB FEES	WALMART
VISA	\$229.93	HOME EC LAB FEES	WALMART.COM
MATHESON TRI-GAS INC	\$79.17	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	WELDING SUPPLIES
PLATTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL	\$310.00	CROSS COUNTRY	XC ENTRY FEE
MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE	\$120.00	CROSS COUNTRY	ENTRY FEE
HAUFF SPORTS	\$1,245.00	FOOTBALL	FOOTBALL SUPPLIES
PAPILLION-LAVISTA SOUTH HS	\$350.00	GIRLS SOFTBALL	ENTRY FEE
PLATTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL	\$120.00	GIRLS GOLF	ENTRY FEE
LINCOLN NORTHWEST HS	\$160.00	GIRLS GOLF	ENTRY FEE
GRETNA HIGH SCHOOL	\$185.00	GIRLS GOLF	ENTRY FEE
ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$180.00	GIRLS GOLF	ENTRY FEE
HAUFF SPORTS	\$458.23	VOLLEYBALL	VB SUPPLIES
SKUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	\$125.00	VOLLEYBALL	ENTRY FEE
LEWIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	\$150.00	VOLLEYBALL	ENTRY FEE
ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$180.00	VOLLEYBALL	ENTRY FEE
FFA CONV TOUR-NEBR GR.	\$5,600.00	F. F. A.	FFA CONVENTION BUS
FBLA PBLA INC	\$435.00	F. B. L. A.	FBLA MEMBER DUES
FBLA PBLA INC	\$180.00	F. B. L. A.	FBLA MEMBER DUES
NEBR FBLA	\$210.00	F. B. L. A.	FBLA DUES
FBLA PBLA INC	\$750.00	F. B. L. A.	FBLA NFLC REGISTRATIO
CHAMPION TEAMWEAR	\$383.76	DANCE TEAM	METALLIC 4" POMPONS
TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY	\$100.00	TRI-M	ACTIVATION
CASH	\$200.00	HS STUDENT SENATE	HOCO FUNDRAISER START UP CASH
CASH	\$1,176.00	FOOTBALL	FB GATE BOX START UP CASH
KATELYN PERSONS	\$83.31	CLASS OF 2027	REFUND -PARKING SPOT PAINT
MICHAEL HAGGE	\$140.00	JR HIGH FOOTBALL	OFFICIAL

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS - 10/13/2025

VENDOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
ABE'S TRASH SERVICE INC	\$3,856.42	TRASH SERVICES
AJ'S SERVICE AND REPAIR INC	\$4,427.62	BUS & VEHICLE REPAIRS & INSPECTIONS
ALBIRO ENERGY	\$2,596.98	HVAC REPAIRS (DF)
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$3,933.19	CLASSROOM SUPPLIES, TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES, SPED SUPPLIES, SAFETY SUPPLIES
AMI ENVIRONMENTAL INC	\$600.00	ASBESTOS SAFETY HAZARD INSPECTIONS (ALL BUILDINGS)
ARBOR FAMILY COUNSELING	\$13,073.04	QUARTERLY CONTRACTED STUDENT & EMPLOYEE COUNSELING SERVICES (JUL-SEP25 & OCT-DEC25)
ARBOR SCIENTIFIC	\$114.52	SCIENCE CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (BHS)
ASHLEY MCCOY	\$21.70	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE
BALLS OUT MOTORS LLC	\$243.08	MOWER REPAIRS
BIL-DEN GLASS	\$5,819.00	DOOR REPAIRS (DF, AP, OMS, BHS)
BLAIR ACE HARDWARE	\$352.86	MAINTENANCE & CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES
BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	\$570.60	AUGUST 2025 FULL DAY FAMILY STYLE PRESCHOOL MEALS
BLICK ART MATERIALS	\$119.02	ART CLASS SUPPLIES (DF)
BLOOMZ	\$978.00	PRESCHOOL SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL
BOMGAARS	\$714.49	GROUNDS SUPPLIES
BOYS TOWN	\$16,200.00	SPED STUDENTS TUITION (AUG & SEPT25)
BRIDGETTE OLSON	\$30.17	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE
BULK BOOK STORE	\$324.75	LANGUAGE ARTS LITERATURE (OMS)
CAMELOT TRANSPORTATION INC	\$1,885.00	SPED STUDENT CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	\$9,157.78	COPIER SERVICES
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	\$90.39	BUS & VEHICLE PARTS & SUPPLIES
CISSY JENNINGS	\$1,443.68	PARENT MILEAGE
CITY OF BLAIR	\$3,838.03	UTILITY - WATER/SEWER
CITY OF BLAIR	\$10,205.78	SRO (MAY25 & SEPT25)
CONTROL SERVICES INC	\$309.00	HVAC
CPI TELECOM	\$395.00	PHONE REPAIRS
CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES INC	\$201.60	TITLE I READING CURRICULUM (DF)
DAIKIN APPLIED	\$1,266.00	BOILER MAINTENANCE (AP)
DICK'S ELECTRIC	\$1,944.88	ELECTRICAL REPAIRS (DF, OMS, BHS)
DIETZE MUSIC HOUSE	\$49.50	OMS BAND MUSIC
DISCOUNT SCHOOL SUPPLY	\$269.61	PRESCHOOL SUPPLIES
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	\$117.13	FAX SVCS - OCT25
ECHO GROUP INC.	\$460.39	ELECTRICAL REPAIR SUPPLIES
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #2	\$14,240.85	SPED STUDENT TUITION
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #3	\$204.00	K-5 HAL - SCIENCE OLYMPICS REGISTRATION
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #5	\$3,100.00	NETWORK SERVICES- SNDLC MEMBERSHIP 25/26
FAIRWAY OIL CO	\$8,914.79	BUS & VEHICLE FUEL (SEP25)
FASTWYRE BROADBAND CABLE	\$2,242.82	TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICES
FIREGUARD LLC	\$2,109.10	FIRE ALARM SERVICING (AP,BHS)
FIRST WIRELESS INC	\$66.99	WALKIE TALKIE BATTERY
FLINN SCIENTIFIC INC	\$1,569.56	SCIENCE CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (BHS)
GRAINGER	\$102.19	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES (BHS)
GRUNWALD MECHANICAL	\$8,987.01	PLUMBING REPAIRS (DF,AP,OMS) & BOILER REPAIRS (N)
HEARTLAND FOUNDATION	\$4,935.00	SPED STUDENT TUITION (SEPT25)
HEARTLAND TIRES & TREADS INC	\$440.55	CUBE VAN REPAIRS
HIRCHERT-OLSEN AUTO	\$85.00	VAN 7 TOWING
HIRERIGHT SOLUTIONS INC	\$301.15	BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR TRANSPORTATION
HOMETOWN REPAIR SERVICES LLC	\$844.70	ICE MACHINE REPAIRS
IDEAL PURE WATER	\$714.99	PURIFIED WATER SUPPLIES
INSPIRA FINANCIAL	\$687.05	PAYFLEX FLEX PLAN FEE- SEPT25
JOHNSON FITNESS & WELLNESS	\$5,634.81	PE CLASS SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT (BHS)
KEYMASTERS LOCKSMITH	\$120.00	BUILDING KEY SUPPLIES
KYLIE CHUDOMELKA	\$1,209.04	PARENT MILEAGE
LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS	\$1,671.57	PRESCHOOL & K-5 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES & MATERIALS
LARRY'S BOILER SERVICE	\$945.16	BOILER REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE (AP)
LESLY WARD	\$435.54	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE
LIFETRACK SERVICES INC	\$2,790.00	GRADUATE SURVEYS
MCKINNIS ROOFING INC	\$5,594.21	ROOF REPAIRS (DF, AP, BHS, BUS BARN)
MECHANICAL SYSTEMS INC	\$3,072.62	HVAC REPAIRS (DF, AP, N, BHS)
MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	\$1,211.00	BUS DRIVER PHYSICALS
NACIA	\$250.00	ADMINISTRATOR RETREAT CONFERENCE
NANNEN PHYSICAL THERAPY	\$20,888.56	CONTRACTED OCCUPATIONAL & PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

NASB	\$664.00	NAEP MEMBERSHIPS, BOARD MEMBER AREA MEETING
NCSA	\$680.00	NASES MEMBERSHIP, LABOR RELATIONS CONFERENCE
NEBRASKA SCIENTIFIC	\$1,476.10	SCIENCE CLASS SUPPLIES (BHS)
OFFICE DEPOT	\$2,689.86	DISTRICT COPY PAPER SUPPLY, PRESCHOOL SUPPLIES, CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (AP, OMS)
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	\$37,355.25	UTILITY - ELECTRICITY
ONESOURCE THE BACKGROUND CK CO	\$474.55	BACKGROUND CHECKS
OVERDRIVE INC	\$1,000.00	BHS EBOOK SUBSCRIPTION - LIBRARY
PERRY GUTHERY HAASE GESSFORD	\$1,436.40	LEGAL SERVICES
PEST SOLUTIONS 365	\$600.00	PEST CONTROL MAINTENANCE (N,BHS,DF,S,AP,BUS BARN)
POWERSCHOOL GROUP	\$12,887.62	HUMAN RESOURCE/EMPLOYMENT SOFTWARE- BUSINESS OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL FORMS INC	\$181.36	ADMINISTRATOR BUSINESS CARDS (DF, OMS)
RALSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$481.24	SPED HEARING IMPAIRED SERVICES
REALLY GOOD STUFF LLC	\$104.97	DF CURSIVE WRITING SUPPLIES
ROCHESTER MIDLAND CORPORATION	\$3,677.45	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES- ASSET GUARD (OMS)
ROTARY CLUB OF BLAIR	\$300.00	SUPERINTENDENT MEMBERSHIP DUES
S E SMITH & SONS	\$4.29	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES (S)
SCHMIDT SPEECH LANG PATHOLOGY LLC	\$4,055.60	SPED SPEECH THERAPY CONTRACTED SERVICES (OMS, BHS)
SCI SUPPLY	\$104.65	SCIENCE CLASS SUPPLIES (BHS)
SELENA HANSEN	\$92.00	CONTRACTED INTERPRETER
SHOTWELL GLASS	\$332.02	VAN WINDSHIELD REPAIR
SMITTY'S AUTO SERVICE	\$3,137.24	AUTO SCRUBBER BATTERY & SUBURBAN REPAIR SUPPLIES
SOCIAL THINKING	\$107.07	SPED SUPPLIES (DF)
SPARTAN STORES LLC	\$349.84	SPED SUPPLIES & OMS FCS SUPPLIES
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	\$425.56	PRINT CENTER SUPPLIES
STEPHANIE CARLSON	\$34.72	PARENT MILEAGE
STERICYCLE INC	\$215.21	SHREDDING SERVICES
STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS	\$20,236.00	CONTRACTED CUSTODIAL SERVICES (AP, BHS)
TAHER INC	\$8,913.08	PRESCHOOL SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM & SNACKS, MEETINGS, & BACK TO SCHOOL STAFF LUNCHEON
TAMMY HOLCOMB	\$102.20	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE
TEACHING STRATEGIES LLC	\$1,992.50	PRESCHOOL TRAINING
THE HOME DEPOT PRO	\$9,819.53	CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES
THE MASTER TEACHER INC	\$117.95	STAFF APPRECIATION- CUSTODIAN RETIREMENT
THE OMNI GROUP	\$15.00	403B FEE - SEPT25
THE SIGN DEPOT	\$2,097.30	GRANT & DONATION FUNDED STAFF SHIRTS
THERMO KING CHRISTENSEN	\$335.98	DIESEL EXHAUST FLUID FOR BUS & VEHICLES
UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS LLC	\$839.11	NETWORK SVCS - OCT25
US CELLULAR	\$218.95	MIFIS
VERIZON	\$80.08	ATHLETIC IPAD WIFI SERVICES
VEX ROBOTICS	\$429.80	ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY CLASS & SCIENCE CLASS SUPPLIES (BHS)
WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC	\$1,911.86	UTILITY - GAS
Summary	\$298,953.81	

GENERAL FUND-CHECKS ISSUED TO BE RATIFIED 10/13/2025

VENDOR	TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
VISA	\$17,111.96	SUMMER ORDER CLASSROOM SUPPLIES MATERIALS & CURRICULUM, TRAVEL, MEMBERSHIP & OTHER DUES, TRAINING & INSERVICE, OFFICE SUPPLIES, MEETINGS, TECHNOLOGY NEEDS & WEBSITE LICENSES, STAFF SHIRTS, BOARD RETREAT
Summary	\$17,111.96	

GENERAL FUND-SEPTEMBER 2025 PAYROLL & BENEFITS TO BE RATIFIED 10/13/2025

GROSS PAYROLL	\$1,366,536.66	GROSS SALARY & WAGES
NET PAYROLL - DIRECT DEPOSITS	\$963,821.86	NET PAY CHECKS- DIRECT DEPOSIT TOTALS
NET PAYROLL - MANUAL CHECKS	\$3,583.35	NET PAY CHECKS - MANUAL CHECK TOTALS
NEBRASKA REVENUE NEB EPAY.	\$49,689.37	NE STATE W/H
OMNI FINANCIAL1 CORP COLL	\$6,508.66	P/R DEDUCTION - 403(B) INVESTMENTS
OUTGOING WIRE TO US TREASURY	\$325,703.69	FEDERAL W/H, FICA W/H & FICA TAXES
RETIREMENT	\$210,036.52	RETIREMENT DEDUCTION & BENEFIT
VISION SERVICE PLAN INSURANCE CO	\$1,720.76	P/R DEDUCTION - VISION INSURANCE
NATIONAL INSURANCE SERVICES OF WI	\$5,548.73	EMPLOYEE LTD & LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS
SECTION 125	\$6,911.94	P/R DEDUCTION - FLEX PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	\$300,271.76	EMPLOYEE HEALTH & DENTAL INSURANCE
CREDIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES	\$259.77	P/R DEDUCTION - GARNISHMENT
NE DEPT OF REVENUE	\$150.00	P/R DEDUCTION - GARNISHMENT
NORTHERN RESTORATION	\$282.89	P/R DEDUCTION - GARNISHMENT
ERIN MCCARTNEY	\$185.00	P/R DEDUCTION - GARNISHMENT

SAVINGS/DEPRECIATION FUND-CHECKS ISSUED TO BE RATIFIED 10/13/2025

VENDOR	TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
VISA	\$434.93	TEACHERS PAY TEACHERS- SCIENCE CURRICULUM CYCLE SUPPLIES
Summary	\$434.93	

LUNCH FUND CLAIMS 10/13/2025

VENDOR	TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
JILL TOMPKINS	\$10.40	LUNCH ACCOUNT REFUND
S&S PUMPING SERVICE	\$200.00	PUMP GREASE TRAP (BHS)
HOME TOWN REPAIR SERVICES	\$195.00	COOLER REPAIR (AP)
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$79.92	WRIST BANDS FOR FOOD SERVICE TO SCAN
Summary	\$485.32	

BUILDING FUND CLAIMS 10/13/2025

VENDOR	TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
ALBIREO ENERGY	\$3,276.94	REPLACE HP CONTROLS (DF)
MECHANICAL SYSTEMS	\$10,535.00	NEW HEAT PUMP (DF)
Summary	\$13,811.94	

SAVINGS/DEPRECIATION FUND CLAIMS 10/13/2025

VENDOR	TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
THE HOME DEPOT	\$5,910.00	NEW FLOOR SCRUBBER (DF)
95 PERCENT GROUP	\$10,400.00	NEW READING CURRICULUM (DF/AP)
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$3,039.72	STEM CLASS 3D PRINTERS (BHS)
STERLING COMPUTER CORPORATION	\$49,041.51	FORTISWITCH INSTALLATION (DF, AP, OMS, BHS)
KIDWELL	\$29,194.00	REPLACE INTERNET CABLING (ADMIN, SOUTH, AP, BHS)
Summary	\$97,585.23	

Americanism Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2025

Call to Order at 12:00pm

Central Office

Committee Members Present: Denise Cada (Chair), Ginger Fredericksen (Zoom) and Melaini Sturm

Others Present: Dr. Randall Gilson, Shane Keeling, and Angie Conety

1. Discussion

The Americanism Committee convened to meet the requirements of the American Civics Education Bill (LB 399), which was signed by the Governor on March 27, 2019. The Committee reviewed the district's social studies curriculum to ensure alignment with state standards and to verify that it provides foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography. After examination, no changes to the current social studies curriculum were recommended by the administration.

This portion of the meeting will serve as the first of two (2) yearly required Americanism Committee meetings and the minutes will reflect so.

Policy/Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2025

Immediately Followed the Americanism Committee Meeting

Central Office

1. Old Business

A. ABA – Applied Behavior Analysis

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a therapeutic approach on how individuals learn, primarily with autism or developmental disabilities in acquiring new skills and modifying challenging behaviors. While some school districts permit outside ABA providers under specific agreements related to background checks and confidentiality, others impose restrictions due to concerns about supervision, student privacy under FERPA, and staffing contracts. Currently, Blair Community Schools does not allow parent-contracted ABA providers in classrooms as it can cause distractions and protocol conflicts. Following a recent request for services, the committee has decided that since we do not have a board policy addressing this issue, Dr. Gilson should establish a formal policy to align with our current practice. At the September 8th Board meeting, the first reading of new policy 504.55-Outside Behavioral Consultants (ABA and Similar Providers) was approved. The committee plans to present this policy for a second and final reading at the September 22nd Special Board meeting for approval.

2. New Business

B. Open Enrollment 2026-27

Dr. Gilson reviewed our current enrollment, policy 500.4-Full-Time & Part-Time enrollment (Option Enrollment), and a draft Option Enrollment Resolution. Per provisions of policy 502.02-Non-Residents, the Board must set student capacities in relation to allowing a maximum number of option students for the next school year in any program, class, grade level, or school building. Special Education capacity will be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with state law and the available resources as determined by the District's Director of Special Education or

Superintendent.

Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, all school districts are required to track and report the reason any Enrollment Option application was denied. The Department of Education will collect the above information at the end of each school year and compile a final report to be submitted to the Legislature by September 1st each year. School districts are now required to establish, publish and report the maximum capacity for a program, class, grade level, or school building by October 15th for the next school year.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting to approve the resolution for the Option Enrollment capacities for the 2025-26 school year as presented.

C. Policy 706.01-Purchasing Procedures & Policy 402.08-Employee Travel Compensation

The committee reviewed policy 706.01-Purchasing Procedures and Policy 402.08-Employee Travel Compensation. On August 25th, at a Special Board meeting, the Finance Committee recommended that the Board of Education conduct an audit of all school finances, which the board approved. During the audit period, policies related to travel for staff and students, and purchasing procedures will be evaluated. The review of these two policies will continue, with possible revisions to be presented to the full board for approval at a later date.

D. 1100-Use of District Facilities and Equipment

During the first Principals meeting of the 2025-26 school year, Dr. Gilson discussed the importance of the Community Use of Facilities policies and procedures, emphasizing the requirements for submitting a Request for Use of Facilities, providing a Certificate of Insurance in the amount of at least one million dollars of General Liability and Excess Liability naming Blair Community Schools as an additional insured, and a signed contract completed before any facility usage occurs.

E. Use of Facilities Request – Blair Youth Football

Dr. Gilson informed the Blair Youth Football Club has been using Krantz Field on Sundays. According to Board policy 1002-Community Use of School Facilities – Procedures, no facilities shall be utilized on Sunday for non-school sponsored activities without prior approval from the Board of Education at a regular scheduled monthly meeting prior to the date requested. Mr. Lance Sorensen, program leader for Blair Youth Football, attending the meeting to express the need to continue their use at Krantz Field and assured the committee that he would complete all the necessary requirements.

An emergency meeting has been scheduled for September 17th at 5:30pm to address this, contingent upon receiving all necessary information, including a signed contract, certificate of insurance and payment.

F. Supplemental Curriculum Request – Mrs. Bray, Child Development

Dr. Gilson received a request from Ms. Holcomb and Mrs. Bray to include Nebraska’s Safe Haven Law in the Child Development 1 curriculum for grades 10-12. The committee supports this addition but wants to ensure parents are notified of the topic’s inclusion, allowing them the option to exclude their student from that portion of the curriculum if they choose.

G. Curriculum – Frax

Mrs. Field received information about the launch of Frax 3, a program specifically designed for upper 4th and 5th grade students by ExploreLearning. The district currently uses ExploreLearning products in the following way:

1. Reflex – Supporting math fluency at the early elementary grades. It builds fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts through engaging, game-based activities that adapt to each student’s progress.
2. Frax 1 & 2 – Supporting fractions learning in the middle elementary grades. It provides a strong foundation in fractions through interactive learning missions that help students move from basic understanding to advanced application.

With the release of Frax 3, the program now extends fraction instruction to grade 5, completing the K-5 coverage of these supports. Adding Frax 3 would provide equity across all grade levels, ensuring students in every grade have access to targeted math support resources. Because our current bundle includes access for all teachers, the cost to add Frax 3 would be \$927.64 to our current subscription. The committee plans to discuss this addition further at their meeting next month.

H. Arbor Family Counseling Contract

Dr. Gilson presented the contract between Arbor Family Counseling and the district, which provides employees/families with five counseling sessions each year at \$2.20/per employee/per month, along with two sessions for students/families at \$.74 per student/per month. Additionally, supplemental counseling is charged at a rate of \$200/hour, with the program intended to offer three hours of service each week for the district since 2018. Arbor Family Counseling will invoice the district quarterly, based on the current counts of employees and students. The committee recommends approving the contract for the 2025-26 school year, maintain a cap of three hours per week for additional supplemental counseling.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting to approve the contract with Arbor Family Counseling for the 2025-26 school year, which provides employees/families with five counseling sessions each year at \$2.20/per employee/per month, along with two sessions for students/families at \$.74 per student/per month and to maintain a cap of three hours per week for additional supplemental counseling at a rate of \$200/hour.

I. Teacher Manuals to Support Phonics Instruction

The K-5 Reading Team has identified a need for additional materials to better support instruction and students. Specifically, the team is requesting two more sets of Phonics for Reading Manuals (Levels A, B, and C), as teachers and paraprofessionals often face challenges sharing the current manuals at the same time. The estimated cost for this purchase is approximately \$1,620, which the committee supports.

J. Social Media Policies

The committee reviewed policy 403.10 on Employee Use of Social Media and its guidelines. They shared the need to maintain professional behavior in both social media and electronic communications. Annually, staff are reminded of the importance of maintaining conduct that does not disrupt the education process and adheres to establish professional practices. The yearly review addresses issues such as inappropriate interaction with students through various online platforms and outlined the potential consequences of failing to uphold professional standards, which could include dismissal. Employees are encouraged to be responsible, as their online actions, whether at work or home, reflect on the district.

K. Reading is Fundamental – Dollar General Grant

Dr. Gilson shared information on the Dollar General Reading of Fundamental grant, which will provide three books to each K-5 student to take home. The committee supports moving forward with the grant, which will be formally accepted at the October 13th Board meeting.

L. West School – Right of First Refusal

In October 2019, Blair Community Schools sold West School with a Right of First Refusal Agreement in place. The current owner is now selling the property, but the school district is not interested in repurchase it at this time. A new Right of First Refusal has been established with the new buyer, ensuring that in the future, the school district will be given the first opportunity to buy it.

M. Homecoming Information

Dr. Gilson provided details about the homecoming parade route and Pep Rally schedule being held on Friday, September 19th.

N. Safety Meeting Agenda

Dr. Gilson provided the agenda for the District Safety Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 12:00pm.

O. Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting

Monday, October 20, 2025 at 12:00pm.

3. Adjournment

P. Adjournment:

The committee adjourned at 2:10pm.

Policy/Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 6, 2025
Call to Order at 12:00pm
Central Office

Committee Members Present: Denise Cada (Chair) and Melaini Sturm

Committee Member Absent: Ginger Fredericksen

Others Present: Dr. Randall Gilson, Courtney Tabor, and Angie Conety

1. Old Business

2. New Business

A. Job Descriptions

A review of district job descriptions revealed the need to refine them for the next school year, as some have not been updated in over 10 years. Discussed administrative responsibilities.

B. Review of Board Policies

Overview of discussion:

- Focused on district policy updates, centering on purchasing, facility use, and professional development.
- Discussed facility rental fees, prioritization, and community use policies.
- Reviewed credit card and purchasing procedures for compliance and accountability.
- Debated professional development costs, staff leave, and membership funding.

304.03- Handbooks and Directives – This policy indicates that handbooks will take precedence in the absence of Board Policy. Handbooks are reviewed and approved by the Board, typically in June or July. (Reviewed)

301.03-Succession of Authority to the Superintendent - This policy indicates in the case of a temporary absence of the superintendent, the Director of Buildings and Grounds will be appointed as the superintendent's designee. (Revised)

205.04-Policy Communication - The Board policy manual is a public record, accessible online and in the superintendent's office. A disclaimer has been added with a link to the online policies. (Revised)

300.01-Principles and Objectives of Administration - It shall be the responsibility of the administrators to implement and enforce the policies of the board, to oversee employees, to monitor educational issues confronting the school district, and to inform the board about school district operations. (Revised)

1101-Community Use of School Facilities and

1102-Community Use of School Facilities - Procedures – The committee discussed the priority system and fees associated with these policies. Currently there is a four-tiered priority system to outline fees. 1) School -Sponsored (free, highest priority), 2) community benefit (case-by-case, often free), 3) non-profit youth organizations (low fee), 4) for-profit groups (lowest priority, standard fee). The committee has agreed that revisions to these policies are necessary and will

continue discussions over the coming months. (Reviewed)

The Board is currently conducting an internal audit and is recommending revisions to current purchasing procedure policies for compliance and accountability, as well as proposing new policies. The committee will continue discussions on these changes and plans to present them for a first reading at the Board meeting on Monday for approval. The following policies are included in this recommendation:

706.01-Purchasing Procedures (revised)

706.01R-Administrative Regulation (new)

706.01E1-Cardholder Agreement (new)

409.1-Professional Memberships, Conferences, and Substitute Coverages (new)

409.15-Teachers Serving as State Officers in Professional Organizations (new)

627.50-National Student Organization Trips (new)

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting **to approve on first reading revisions to policies 301.03-Succession of Authority to the Superintendent, 205.04-Policy Communication, 300.01-Principles and Objectives of Administration, 706.01-Purchasing Procedures, and first reading on new policies 706.01R-Administrative Regulation, and 706.01E1-Cardholder Agreement, 409.1-Professional Memberships, Conferences, and Substitute Coverages, 409.15-Teachers Serving as State Officers in Professional Organizations, and 627.50-National Student Organization Trips.**

C. Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting

Monday, October 13, 2025 at 12:00pm.

3. Adjournment

D. Adjournment:

The committee adjourned at 2:02pm.

Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Call to Order at 12:00pm

Central Office

Committee Members Present: Steve Callaghan (Chair), and Nate Larsen

Committee Member Absent: Denise Cada

Also Present: Dr. Randall Gilson, Jeffrey Steinbeck, Courtney Tabor, Kari Loseke, and Angie Conety

1. Old Business

A. Snow Removal Equipment

Last month, Mr. Steinbeck informed the district needs to upgrade its snow removal equipment that is used for sidewalks and playgrounds, as the current John Deere machines are deteriorating. He recommended the purchase of a Ventra machine, priced at \$64,066.90. However, the committee felt further discussion was necessary before presenting this recommendation to the board for approval.

During ongoing discussions, the committee requested Mr. Steinbeck to prepare a comparison between the Ventra machine and a skid loader. The thought is whether a skid loader could be more versatile addition to our outdoor equipment, providing additional benefits compared to the Ventra machine.

2. New Business

B. Director of Operations Monthly Report – September 2025

Mr. Steinbeck shared a Director of Operations report. The report is attached to the agenda for viewing.

C. High School Lighting

Mr. Steinbeck is meeting with Heartland Scenic Lighting to discuss replacing the auditorium lights, which is part of the storm damage that took place around the district. The current lighting is very old and likely needs replacement, with a preliminary estimate for new lighting ranging from \$300,000 - \$400,000. Detailed quotes could take up to 1-2 weeks, and he will update the committee at next month's meeting.

D. 1100-Use of District Facilities and Equipment

During the first Principals meeting of the 2025-26 school year, Dr. Gilson discussed the importance of the Community Use of Facilities policies and procedures, emphasizing the requirements for submitting a Request for Use of Facilities, providing a Certificate of Insurance in the amount of at least one million dollars of General Liability and Excess Liability naming Blair Community Schools as an additional insured, and a signed contract completed before any facility usage occurs.

E. Use of Facilities Request – Blair Youth Football

Dr. Gilson informed the Blair Youth Football Club has been using Krantz Field on Sundays. According to Board policy 1002-Community Use of School Facilities – Procedures, no facilities shall be utilized on Sunday for non-school sponsored activities without prior approval from the Board of Education at a regular scheduled monthly meeting prior to the date requested.

An emergency meeting has been scheduled for September 17th at 5:30pm to address this, contingent upon receiving all necessary information, including a signed contract, certificate of insurance and payment.

F. West School – Right of First Refusal

In October 2019, Blair Community Schools sold West School with a Right of First Refusal Agreement in place. The current owner is now selling the property, but the school district is not interested in repurchasing it at this time. A new Right of First Refusal has been established with the new buyer, ensuring that in the future, the school district will be given the first opportunity to buy it.

G. Automatic Doors at Deerfield Elementary

The automatic doors at Deerfield Elementary are malfunctioning at both the main entrance and the bus drop-off entrance. The automatic door openers are the original to the building and would function when you hit the handicap button on the wall. The control board is broken and can no longer be replaced. Mr. Steinbeck received a quote from Bil-Den Glass in the amount of \$6,746.00, and the committee supports this purchase.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting **to accept the bid from Bid-Den Glass in the amount of \$6,746 for two automatic door operators at Deerfield Elementary.**

H. Bus Barn Internet

The internet connection at the bus barn has not been working well. It currently is relying on a signal beamed from a pole above the high school to the north side of the bus barn and from there it is beamed to the BCAT Building. Mr. Macholan has been troubleshooting the connection daily and he is proposing running a line from the panel at Otte Middle School (OMS) to the bus barn for a more stable internet connection. He also mentioned that the existing line to Krantz Field is not great due to increased demand from recent system upgrades at the stadium. Mr. Macholan believes it would be easiest to install the new lines underground from OMS to both locations. Mr. Steinbeck will begin obtaining estimates for trenching or boring the line, and will follow up with the committee as we start to get a better idea of the cost to do this.

I. Next Scheduled BG&T Committee Meeting

Monday, October 27, 2025 at 12:00pm.

3. Adjournment

J. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Call to Order at 12:00pm

Central Office

Committee Members Present: Courtney Tabor (Chair), Kari Loseke, and Bob Schoby

Also Present: Dr. Randall Gilson, Tom Shearer, Scott Macholan, and Angie Conety

1. Old Business

A. Extended Contract Day Request – Agriculture Education

A request was made to extend contract days for the new middle school/high school agriculture teacher to support the summer FFA and agriculture program, including travel to events outside the normal school year. The high school agriculture teacher currently has 10 extended contract days. While the committee supports the request, they seek additional information regarding the number of students in both the middle and high school programs and the planned activities for summer days before recommending approval.

B. Interlocal Agreements 2025-26

Mr. Shearer shared the following interlocal agreements for Board Action:

1. ESU#3 – Contracted Physical Therapist. ESU#3 currently contracts the district's physical therapist (PT) to service Brook Valley School in Omaha, NE. This interlocal agreement is for the 2025-26 school year, covering no more than 23 days. ESU#3 will compensate the district \$600 each day Brooke Valley uses the PT.
2. ESU#2 – SPED Behavior Program for Student(s). The district sends one student to the program at a cost of \$42,804 for the 2025-26 school year.
3. Mr. Shearer reintroduced the interlocal agreement with ESU#3 for the following:
 - a. Speech Language Pathologist 1.25 FTE (Birth – 5)
 - b. Vision and Mobility Instruction .75 FTE
 - c. Early Childhood SPED Coordinator .20 FTE (South Early Childhood Center)
 - d. Brook Valley Behavior Disorders 1.00 FTE

The Board did not approve these contracted services the prior month due to lack of insufficient rate information. Mr. Shearer shared the rates for the 2025-26 school year will be finalized and disclosed by October 15, 2025. Schools were required to sign a contract by June 6 to specify their needed services for the upcoming school year, and ESU#3 relies on this information to hire staff for the districts. Consequently, the contract costs for schools remain unknown until the rates are released on October 15th.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting **to enter into Interlocal Agreements with ESU#3 to share the District's contracted Physical Therapist services to provide to Brook Valley School and ESU#2 for a SPED Behavior Program for Student(s) in the amount of \$42,804 for the 2025-26 school year as presented.**

C. Board Audit of Finance

The Board is conducting an Audit of Finance. Recommended revisions to current purchasing procedure policies for compliance and accountability, as well as proposing new policies, will be presented by the Policy Committee at Monday's Board meeting for approval of a first reading.

Additionally, the Finance Committee is recommending to enter into an agreement with Carl Dietz Consulting, LLC for consulting services related to the Board Audit of Finance. The agreement is proposed for a one-year period, runs from October 15, 2025 to October 15, 2026, at a cost of \$15,000.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting **to enter into a consulting services agreement for a period of one-year with Carl Dietz Consulting, LLC in the amount of \$15,000.**

D. Budget 2025-26

Mr. Shearer provided an update on the 2025-26 budget and submitted the necessary documents to the Washington County Nebraska State Auditor and Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) on September 25, 2025. He also published a Summary of Changes in the Blair Enterprise due to differences between the adopted budget and the one presented during the Public Hearing and submitted the Affidavit for Notice of Budget Change to the County Clerk, State Auditor, and NDE on October 7, 2025. Mr. Shearer needs to confirm levies with the County Clerk by October 15, 2025.

E. Pending Sale of West School

In October 2019, Blair Community Schools sold West School with a Right of First Refusal Agreement in place. The current owner is now selling the property, but the school district is not interested in repurchasing it at this time. A new Right of First Refusal has been established with the new buyer, ensuring that in the future, the school district will be given the first opportunity to buy it.

2. New Business

F. District Printing: Papercut

Mr. Scott Macholan recommended transitioning all district printers to Papercut, a print management software that allows staff to print from district printers by swiping their key fob. Currently, only small HP printers use the free version of Papercut, while the multifunction printers (MFPs) are on the free version of Uniflow, which is being phased out. To integrate MFP's into Papercut, a yearly fee of \$4,620 for five years will be required. Mr. Macholan favors Papercut for its easy functionality and universal application. At this time, he cannot add external staff from ESU#3 and Metro, with MFP printing due to Uniflow's restrictions. He prefers not to supply devices for those who are only present a few days each week. Additionally, since ESU#3 uses Papercut, they can provide support if necessary.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting **to enter into a five-year agreement with Papercut for an annual fee of \$4,620, a five-year total of \$23,100.**

G. Deerfield Elementary Steamer

In August, Mr. Steinbeck informed the BG&T Committee that the steamer at Deerfield Elementary is needing a new boiler for approximately \$5,000. The existing steamer is about 15 years old and even with a new boiler likely needs replaced. After consulting with Hometown repairs, it was recommended to purchase a new steamer instead of investing in the old one. Rebecca Stambaugh, the Food Service Director, obtained quotes from Webstaurant, KaTom and Cleveland Range, ranging from \$27,190 to \$29,982 but was unsure of shipping costs. The committee recommends approving this request for a new steamer.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting **to approve the purchase of a new steamer for Deerfield Elementary, with a total not exceeding \$30,000, to be funded from the Lunch Fund.**

H. Snow Removal Equipment

The last couple of months, Mr. Steinbeck held discussion with the BG&T committee about the need to upgrade the district's deteriorating snow removal equipment for sidewalks and playgrounds. He shared the recommendation to purchase a Ventrac machine priced at \$64,066.90. The committee requested a comparison between the Ventrac machine and a skid loader to evaluate potential versatility and benefits prior to presenting it to the Board for approval. After discussions with the district grounds employees, they ultimately concluded that the Ventrac machine would be the most beneficial option for the district.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting **to approve the purchase of a Ventrac machine for \$64,066.90, which will be funded from the Savings Depreciation account.**

I. Monthly Financials – September 2025

Mr. Shearer provided a financial recap of the monthly financials.

- General Fund, Tax Collections Analysis, Cash Flow Forecasts, Activity Fund, and Lunch Fund.

J. NDE Audit review Finding

The district is currently undergoing a Fiscal Monitoring Review mandated by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to ensure compliance with Federal regulations. This review covers all discretionary and non-discretionary grants for the 2023-24 school year, along with past years for ARP, ESSER II, and ESSER III. Mr. Shearer provided the necessary information and is finalizing the review process. However, some Board policies require updates to meet compliance standards set by NDE. NDE has mandated that these policies must be adopted and resubmitted to them no later than Friday, October 31, 2025. Failure to meet this deadline may result in further actions or correspondence from NDE.

Dr. Gilson introduced policy 313.20-Internal Controls, written by Perry Guthery Law Firm, which if adopted, would ensure the districts compliance with the NDE Audit. Given the urgency of this matter, the committee is recommending the policy for the first and final reading to expedite its adoption and maintain compliance.

A motion may be brought at the October 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting **to approve the first and final reading of policy 313.20-Internal Controls as presented.**

K. Labor Negotiations – 2026-27 and Possibly 2027-28

Collective bargaining negotiations between the Board of Education and the BEA for the 2026-27 and potentially the 2027-28 school years will begin on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 7:00pm.

L. Full-Time Preschool Teacher Request

Mrs. Anne Chrans, the new Preschool Teacher Lead, has requested the hiring of one full-time preschool teacher to replace her as she transitions into her leadership role. To maintain consistency for the students, she will remain with her class for the morning and will need coverage from 10:30am to 3:30pm. A paraprofessional in her classroom, who holds a substitute certificate, has agreed to serve as a half-day substitute until a permanent hire is made.

Dr. Gilson informed there is a lot Mrs. Chrans will be overseeing while leading the preschool program. Having the paraprofessional available in the afternoons will allow her to focus on the program's direction. If the board were to approve this, advertising for a candidate could begin immediately. After some discussion, the committee prefers to wait on this for this year and will revisit it at a later time, While, however, the committee supports the paraprofessional's half-day substitute coverage for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.

M. Athletic Aide Position

Review of the Athletic Aide position that was approved in September 2023 was held. The position was approved for the purpose of providing additional activity event supervision for lower-level events to help alleviate some responsibilities for administrators. The role was designed for select teachers who possess an administrative degree. The committee agreed to continue this position with the same incentive.

N. Next Scheduled Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 12:00pm.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06pm.

September-25

Blair Community Schools Budget Comparison Receipts

Description	Code	2025-2026				2024-2025			
		Mon Rec	YTD Rec	Budget	%	Mon Rec	YTD Rec	Budget	%
Local Receipts									
Local Property Taxes	11100	\$1,904,815	\$1,904,815	\$11,424,788	16.7%	\$4,699,517	\$4,699,517	\$15,926,345	29.5%
Property Tax Interest & Penalties	11140	\$840	\$840	\$38,000	2.2%	\$1,326	\$1,326	\$32,000	4.1%
Carline Tax	11115	\$650	\$650	\$5,200	12.5%	\$526	\$526	\$5,600	9.4%
OPPD In Lieu	11120	\$0	\$0	\$260,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$225,000	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Tax	11125	\$171,196	\$171,196	\$1,900,000	9.0%	\$165,020	\$165,020	\$1,775,000	9.3%
Tuition ESU#3 (PT Contract)	11315	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Tuition Other Districts (SPED)	11323	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Tuition for Summer School	11312	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Tuition for Preschool	11370	\$13,576	\$13,576	\$60,000	22.6%	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$50,900	14.7%
Transportation School Districts	11423	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Transportation Private Sources	11440	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Interest	11510	\$25,524	\$25,524	\$245,000	10.4%	\$18,823	\$18,823	\$80,000	23.5%
Local License Fee	11911	\$0	\$0	\$6,800	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$6,500	0.0%
Police Court Fines	11921	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	0.0%	\$50	\$50	\$900	5.6%
Community Service Fees	11800	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	0.0%
Rentals - Facilities and Equip	11910	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,300	95.2%	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	0.0%
Contributions/Donations	11920	\$808	\$808	\$4,000	20.2%	\$40	\$40	\$3,000	1.3%
Grant - Corporate/Private Interest	11925	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$2,000	90.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Misc Revenue-Other School Districts	11951	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Misc Revenue-Local Government	11960	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Other Local Receipts	11990	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Total		\$2,125,208	\$2,125,208	\$13,953,588	15.2%	\$4,892,803	\$4,892,803	\$18,112,245	27.0%
Intermediate Source									
County Fines & Licenses	12110	\$0	\$0	\$160,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$110,000	0.0%
ESU #3 Receipts	12210	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Total		\$0	\$0	\$160,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$110,000	0.0%
State Source									
State Aid	13110	\$372,164	\$372,164	\$3,721,641	10.0%	\$359,127	\$359,127	\$3,591,273	10.0%
Special Education	13120	\$0	\$0	\$2,728,431	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$2,670,000	0.0%
SPED Sch Age Transportation	13125	\$0	\$0	\$110,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$116,000	0.0%
Homestead Exemption	13130	\$0	\$0	\$468,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	0.0%
Payments for Hi Ability	13535	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	0.0%
Flex Funding: Before Age 5	13165	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Flex Funding: School Age	13166	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicles	13180	\$0	\$0	\$37,700	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$42,000	0.0%
State Apportionment	13400	\$0	\$0	\$639,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	0.0%
Property Tax Credit	13131	\$0	\$0	\$6,150,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$1,100,000	0.0%
Personal Property Tax Credit	13132	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%

September-25

Blair Community Schools Budget Comparison Receipts

Description	Code	2025-2026				2024-2025			
		Mon Rec	YTD Rec	Budget	%	Mon Rec	YTD Rec	Budget	%
Education Innovation Grant	13575	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
CTE Grants	13551	\$8,147	\$8,147	\$8,732	93.3%	\$0	\$0	\$8,147	0.0%
State Field Trip Grant (NAC)	13590	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
NDEQ Transportation Grant	13500	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Early Childhood Grant	13540	\$0	\$0	\$74,116	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$69,466	0.0%
SixPence Early Childhood Grant	13541	\$0	\$0	\$89,600	0.0%	\$36,241	\$36,241	\$85,000	42.6%
NDEQ Transportation Grant	13599	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Other	13990	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Total		\$380,311	\$380,311	\$14,042,220	2.7%	\$395,368	\$395,368	\$8,493,886	4.7%
Federal Sources									
IDEA Part B, Peak Grant	14418	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Title I Current	14505	\$0	\$0	\$175,743	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$194,722	0.0%
Title I - Accountability	14506	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Title II Part A	14509	\$0	\$0	\$47,182	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$51,787	0.0%
Title IV	14969	\$0	\$0	\$12,008	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$12,967	0.0%
IDEA PART B (611) ARP	14421	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
IDEA PRESCHOOL (619) ARP	14422	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
IDEA BASE AGE 0-3/3-5	14512	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
IDEA 619 Ages 3-4	14516	\$0	\$0	\$12,459	0.0%	\$12,503	\$12,503	\$12,470	100.3%
IDEA Part B (611) Base Allocation	14518	\$0	\$0	\$447,265	0.0%	\$470,581	\$470,581	\$470,415	100.0%
IDEA Part B Proportionate Share	14521	\$0	\$0	\$9,158	0.0%	\$8,160	\$8,160	\$8,001	102.0%
IDEA Special Projects	14523	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
MIPS	14708	\$0	\$0	\$40,900	0.0%	\$7,989	\$7,989	\$55,000	14.5%
MEDICAID ADMIN	14709	\$1,742	\$1,742	\$8,500	20.5%	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	0.0%
Forest Reserve: De Soto	14707	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$13,800	0.0%
Other Federal Non-Category Funds	14524	\$13,273	\$13,273	\$13,800	96.2%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Perkins Grant	14525	\$0	\$0	\$18,562	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$20,643	0.0%
Title III NCLB-LEP	14527	\$1,469	\$1,469	\$3,000	49.0%	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	0.0%
Head Start	14309	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Disaster Aid (FEMA-Covid19)	14995	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
ESSER Grant (Covid19)	14996	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
ESSER II Grant (Covid19)	14997	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
ESSER III Grant (Covid19)	14998	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$749,580	0.0%
Other Fed Categorical	14530	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Total		\$16,484	\$16,484	\$788,577	2.1%	\$499,233	\$499,233	\$1,606,385	31.1%
Non Revenue Receipts									
Insurance Adjustment	15301	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Transfer of Funds In	15200	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Refunds from Prior Years Expenses	11980	\$273	\$273	\$0	100.0%	\$2,949	\$2,949	\$0	100.0%

September-25

Blair Community Schools Budget Comparison Receipts

Description	Code	2025-2026				2024-2025			
		Mon Rec	YTD Rec	Budget	%	Mon Rec	YTD Rec	Budget	%
Other Non-Revenue Rec	15690	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
Total		\$273	\$273	\$0	100.0%	\$2,949	\$2,949	\$0	0.0%
Non Program Receipts									
Sale of Property	15300	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$2,126	\$2,126	\$0	100.0%
Total		\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$2,126	\$2,126	\$0	100.0%
GRAND TOTAL		\$2,522,276	\$2,522,276	\$28,944,385	8.7%	\$5,792,479	\$5,792,479	\$28,322,516	20.5%

Period: 1
 Month: SEPTEMBER
 Year: 2025-2026

Receipts to be Collected	\$28,944,385	\$28,322,516
Local Property Taxes-State Budget 11101	\$45,463	\$421,119
Cash Balance Estimated on Budget	\$9,427,575	\$7,197,362
County Treasurer Balance Estimated on Budget	\$3,671,752	\$4,836,483
Total Receipts	<u><u>\$42,089,175</u></u>	<u><u>\$40,777,480</u></u>

Blair Community Schools Budget Comparison Expenditures

		2025-2026				2024-2025			
Program Name	Month Exp	YTD Exp	Budget	%	Month Exp	YTD Exp	Budget	%	
201100	Regular Instruction	\$1,317,217	\$1,317,217	\$14,178,690	9.3%	\$1,270,817	\$1,270,817	\$14,209,594	8.9%
201125	Regular Instruction - FLEX	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
201150	Instruction - Limited English Programs	\$9,357	\$9,357	\$113,607	8.2%	\$5,601	\$5,601	\$56,038	10.0%
201160	Instruction - Poverty Programs	\$89,811	\$89,811	\$745,432	12.0%	\$65,462	\$65,462	\$736,949	8.9%
	Subtotal REGULAR INSTRUCTION	\$1,416,385	\$1,416,385	\$15,037,729	9.4%	\$1,341,880	\$1,341,880	\$15,002,581	8.9%
201200	Special Education	\$262,548	\$262,548	\$3,284,740	8.0%	\$249,497	\$249,497	\$3,216,914	7.8%
202141	Special Education (Psychology)	\$16,490	\$16,490	\$199,847	8.3%	\$15,935	\$15,935	\$246,443	6.5%
202151	Special Education (Speech Path)	\$22,437	\$22,437	\$301,288	7.4%	\$24,820	\$24,820	\$281,789	8.8%
202161	Special Education (Occup Therapy)	\$6,016	\$6,016	\$63,184	9.5%	\$6,609	\$6,609	\$65,123	10.1%
202171	Special Education (Physical Therapy)	\$5,307	\$5,307	\$62,850	8.4%	\$5,208	\$5,208	\$62,925	8.3%
202181	Special Education (Vision Services)	\$0	\$0	\$110,000	0.0%	\$109	\$109	\$110,000	0.1%
	Subtotal SPED - SCHOOL AGE	\$312,798	\$312,798	\$4,021,908	7.8%	\$302,179	\$302,179	\$3,983,195	7.6%
201190	Early Childhood Education	\$16,758	\$16,758	\$38,678	43.3%	\$8,208	\$8,208	\$2,206	372.1%
201291	Preschool - SPED - Ages 3-5	\$27,304	\$27,304	\$308,423	8.9%	\$22,952	\$22,952	\$99,911	23.0%
201292	Preschool - SPED - Ages 0-2	\$0	\$0	\$200	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$200	0.0%
202142	Preschool - Psych - Ages 3-5	\$4,378	\$4,378	\$52,383	8.4%	\$4,155	\$4,155	\$0	100.0%
202143	Preschool - Psych - Ages 0-2	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
202152	Preschool - Speech Path - Ages 3-5	\$102	\$102	\$50,420	0.2%	\$206	\$206	\$845	24.4%
202153	Preschool - Speech Path - Ages 0-2	\$0	\$0	\$51,244	0.0%	\$1,367	\$1,367	\$51,330	2.7%
202162	Preschool - Occup Therapy - Ages 3-5	\$2,604	\$2,604	\$31,270	8.3%	\$2,604	\$2,604	\$31,270	8.3%
202163	Preschool - Occup Therapy - Ages 0-2	\$2,604	\$2,604	\$31,450	8.3%	\$2,604	\$2,604	\$31,450	8.3%
202172	Preschool - Physical Therapy - Ages 3-5	\$2,604	\$2,604	\$31,325	8.3%	\$2,604	\$2,604	\$31,325	8.3%
202173	Preschool - Physical Therapy - Ages 0-2	\$2,722	\$2,722	\$31,450	8.7%	\$2,604	\$2,604	\$31,450	8.3%
202182	Preschool - Vision Services - Ages 3-5	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	0.0%
202183	Preschool - Vision Services - Ages 0-2	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	0.0%
	Subtotal PRESCHOOL (non-reimbursed)	\$59,077	\$59,077	\$654,844	9.0%	\$47,305	\$47,305	\$307,987	15.4%
202610	Operation of Plant	\$249,197	\$249,197	\$1,622,008	15.4%	\$243,376	\$243,376	\$1,598,697	15.2%
202620	Maintenance of Plant	\$60,932	\$60,932	\$647,206	9.4%	\$59,619	\$59,619	\$572,035	10.4%
202630	Grounds Maintenance	\$23,820	\$23,820	\$141,930	16.8%	\$12,725	\$12,725	\$124,205	10.2%
202640	Equipment Maintenance	\$488	\$488	\$103,114	0.5%	\$227	\$227	\$95,150	0.2%
202650	Non-Student Vehicle Maint & Purch	\$2,052	\$2,052	\$32,912	6.2%	\$1,946	\$1,946	\$68,483	2.8%
202660	Security	\$47,150	\$47,150	\$98,200	48.0%	\$42,221	\$42,221	\$89,200	47.3%
202670	Safety	\$2,547	\$2,547	\$102,783	2.5%	\$11,315	\$11,315	\$93,209	12.1%
202680	Operation/Maintenance of Plant-Other	\$385	\$385	\$4,800	8.0%	\$0	\$0	\$4,250	0.0%
	Subtotal MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$386,572	\$386,572	\$2,752,953	14.0%	\$371,428	\$371,428	\$2,645,229	14.0%
202710	Reg Pupil Transportation-Operating	\$25,184	\$25,184	\$627,072	4.0%	\$30,680	\$30,680	\$598,272	5.1%
202712	SPED Transportation-Operating	\$6,251	\$6,251	\$118,219	5.3%	\$6,136	\$6,136	\$114,604	5.4%
202713	SPED Transport-Preschool-Operating	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
202720	Reg Pupil Transportation-Monitoring	\$6,382	\$6,382	\$75,927	8.4%	\$7,703	\$7,703	\$70,957	10.9%
202722	SPED Transportation-Monitoring	\$3,578	\$3,578	\$67,231	5.3%	\$3,825	\$3,825	\$62,332	6.1%
202730	Reg Pupil Transportation-Maintenance	\$38,617	\$38,617	\$93,353	41.4%	\$41,044	\$41,044	\$90,889	45.2%
202732	SPED Transportation-Maintenance	\$15,581	\$15,581	\$29,585	52.7%	\$15,827	\$15,827	\$31,993	49.5%
202790	Reg Pupil Transportation-Other	\$32	\$32	\$0	100.0%	\$32	\$32	\$500	6.4%
202792	SPED Transportation-Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%

Blair Community Schools Budget Comparison Expenditures

		2025-2026				2024-2025			
Program Name	Month Exp	YTD Exp	Budget	%	Month Exp	YTD Exp	Budget	%	
202793	SPED Transportation-Other Preschool	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
	Subtotal STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	\$95,624	\$95,624	\$1,011,386	9.5%	\$105,247	\$105,247	\$969,548	10.9%
202110	Attendance & Social Work Services	\$4,119	\$4,119	\$49,438	8.3%	\$3,954	\$3,954	\$47,488	8.3%
202120	Guidance Services	\$54,808	\$54,808	\$507,704	10.8%	\$46,019	\$46,019	\$491,571	9.4%
202130	Health Services	\$30,926	\$30,926	\$267,557	11.6%	\$22,973	\$22,973	\$264,946	8.7%
202140	Psych Services	\$0	\$0	\$32,000	0.0%	\$6,922	\$6,922	\$28,000	24.7%
202190	Other Pupil Supp Services	\$10,726	\$10,726	\$98,550	10.9%	\$6,169	\$6,169	\$171,712	3.6%
202210	Improvement of Instruction	\$13,391	\$13,391	\$158,822	8.4%	\$9,605	\$9,605	\$142,329	6.7%
202212	Curriculum & Assessment	\$1,954	\$1,954	\$6,119	31.9%	\$520	\$520	\$22,037	2.4%
202213	Instructional Staff Training/Development	\$1,859	\$1,859	\$36,019	5.2%	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$43,749	3.6%
202211	School Improvement	\$0	\$0	\$1,610	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
202214	Implementation of Standards	\$642	\$642	\$4,632	13.9%	\$50	\$50	\$5,249	0.9%
202220	Library Services	\$64,955	\$64,955	\$535,099	12.1%	\$63,939	\$63,939	\$546,750	11.7%
202230	Instruction-Related Technology	\$24,534	\$24,534	\$359,144	6.8%	\$21,635	\$21,635	\$316,644	6.8%
202223	Audio-Visual Services	\$1,407	\$1,407	\$15,975	8.8%	\$3,507	\$3,507	\$5,800	60.5%
202240	Academic Student Assessment	\$39,397	\$39,397	\$48,000	82.1%	\$15,750	\$15,750	\$76,654	20.5%
202290	Support Services - Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,788	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
202310	Board of Education	\$2,033	\$2,033	\$47,356	4.3%	\$1,291	\$1,291	\$59,608	2.2%
202320	Executive Admin Services	\$30,306	\$30,306	\$366,117	8.3%	\$62,665	\$62,665	\$673,141	9.3%
202330	Legal Services	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$18,000	0.0%
202410	Office of Principal	\$122,719	\$122,719	\$1,447,939	8.5%	\$132,126	\$132,126	\$1,426,894	9.3%
202490	School Administration - Other	\$0	\$0	\$9,450	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$10,880	0.0%
202510	Gen Business Support	\$75,727	\$75,727	\$458,743	16.5%	\$74,333	\$74,333	\$437,507	17.0%
202520	Warehousing & Distribution	\$0	\$0	\$500	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$300	0.0%
202530	Printing, Publishing, Duplicating Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
202540	Planning, R&D, & Evaluation Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
202560	Public Information Services	\$897	\$897	\$4,895	18.3%	\$846	\$846	\$0	100.0%
202570	Personnel Services	\$1,013	\$1,013	\$18,001	5.6%	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	0.0%
202580	Technology-Administration Services	\$0	\$0	\$5,700	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	0.0%
202900	Other Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
203300	Community Services	\$118	\$118	\$0	100.0%	\$40	\$40	\$0	100.0%
203400	Corporate/Private Interest Grants	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	0.0%	\$6,333	\$6,333	\$0	100.0%
203535	High Ability Learners Grant	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	0.0%	\$1,735	\$1,735	\$11,734	14.8%
203540	State Early Childhood Grant	\$5,018	\$5,018	\$74,116	6.8%	\$6,051	\$6,051	\$69,466	8.7%
203541	Sixpence Early Childhood Grant	\$8,041	\$8,041	\$89,600	9.0%	\$10,360	\$10,360	\$84,985	12.2%
203551	Extended Learning Opportunity Grant	\$0	\$0	\$8,732	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$8,147	0.0%
203590	Career Education Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
203599	State Categorical Grants-NDEQ Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$33,886	\$33,886	\$0	100.0%
201300	Summer School	\$0	\$0	\$5,044	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
208000	Activity Fund Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$90,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	0.0%
209000	NON-PROGRAM EXPEND	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
	FEDERAL PROGRAMS			\$0					
206200	Title I	\$6,724	\$6,724	\$234,933	2.9%	\$28,988	\$28,988	\$207,689	14.0%
206210	Title I Accountability	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
206310	Title IIA	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$51,787	0.0%
206404	IDEA 611 BIRTH TO	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%

Blair Community Schools Budget Comparison Expenditures

Program Name	2025-2026				2024-2025			
	Month Exp	YTD Exp	Budget	%	Month Exp	YTD Exp	Budget	%
206406 IDEA 619 AGES 3-4	\$0	\$0	\$12,459	0.0%	\$6,630	\$6,630	\$12,470	53.2%
206408 IDEA - SPED BASE-EP	\$53,906	\$53,906	\$447,265	12.1%	\$31,899	\$31,899	\$470,415	6.8%
206410 IDEA - SPED Preschool	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
206412 IDEA - Part B Proportionate Share	\$0	\$0	\$9,158	0.0%	\$4,024	\$4,024	\$8,001	50.3%
206415 IDEA SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
206418 IDEA PART B PEAK PROJECTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
206421 IDEA PART-B (611) ARP BASE & ENROLL	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
206422 IDEA PRESCHOOL (619) ARP	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
206700 PERKINS GRANT	\$0	\$0	\$18,562	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$20,643	0.0%
206925 Title III	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	0.0%
206690 OTHER FEDERAL NON CATEGORY GRANTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
206990 FEDERAL CATEGORICAL GRANTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
206998 ARP - ESSER III GRANT	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.0%
TOTAL	\$2,825,675	\$2,825,675	\$28,989,848	9.7%	\$2,771,848	\$2,771,848	\$28,743,635	9.6%

Period: 1 (SEPTEMBER)

Year: 2025-2026

Total Budget of Disbursements	\$28,989,848	\$28,743,635
Debt Service (Spending Authority Adjustment)	\$9,885,971	\$9,329,805
Necessary Cash Reserve	\$3,213,356	\$2,704,040
Total Requirements	\$42,089,175	\$40,777,480