

Board of Education Working Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2025 7:00 PM
High School Library
P.O. Box 8400
Ravenna, NE 68869-8400

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Open Meeting Law
2. Excuse Absent Board Members
3. The Pledge of Allegiance
4. Recitation of School Mission Statement: ***Preparing Students Today to Succeed Tomorrow: Family-Community-School***
5. Recitation of Board Mission Statement: ***Providing collaborative leadership to prepare students today to succeed tomorrow.***
6. Approval of Agenda
7. Consent Agenda
 - 7.1. Notice of Meeting Publication: The notice for this board meeting was published in the September 10th edition of *The Ravenna News*
8. Request to Address the Board and Correspondence
9. Information and Action Items
 - 9.1. Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to the Ravenna Public Schools Bond Building Project
 - 9.2. Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to bid approvals for contractors for the bond building project
 - 9.3. Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to the Groundbreaking Celebration for the Ravenna Public Schools Bond Building Project
10. Superintendent's Report
11. Adjournment

Ravenna Public Schools

Family-Community-School

Preparing Students Today To Succeed Tomorrow



BELIEF STATEMENTS:

- We believe all students learn at different rates, in different ways, and are capable of success.
- We believe in supporting the academic, behavioral, social, and emotional needs of all students in a safe and positive environment.
- We believe education is a shared responsibility between family, school, and community.

The Ravenna Way



Ken Schroeder <ken.schroeder@ravennabluejays.org>

FW: Groundbreaking Checklist

1 message

Mark Lewis <mlewis@bdconstruction.com>

Fri, Sep 12, 2025 at 11:51 AM

To: Ken Schroeder <ken.schroeder@ravennabluejays.org>

Cc: Marsha Wilkerson <mwilkerson@bdconstruction.com>

Just an FYI for discussion.

From: Marsha Wilkerson <mwilkerson@bdconstruction.com>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:37 AM

To: Mark Lewis <mlewis@bdconstruction.com>

Subject: Groundbreaking Checklist

BD Construction Groundbreaking Checklist

- Who will break ground? Ideas include board members, staff, students, alumni, donors, political representative (mayor, state senator, US senator/congressman), reps from BD and Wilkins, etc.
- BD has gold shovels for you to use
- We also have about 5 smaller, primary colored shovels if you want students to break ground, and we have small plastic toy "sand shovels" if you want all the students to have one to dig a little!
- Who will speak? A groundbreaking typically lasts between 5 and 10 minutes, unless you really have a lot to say or a lot of people to recognize. The groundbreaking ceremony might include a welcome and brief comments about the project. It can include multiple people. BD's general manager often likes to say a few words, thanking you for selecting us. The architect might explain the design. Sometimes a board member or donor likes to say something as well, typically about the community supporting the bond. After the shovel ceremony, thank people for coming and invite them for refreshments.
- Refreshments? You don't have to have refreshments, but if you do they are typically pretty simple and dependent upon time of day. Maybe muffins, OJ and coffee for morning or cookies, tea and lemonade for afternoon, popcorn or hot dogs for an evening event. But I've also seen cake, cupcakes, etc. One school did their groundbreaking just before school let out and all students were invited and then we gave them all mini-cupcakes.
- How will you invite people?
 - News release
 - Email invitations (I can help with this if you don't have anyone)
 - Chamber of commerce
 - Posters and flyers at your current location
- News Releases/PR. This is a great time to celebrate and get the word out about your building project and how the bond finances are being used. It's also a good time to set expectations about the length of the project, any special accommodations that the community may have to make as the project is ongoing (parking, safety)
 - Have several people prepared to be interviewed.
 - I can prepare a news release if you would like.
- Decorations?
 - This might not be necessary, but may include an easel with some elevations and layouts of the project, balloons, posters that the students have made, etc.
 - Staff have all worn matching shirts
- Where on the property is the best location for the groundbreaking? It's nice to have something that is fairly close to parking, close to the project, that gives those attending a good place to stand and has a nice backdrop for photos and news video footage.

o We typically pre-dig some dirt so that it is easy for those actually “breaking ground” to dig their shovels in and get a nice shovel full of dirt to turn over. Or, we also have “groundbreaking boxes” so that you don’t have to disturb the ground in places you are not ready for it yet.

- Bad weather plan? We have brought dirt inside and put it on a tarp to turn over.

BD has several resources that we can bring to help you:

- Gold shovels (just let me know how many you want)
- Kid-sized shovels in primary colors if you want to involve any children
- Hard hats
 - o We also have some kid-sized toy hard hats that we can give away to kids who come for the crowd
- Our groundbreaking trailer.
 - o The trailer has a window that we can serve refreshments out of
- Refreshments (we could bring drinks, cookies, popcorn, etc.) Just let me know what you want and how many people you expect. Wilkins collaborates with us on this.
- BD has a wireless PA system with microphone



MARSHA WILKERSON

Marketing and Community Outreach

✉ mwilkerson@bdconstruction.com

📍 209 E 6th St | Kearney, NE 68847

☎ 308.234.1836 x26

🌐 BDconstruction.com

