

Holdrege Public Schools

Board of Education Regular Meeting

December 15, 2025, 6:00 PM

Holdrege High School Media Center, 600 12th Avenue, Holdrege, NE 68949

- I. Call to Order - Roll Call
- II. Recognition of Visitors
 - II.A. School Psychologist Presentation - Casey Klein
 - II.B. HEA Report
 - II.C. Student Council Report
 - II.D. Public Forum
- III. Board of Education Committee Reports
- IV. Business Items
 - IV.A. Action Items
 - IV.A.1. Consent Agenda
 - IV.A.1.a. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Minutes - November 17, 2025
 - IV.A.1.b. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Warrants/Bills
 - IV.A.1.c. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Treasurer's Report
 - IV.A.1.d. Excuse Absent Board Members
 - IV.A.2. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Bill(s) from InSPIRE - Holdrege, LLC.
 - IV.A.3. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Bill(s) from John Deere Financial/Landmark Implement, Inc.
 - IV.A.4. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on Proposal for HHS Masonry Tuck Pointing and Repair
 - IV.A.5. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on Proposed Purchase and Installation of Elementary Playground Structure and Safety Surfacing
- V. Reports
 - V.A. Administrative Reports
 - V.B. Superintendent's Report
- VI. Board Policies
 - VI.A. 3131 Procurement Plan - School Food Authorities - Proposed Revision 1st Reading
 - VI.B. 3132 Internal Controls - Proposed Revision 1st Reading
- VII. Adjournment

Instructions for those who wish to speak during Public Forum:

Getting Started: When it is your turn to speak during the public forum portion of the agenda, please come forward to the Board Secretary, complete the form provided with your name and any organization represented, as well as your address, and then state your name and any organization represented to the Board of Education.

Time Limit: You may speak only one time and must limit comments to 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 that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at a Board meeting.

General Rules: Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of the business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Holdrege Board of Education
Monday, November 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
High School Media Center

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Holdrege Public Schools was convened in open session on Monday, November 17, 2025, at the High School Media Center at 6:00 p.m.

Notice of Meeting Posted 11/13/25 Holdrege Citizen

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. The Secretary of the Board maintains a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and advance notification to the listed media of the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting was provided. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the Agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was duly called to order.

Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting

At the beginning of this meeting, it was announced that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the meeting room and directed the public to its location.

The following board members were present: Teresa Kroll, Chris McQuillan, Samantha Minnick, Brian Rust, and Nick Wells. Alex McClymont was absent. Also present were Todd Hilyard, Superintendent, Sandy Dunaway, Secretary, and Elizabeth Piening, Business Manager.

President Rust recognized visitors and invited comments for the public forum.

Taylor Waller reported for HEA.

Ayden Konzelman and Hunter Mueller reported for the HHS Student Council.

Board committee reports were reviewed.

Motion by McQuillan, seconded by Kroll, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2025 Regular Meeting
- b. Approve the Warrants/Bills
- c. Approve the Treasurer's Report
- d. Excuse Absent Board Members

On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-absent, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Rust, seconded by Wells, to approve payment of the bill from InSPIRe - Holdrege, LLC. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-absent, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-abstained with conflict, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Kroll, seconded by Minnick, to approve payment of the bill(s) from John Deere Financial/Landmark Implement, Inc. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-absent, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Following a conference call with Auditor Marcy Luth of Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, Certified Public Accountants (AMGL, PC), motion by Minnick, seconded by Wells, to approve the 2024-25 Annual Audit Report, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-absent, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by McQuillan, seconded by Minnick, to approve an out-of-state travel request for Lilly Janssen and Kennedy Burns to attend the JAG National Student Leadership Academy in Washington DC , December 1-5, 2025, with administrative discretion to prohibit such travel should conditions warrant On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-absent, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Rust, seconded by Kroll, to approve the proposed 2026-27 School Calendar, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-absent, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Minnick, seconded by McQuillan, to approve the revised 2025-26 Extra Duty Assignments, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-absent, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Rust, seconded by Kroll, to accept the resignation of the following certificated staff effective at the end of the 2025-26 contract year: Jon Karn, secondary physical education, On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-absent, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Administrative reports were reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on December 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Sandy Dunaway

Sandy Dunaway, Secretary
Holdrege Board of Education

**Holdrege High School
Board Report
December 15, 2025**

Jeremy Ham, Principal

1. End of Semester/Semester Test Schedule – HHS is following an adjusted semester test schedule on December 18th and 19th. December 18th, periods 1-4 run for extended periods, one hour and twelve minutes each. December 19th, periods 5-8 run the same extended periods. Students may be dismissed early on Thursday the 19th from Seminar period if they have achieved all goals and requirements set in place for them. Students needing assistance with academic progress, excessive attendance issues, or missing assignments will stay until 3:37 PM in the Seminar period at the end of the day. The HHS Staff remain on the same schedule as all district staff, allowing availability for students needing extra help as they finish up semester projects and assignments. Semester grades are due to be posted by staff before the semester ends on Friday, December 19th.

2. Student Council Holiday Dress Up Days - This year, the student council voted to host a holiday dress up day contest the week before finals. They chose December 8-12 to avoid distractions during semester finals week.



3. Staff Evaluations – 1st semester observation/evaluation goals are ahead of pace with 27 complete and only 8 teacher evaluations required in the spring semester to finish the year. Spending time in classrooms observing our teachers continues to be an extremely rewarding experience. I'm happy to report that overall, the HHS staff are doing very well and providing quality experiences for our students. Moving into the spring semester with the majority of evaluation work complete will allow me to spend significant time in classrooms for informal observation and staff support.

4. Student progress - We continue to see gains in student progress, this week's eligibility list only contains 21 ineligible students (out of 321 total HHS Students) failing a total of 37 courses. With just one week to go in the semester, these low numbers will allow our staff to help these students to make significant progress before grades are posted on December 19th.

5. Spring semester course registration preparation - We have set the stage for 2026-27 course registration. Staff have revised the course catalog, registrations will begin in January. Master schedule adjustments will follow to meet the needs of our students once course numbers are set in the system. Mrs. Mach and Mrs. Nelson do exceptional work in orchestrating the massive process of lining students and staff up with schedules to ensure success.

6. Hiring - Currently we're searching for Strength Training or Physical Education for the 26-27 school year. We have received a lot of interest, and are planning to begin interviews at the end of December/beginning of January.

7. National Honor Society Induction - The Holdrege High School National Honor Society inducted 22 new members on December 10th at the Tassel. All HHS students and staff were present for this ceremony. Members were selected through a staff selection committee based on GPA and results of staff questionnaires. Mrs. Pearson does a great job of coordinating this for our students.

Holdrege Public Schools
Special Education & Early Childhood Report

Director: Casey Klein

December 15, 2025

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birth-3 years	7	7	7	7	8
3-5 years with IEP attending NON -HPS Preschool	10	10	7	6	7
3-5 years with IEP attending HPS preschool	6	6	6	6	7
Holdrege Elementary	91	89	85	85	88
Holdrege Middle School	72	71	69	70	71
Holdrege High School	48	47	47	46	44
Special Services Students	234	230	221	220	225
<i>3-5 without IEP Attending HPS Preschoolers</i>	24	25	23	24	25

School Psychologist Presentation at Board Meeting

Assessment & Benchmarking

Winter benchmarking for **MAPS** and **DIBELS** has been completed. The team is very pleased with the progress students have demonstrated across grade levels. The **SPIRE Reading Curriculum**, implemented by our resource teachers, continues to be a strong addition to our direct reading instruction, and we are seeing positive gains in foundational literacy skills as a result.

Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP)

Our team is scheduled to attend the **TIP Workday on February 24th (9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.)**. During this work session, we will:

- Review **NECounts** and district **Determinations**
- Reflect on last year’s TIP and identify areas of growth
- Conduct root-cause analysis with a focus on literacy
- Examine inclusive practices and select an evidence-based strategy for implementation
- Review fidelity measures
- Develop and refine our action plan for the upcoming cycle

Preschool Update

The **Holdrege Preschool Program** will host performances for families on **December 18th at 10:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.** Students have been engaged in daily letter-learning activities, along with hands-on tasks that strengthen pre-academic and early literacy skills. They especially enjoy center time and outdoor play, both of which support language development, social skills, and exploration.

Elementary Board Report
December 15, 2025 Amber Porter, Elementary Principal

DIBELs Assessments - All students have been assessed with DIBELS over the last two weeks. Students that have been receiving intervention have been progress monitored every two weeks. We have coupled this with M-Class and other in class interventions. This is an opportunity to see the growth all students are making. Since we have begun using our new reading series we have seen tremendous improvement for all students. It is more rigorous and has a stronger writing component. After Christmas, we will be adjusting groups based on this assessment.

Christmas Music Program - 3rd and 4th grade students will perform their Christmas program on Wednesday, December 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Tassel. Ms. Patterson tried something new for the other grades. She had them perform one song to be shared on the Elementary Music/Art facebook page. Mrs. Brundrette had a wonderful display of student artwork as well at the Tassel.

Assessments in December- Kindergarten through 4th Grade will take MAP Assessments. Students are showing a lot of growth due to the interventions and LETRS training teachers received and our rigorous English Language Arts program. Also our Eureka math coupled with a computer program called Zearn has helped our increase in Math scores.

Attendance-To encourage students to have great attendance, we will have a leader board that has each grade level listed and the teachers. Kindergarten through 4th grade and one for the teachers. They will be given a place order of the best attendance by grade level. Students who have the best attendance for the month will get a brag tag to put on a necklace and they can collect.

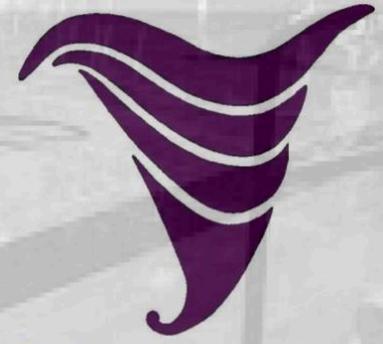
Playground-Our lower elementary playground has been a crowd pleaser. We are proposing a new playground for the Upper Elementary. The one we are proposing was created by Crouch Recreation in Lincoln. Mike Dobbs has been working with us to find a playground suitable for upper

elementary students. It will include more creative play options and inclusive playground options. This proposal has a rock climbing option, scoop bowls, and a web climbing option.

End of Semester - The first semester will end December 19, 2025. Teachers will return January 5, 2026 for an inservice and teacher workday. We will have an inservice given by Kay Glidden from Behavioral Health Services. It is entitled: 5 Essential Skills to Transform Stress & Anxiety for Kids and Teens



Holdrege Activities Department



Dylan Sullivan
Activities Director
(402)643-0423

Kelli Hale
Activities Assistant
(308)995-6558

Holdrege Public Schools – Activities Board Report December 15, 2025

Winter Sports

- The Holdrege Wrestling Invitational was held on Saturday, December 13, 2025. 10 Varsity teams competed. We also hosted our JV invite at the same time at the Middle School. The meet went very well and was completed in great time. The winner of the wrestling invite was Grand Island Northwest. It was a very competitive tournament.
- Basketball is off to a great start with several games and opportunities for our community to see our athletes compete. Below is the schedule for the upcoming holiday tournament.

DAY ONE - TUESDAY, DEC 30th

1:00 - girls game - Milford vs Holdrege

2:30 - girls game - Milford vs Holdrege

4:00 - girls game - Lincoln Lutheran vs Platteview

5:30 - boys game - Lincoln Lutheran vs Platteview

DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY, DEC 31st

10:00 - girls third place game

11:30 - boys third place game

1:00 - girls championship game

2:30 - boys championship game

- Boys District Region:
 - o <https://nsaa-static.s3.amazonaws.com/textfile/bask/C1BReg2526.pdf>
- The Girls District Region:
 - o <https://nsaa-static.s3.amazonaws.com/textfile/bask/C1GReg2526.pdf>

- The High School gym floor will be refinished over the winter break. Starting on December 26, through December 31st, the High School gym will be closed.
- **NSAA MORATORIUM:** NSAA (Nebraska School Activities Association) has declared a moratorium from **Wednesday, December 24th through Sunday, December 28th**. During this time, schools are not permitted to schedule practices or contests. Also, gyms and other areas may not be open for high school students.
- **LINCOLN LUTHERAN HOLIDAY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT:** The Holiday Basketball Tourney is scheduled for December 30 and December 31st. Other teams participating in the tournament include Platteview, Lincoln Lutheran, and Milford.

Holdrege High School combined gender number submitted to the NDE is 254 submitted in the Fall of 2024 (this number is 9-10-11 graders this year). This is up 9 students from last year and 32 from 2 years ago.

Boys count is 126

Girls count is 128

This makes Holdrege the 70th largest school.

Holdrege Middle School
Lacie Wright-Principal & Jacob McLain-Assistant Principal/AD
December 15, 2025

As we wrap up the first semester, I'm pleased to share several highlights and updates from our middle school. It's been a busy and rewarding season filled with learning, community involvement, and celebration.

- **A Successful First Semester:**

Our students and staff have worked incredibly hard to make the first half of the school year productive and positive. From academics to extracurricular activities, it has truly been a great start to the year.

- **Food Pantry Drive:**

Our students participated in a food pantry drive this semester that focused on participation rather than a specific item goal. Students who brought in items earned their name in a raffle for AirPods, which were generously donated. This approach encouraged involvement and excitement while still supporting an important community need.

- **Jingle Mingle Lights Parade:**

Unfortunately, due to extreme cold temperatures and our commitment to keeping student safety at the forefront, we made the decision to cancel the collaborative portion of the Lights Parade this year. While disappointing, we felt it was the right choice given the conditions.

- **Christmas Program:**

Our Christmas program was held on Monday, the 8th, and the students did an outstanding job. They sounded wonderful, and it was a great showcase of their hard work and dedication.

- **Dress-Up Days & Last-Day Activities:**

We have district dress-up days scheduled for this week, adding some fun and school spirit as we close out the semester. Our last day will include engaging activity stations for students, ending with a school-wide assembly to wrap things up on a positive note.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and programs. We look forward to heading into the second semester with strong momentum and excitement for what's ahead.

Superintendent's Report
12/15/2025

HHS Gym Masonry – At this meeting you will be considering the proposal for masonry work on the exterior of the Holdrege High School gym. As I have reported previously, there is significant maintenance work that needs to be completed in order to ensure the long-term integrity of the structure.

Bluebird Bus – The owner of the company that we purchased our new activity bus from has offered two solutions to address the ongoing issues we've experienced.

- **Option 1:** Blue Bird will send field service technicians from the factory to conduct a full inspection of the bus. In addition, they will provide a 5-year bumper-to-bumper warranty at no cost to us. This warranty would cover any mechanical failures within that period, excluding standard consumables such as brakes, tires, and oil changes.

- **Option 2:** Replace the current bus with a new Blue Bird bus of the same specifications. Current production time for this model is estimated at 4–5 months, and we would need to return our current bus immediately for this option.

After extensive discussion, we will be moving forward with **Option 1** for two primary reasons. First, we now have a complete service history on the current bus and are confident that the previous issues have been appropriately addressed. Second, we simply cannot be without this bus for the four to six months it would take to receive a replacement.

Activities & Athletics Committee Meeting – Dylan has scheduled an Activities and Athletics Committee meeting on Friday, December 19th at noon. Several items will be on the agenda, including discussion of an appropriate dollar amount to pay Holdrege Legion Baseball for the use of their facilities now that we have our baseball program up and running.

HHS Media Roof – I am hopeful that by the time you read this report, Ziembra Roofing has completed the Media Center roofing project. If not, it should be finished in the very near future.