

MULLEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
February 9, 2026

The regular meeting of the Mullen School Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Liza Simonson She announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the west wall. Board members in attendance were **Present:** Mike French, Dane Peterson, Casey Phillips, Liza Simonson, Michael Stichka, Patrick Wright. Also present were 3 administrators, __ staff, __ students, and __ patrons

Motion by Mike French, second by Dane Peterson to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Patrick Wright, second by Mike French to approve the resignation of Ms. Emily Brown effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year with regret. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Casey Phillips, second by Dane Peterson to approve the contract for Kyler Horn to be the 2nd grade teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Casey Phillips, second by Mike French to approve payment to KC Electric Inc. for the greenhouse electrical installation using NDE CTE Grant Funding and Greenhouse grant funding. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Patrick Wright, second by Mike French to approve payment to JEO consulting group for the schematic design of the gym locker room/infill project using the Special Building Fund. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Patrick Wright, second by Casey Phillips to approve JEO consulting group to put the schematic design out for bid to appropriate construction companies. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Dane Peterson, second by Michael Stichka to approve payment of membership fees to the Nebraska Association of School Boards. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Casey Phillips, second by Michael Stichka to Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the claim from the Hooker County Tribune for \$130.11. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: Abstain (With Conflict), Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes
yes: 5, no: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Motion by Casey Phillips, second by Dane Peterson to Approve of the following February claims: Payroll \$320,419.87, General Fund \$78,326.85, Lunch Fund \$8,704.17, Special Building Fund \$57,250.00, Employee Benefit Fund \$1,640.84, and January Activity Fund \$11,504.43. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Casey Phillips, second by Mike French to approve revised Policy 6005 Academic Credits and Graduation. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Dane Peterson, second by Michael Stichka to approve the 2026-2027 Educational Service Unit 16 contracts for Special Education Early Childhood & School Age, Mental Health Services, and Southwest Nebraska Distance Education. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Casey Phillips, second by Dane Peterson to approve the 2026-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiated by the Mullen Board Negotiations Committee and the Mullen Education Association. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

Motion by Dane Peterson, second by Patrick Wright to approve the issuance of 2026-2027 certified staff contracts. Motion carried.

Casey Phillips: yes, Dane Peterson: yes, Liza Simonson: yes, Michael Stichka: yes, Mike French: yes, Patrick Wright: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

As soon as the next month's meeting notice is posted on the Mullen Public Schools website, an agenda will be available for public inspection on both the school website and on the SPARQ meetings site.

Chris Kuncl, Recording Secretary