

Holdrege Public Schools

Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 19, 2026, 6:00 PM

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

- I. Call to Order - Roll Call
- II. Election of Officers
  - II.A. President
  - II.B. Vice-President
  - II.C. Appointment of Secretary
  - II.D. Appointment of Treasurer
- III. Recognition of Visitors
  - III.A. HEA Report
  - III.B. Student Council Report
  - III.C. Public Forum
- IV. Board of Education Committee Reports
- V. Business Items
  - V.A. Action Items
    - V.A.1. Consent Agenda
      - V.A.1.a. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Minutes - December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting
      - V.A.1.b. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Warrants/Bills
      - V.A.1.c. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Treasurer's Report
      - V.A.1.d. Excuse Absent Board Members
    - V.A.2. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Bill(s) from InSPIRe - Holdrege, LLC.
    - V.A.3. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on Technology Purchases
    - V.A.4. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on Proposed Revision of 2025-26 Extra Duty Assignments
    - V.A.5. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Employment of Certificated/Professional Staff
    - V.A.6. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Resignation of Noncertificated Staff
    - V.A.7. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Resignation of Certificated Staff
    - V.A.8. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Employment of Noncertificated Staff
- VI. Reports
  - VI.A. Administrative Reports
  - VI.B. Superintendent's Report
- VII. Board Policies

## VIII. 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, December 15, 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, December 15, 2025, at the High School Media Center at 6:00 p.m.

Notice of Meeting Posted 12/11/25 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, Alex McClymont, Chris McQuillan, Samantha Minnick, Brian Rust, and Nick Wells. Also present were Todd Hilyard, Superintendent, Sandy Dunaway, Secretary, and Elizabeth Piening, Business Manager.

Kristin Dobish, School Psychologist, gave a presentation on what school psychologists do in our district.

Tonya McCroden reported for HEA.

Ann Weides, Summer Florell, and Reese Hodge reported for the HHS Student Council.

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

Board committee reports were reviewed.

Motion by McClymont, seconded by Wells, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 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-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

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

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

Motion by Minnick, seconded by McClymont to approve an agreement with Done Right Masonry of Kearney for HHS masonry tuckpointing and repair in the amount of \$117,550. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Minnick, seconded by Kroll, to approve the proposal of Crouch Recreation for purchase and installation of HES upper elementary grades playground structures and safety surface, in the amount of \$224,999. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Administrative reports were reviewed.

First reading of the proposed revision of Policy 3131 Procurement Plan - School Food Authorities was held. Motion by Rust, seconded by Wells, to waive further reading and adopt revised Policy 3131 Procurement Plan - School Food Authorities, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

First reading of the proposed revision of Policy 3132 Internal Controls was held. Motion by McClymont, seconded by McQuillan, to waive further reading and adopt revised Policy 3132 Internal Controls, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on January 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

## Sandy Dunaway

Sandy Dunaway, Secretary  
Holdrege Board of Education

# Holdrege High School

## Board Report

January 19, 2026

Jeremy Ham, Principal

1. **Scheduling for 2026-27** - The registration process for next year will start later this month. Mrs. Mach will meet with 8th grade students and is set to begin course selections by February 1. Current 9-11 grades are beginning the selection process as well, we plan to begin building schedules mid February with the goal of schedules being complete in April.
2. **ACT/Govt. Field Trip** - Last year we tried something new on March 26th by giving the ACT, pre-ACT, and the senior government field trip on the same day. This worked out very well, creating one day of classroom disruption over the previous methods with 3 days of disruption. This year, we are doing the same, all on one day, but a bit later on April 8th. The later date was requested by the Math department to have more time for ACT preparation. 9-10 grade students will take the pre-ACT, 11th grade will take the ACT, and the 12 grade students will be on a field trip to the state capitol.
3. **Future Educators program** - This program continues to grow under Mrs. Mach's leadership this year. The introduction to education class, putting our high school students into elementary and middle school classrooms, has been very well received and productive for our students interested in education careers. This semester, Mrs. Mach and I will be taking 11 of these students to the educator career fair at UNK on January 22nd. This is the same career fair we send administrators to for teacher recruiting, this will be an excellent opportunity for our high school students to learn more about careers in education.
4. **The List criteria** - The past two years we have been populating "The List" with students currently failing grades or needing attention due to excessive absences. This semester, we are upping the threshold to include students with Ds, in effort to improve grades before they are actually failing. Last week we started with 78 students on The List, by Thursday morning we had reduced that number to 51. These students stay after school on Friday to receive additional attention from our teaching staff, this continues to help in making positive gains very quickly.
5. **Staffing for HHS** - Currently we are seeking two positions to fill for the 2026-27 school year, we are interviewing social studies and English applicants this week.

**Holdrege Public Schools**  
**Special Education & Early Childhood Report**

**Director: Casey Klein**

**January 19, 2026**

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Birth-3 years	7	7	7	7	8	9
3-5 years with IEP attending <b>NON</b> -HPS Preschool	10	10	7	6	7	8
3-5 years with IEP attending HPS preschool	6	6	6	6	7	7
Holdrege Elementary	91	89	85	85	88	88
Holdrege Middle School	72	71	69	70	71	66
Holdrege High School	48	47	47	46	44	41
<b>Special Services Students</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>219</b>
<i>3-5 without IEP Attending HPS Preschoolers</i>	24	25	23	24	25	25

**Sensory Room at Elementary School**

The sensory room at the elementary school is a structured, supportive space designed to help students self-regulate, reduce sensory overload, and return to learning ready and calm. It is commonly used for students with disabilities but can benefit *any* student who needs sensory or emotional regulation support.

The purpose of this room is:

- support emotional regulation
- Reduce sensory overload
- Teach coping and self-calming skills
- Provide preventative supports to reduce behaviors that interfere with learning

All students have access to the sensory room. The Special Education staff held a meeting with the paraprofessionals to provide training on how to help make the room successful for students.

**Indicator 13 Transition**

Following monitoring of Indicator 13 / Transition, the District has determined that all transition requirements were met, including age-appropriate transition assessments, measurable postsecondary goals, and aligned transition services. Documentation reflects compliance with state and federal requirements. As the District is in compliance, no corrective action is necessary.

**Virtual Sign Interpreter**

Mariah Starns has been a great asset to meeting the needs of students with hearing impairments. She has been collaborating with resource teachers, classroom teachers, Deaf Educators, and students.

**Progress Monitoring**

Special education teachers are using assessment tools such as DIBELS and AIMSweb to effectively monitor student progress. These norm-referenced assessments provide valuable data on student performance in key academic areas, including reading fluency, reading comprehension, and mathematics skills.

Benchmark data allow teachers to identify individual student strengths and areas for growth, which directly informs instructional planning, targeted interventions, and progress monitoring. These tools also support the development of measurable IEP goals and provide ongoing data to track student progress toward those goals.

By reviewing and analyzing data trends throughout the school year, special education staff can make data-based instructional adjustments to ensure students are making meaningful academic and developmental gains aligned with their Individualized Education Programs.

### **Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP)**

Our Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for the Nebraska Department of Education established a goal that at least 74% of third-grade students receiving special education services would demonstrate growth in reading fluency from August to December 2024. We are pleased to report that this goal was exceeded, with 75% of third-grade students demonstrating measurable growth in words-per-minute fluency during this timeframe.

Third grade is widely recognized as a critical indicator of future academic success, making this outcome an important milestone. The observed growth reflects the collective efforts of our students, special education teachers, general education partners, and support staff in implementing targeted instructional strategies.

We are encouraged by these results and remain committed to continuing data-driven practices to improve reading outcomes and ensure meaningful progress for all learners. The Science of Reading training for teachers has been an important piece to improving reading for all students. Thank you for your continued support of our programs and initiatives.

Holdrege Elementary School  
January Board Report  
January 19, 2026  
Amber Porter

**Kindergarten Planning**-The Elementary School staff is in the process of planning for the Kindergarten class of 2026-2027. We have already begun this through communication to families in our newsletter and letters to area preschools. We already have a number of future Kindergartners on the list from written communication from parents. The kindergarten team is working on a video to share that shows students actively involved in activities so parents can visually see kindergarten expectations. The video will also include voice overs from the teachers that reminds parents of the expectations. This video will last about 10 minutes. It will be shared out in February. We will continue to push out the information for several weeks. This early advertising has been successful in the past in helping us get a more accurate student count. We will also have an open house on April 23 where students and parents can come together to meet the teachers and tour the building. We will have Kindergarten Visitation in August.

**WINTER NWEA MAP Assessment Dibels Assessments**-Elementary students K-4 took winter MAP Assessments as well as DIBELS. These assessments are used to check student growth and help focus on skills they need to improve. Students showed tremendous growth on these assessments. We feel that is due to strong instruction along with our new reading series and its rigour. Our new curriculum along with classroom rotations and new interventions has helped our students grow tremendously. Last year at this time we had 89 students with a reading intervention plan. This year we have 49! This is due to the dedication of teachers, hard working students, and the things we have learned from the science of reading. We so proud of our strong growth

**February Family Engagement Activity**-On February 26, 2026, we will have another family engagement night. This will be focusing on reading. There are fun interactive activities with parents and students planned.

**Title I Happenings**- On January 14, 2026 had a Title I Planning meeting with staff and parents. Also, Nancy Nelson has announced her retirement. Pending board approval, Morgan Dow will be moving to the Title I position in the 2026-2027 school year. Morgan 's first grade position will then be open. Nancy will work with Morgan to make it a smooth transition.

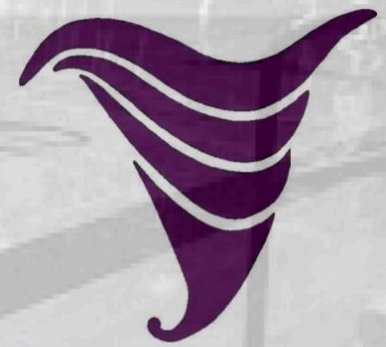
**Playground Update**-Matt Samuelson will be tearing out the other playground. Mike Dobbs of Crouch Recreation and Matt will be meeting so that this can start as soon as school gets out and the intent is to have this playground in by early summer.

**Attendance and Behavior Incentives**-

We are starting an attendance incentive with students. We are going to have a grade level competition along with staff to see who can have the highest attendance rate. We have a leader board in the commons so the kids can see who is ahead. Students will also receive individual awards. We will also be having a Glow in the Dark party for our school earning 15,000 tickets for being safe, respectful, and responsible.



# Holdrege Activities Department



Dylan Sullivan  
Activities Director  
(402)643-0423

Kelli Hale  
Activities Assistant  
(308)995-6558

## Holdrege Public Schools – Activities Board Report January 19, 2026

### January Board Report

#### Winter Activities

- The Middle School Boy's Basketball teams have started practice and play their 1<sup>st</sup> games this week. (Jon Karn & Spencer Knuth), the 7th grade coaches will have the numbers to play A,B,C games. 8th grade is coached by (Brian Komenda & Josiah Fouts) and will have the numbers to play A,B games.
- Holdrege hosted the NSAA District V Regional meeting on January 14th at the Tassel. Discussions were held on new proposals for changes to bylaws. There were 47 other proposals regarding changes to rules in athletics and activities. [District V Proposals Tally Sheet - January 2026 Voting Results](#)
- Girls and Boys Basketball will be seeded for the Southwest Conference basketball tournament today. The higher seeded teams will host the first round games on Tuesday. All semi final and championship games will be at Mid Plains on Friday, and Saturday. The losing side of the bracket will be held at the higher seeded team this year. This is a change from previous years.
- The Holdrege speech team has started practices and competitions. Sponsors this year are: Head Coach Tonya McCroden, Assistants - Gavin Skiles. 22 are participating this year in Speech.
- Due to a big shortage of soccer officials in this area, I have sent our contracts to an assigner out of Lincoln to try to pick up officials from the Lincoln/Waverly area. Holdrege will need to pay travel expenses for them and an assigner fee. With the shortage we have going on, this is one of our only options to be able to host soccer contests. We may be looking at playing more and more games on the road if we are unable to secure some of these officials.

#### Upcoming Events

- January 19th - Reserve basketball @ Axtell (girls start 5:00pm, boys start 6:30pm)
- January 20th - Varsity Basketball vs. Kearney Catholic.
- January 22nd - JV boys basketball vs. Kearney High School 6:00pm start
- January 23rd - Basketball home @ Minden, FFA BBQ, Teammates night and Cheer/Dance Senior Night
- January 25th - Speech team competes in Broken Bow starting at 9:00am. Wrestling heads to Lexington for their invite starting at 9:00am.

**Board Report**  
**Holdrege Middle School**  
**Lacie Wright-Principal & Jacob McLain-Assistant Principal/AD**  
**January 19, 2026**

As we kick off the second semester, I'm excited to share highlights and updates from our middle school. January is shaping up to be a productive and engaging month for our students!

- **Winter Sports Participation:**

Our winter sports teams are thriving this season with great student involvement:

- **7th Grade Boys Basketball:** 21 participants
- **8th Grade Boys Basketball:** 12 participants
- **Girls Wrestling:** 9 participants

- **HAL -High Ability Learners**

- The 5th and 6th-grade HAL students will start their new projects for HAL night, and it will coincide with the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. Please come and see their project presentations on Thursday, April 9th from 5:00-6:00 pm.

- **7th & 8th Grade POPP Project:**

- The People of the Past/Present (POPP) project is underway for our 7th and 8th-graders. This week, students will begin writing their speeches as they prepare to research and present on impactful individuals. This project continues to encourage critical thinking, research, and public speaking skills. POPP will be on Thursday, March 5. They are working towards raising funds for an outdoor gaga ball pit. Please come and visit us that night. We are thinking of going to three sessions instead of two, in order to allow more people to watch a variety of actors.

- **Behavior Improvement Incentive Plan:**

- We are going to utilize the current PBIS Swiss Referral program to help students be intentional about behavior. Grade levels will be competing with each other to see which grade level can commit the least amount of behavior infractions. The journalism class will update the slideshow daily with progress. Grade level with the least amount of referrals will receive an incentive. We tried this in December and while referrals went down and had improved, they still didn't meet the goal that was set. Students will be polled to see what incentives pique their interest.

- **JAG:**

- A group of four students were selected to compete at the state level for career development and are currently preparing their presentations for this.
- Three students earned a perfect score on the financial literacy test and will be able to take the next step in qualifying at the state level as well.

- **Esports**

- In November, one of our middle school students competed at the state level against high school students and received Runner-Up. The trophy looks really nice in the middle school case!

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and programs.

## **Superintendent's Report January 19, 2026**

**ESU 11 Hot Topics** - The ESU 11 Hot Topics event is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, with a social time beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the program concluding by 7:30 p.m. At this time, Teresa has indicated she will attend, while Alex has shared that he is unable to attend. Please notify me as soon as possible if you plan to attend so that I can submit our registration.

**Negotiations with the Holdrege Education Association (HEA)** - Brian, Nick, and Alex have represented the Board on the Negotiations Committee in discussions with the Holdrege Education Association. I am pleased to report that, pending HEA membership approval, a tentative agreement has been reached for the 2026–27 school year.

If approved by the HEA membership, the Board will be asked at the February meeting to consider a \$750 base salary increase. When combined with significant insurance cost increases and staff movement, the total compensation package reflects a 5.31% overall increase. The intent of this agreement is to maintain teacher salaries within the top third of our peer array, and this adjustment should meet that goal.

**Administrative Salary Increases** - The Negotiations Committee will next turn its attention to administrative salary adjustments. For Board members who have not previously served on this committee, Sandy and I provide a detailed comparison document showing where each administrator falls within their respective peer salary arrays, using the same comparison districts applied to teacher salaries.

I also provide salary recommendations for each administrative position, which the committee may consider as part of its deliberations. Depending on the position, our administrators currently fall between 9 of 9 on the lower end and 5 of 9 on the higher end of their respective arrays.

**February Board Meeting Agenda Items** - In addition to the HEA agreement and administrative salaries, the Board will also be asked at the February meeting to consider classified salary guidelines for new hires. Additionally, all classified, professional, and professional exempt salary schedules will be included as agenda items for Board consideration at the February meeting

**December 2026 Board Meeting Date** - Following the Board's "third Monday of the month" schedule, the December 2026 meeting would fall on December 21, during Christmas break. If possible, I recommend moving the meeting to one of the following alternative dates and times:

- Wednesday, December 16: Noon, 4:00 p.m., or 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 17: Noon or 4:00 p.m.

Please share any conflicts or preferences as soon as possible so a revised meeting date can be finalized.