

## Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025 6:00 PM

Gering High School - Freshmen Academy Wing  
1500 U Street  
Gering, NE 69341



## Minutes

1. **GPS Board of Education Information**  
**Present:** Brian Copsey, Matt Kautz, Josh Lacy, John Maser, Greg Trautman, Tracy Wiese.
2. **Opening Procedures**
  - 2.1. Call to Order by Dr. Nicole Regan, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Superintendent, Dr. Regan.

    - 2.1.i. Oath of new board member.  
**Matt Kautz**
  - 2.2. Roll Call
  - 2.3. Pledge of Allegiance
  - 2.4. Open Meetings Act
3. **Board Organizational Meeting**  
**By board policy, the Superintendent will chair the election of the President and then the newly elected President will preside over the other elections.**
  1. **Election of School Board President**

Greg Trautman had 6 votes (unanimous) to become the School Board President.
4. **Convene the Board of Education to Order**  
**The newly elected Board President will now preside over the meeting.**
  1. **Election of School Board Vice President**
  2. **Dissemination of Ethics/Accountability & Disclosure statutes and Board Member Code of Ethics (Policy # 202.1).**

Tracy Wiese had 6 votes (unanimous) to become the School Board Vice President.
5. **Consent Agenda**
  - 5.1. Consent Appointments and Designations:
    - 5.1.i. American Civics, Curriculum & Personnel Committee (Facilitators, Dr. Regan & Kory Knight)

- 5.1.ii. Finance & Facilities Committee (Facilitator, Stacy Rodriguez)
  - 5.1.iii. Board Secretary: Audrey Nightingale, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
  - 5.1.iv. Board Treasurer: Stacy Rodriguez, Director of Finance & Facilities
  - 5.1.v. Appoint Superintendent Dr. Nicole Regan as the Authorized Representative to secure funds for Gering Public Schools.
  - 5.1.vi. Federal Authorized Representative: Dr. Nicole Regan, Superintendent of Schools.
  - 5.1.vii. Depository for Funds:
    - 1. Platte Valley Bank
    - 2. Riverstone Bank
    - 3. BOK Financial Services
    - 4. Wells Fargo Corporate Trust Services
  - 5.1.viii. School Physician: Regional West Physicians Clinic
  - 5.1.ix. Designation of Legal Council:
    - 5. KSB School Law
    - 6. Perry Law Firm
  - 5.1.x. Designation of District Newspaper of Record: Star Herald
  - 5.1.xi. Designation of ADA Compliance Officer: Julie Siebke, Director of Student Services
  - 5.1.xii. Designation of Title IX & XIII Officer: Dr. Nicole Regan, Superintendent of Schools
- 5.2. Minutes from the previous month's board meeting(s)
- 5.3. Approval of Claims/Bills
- 5.4. Board Policy Adoption
- 5.4.i. First Reading of Board Policies
  - 5.4.ii. Second Reading of Board Policies
- 5.5. Personnel Items
- 5.5.i. Certified Staff Contract(s)
    - 5.5.i.1. **Colby Elliott - GHS Math Teacher**
  - 5.5.ii. Certified Staff Retirement(s)
    - 5.5.ii.1. **Melody Abel - Middle School Math**

5.5.ii.2. **Kim Cardwell - Middle School ELA**

6. **Celebration of Excellence**

6.1. Student Achievements Mock Trial

Jenn Sibal presented to the board how the Mock Trial has done so far. They are district champions and received 3rd at State. Ruby Giess was a state champion for her individual competition.

6.2. Jen Sibal - Annual Report

Jenn Sibal gave the Annual Report for the 23/24 school year.

6.3. Dr. Nicole Regan - Strategic Priority #3 - Modernizing Infrastructure *Gering Public School District will invest in safe and inviting facilities for the purpose of fostering an optimal learning environment.*

Dr. Regan presented to the board on the Gering Middle School. She went over all the survey results that were conducted over the last couple of weeks. We have strong support, over 80%. We have a strong financial rating, so the hope is that we can make a lease agreement to complete a track. The track will be taken out of our bond amount. We have started to have tours of the Middle School to hopefully get the community in there to see the conditions. Our costs are over 355% higher at the middle school than any other school in the district. Andy Forney also commented that we have money being levied into our special building fund for the track and other projects.

7. **Reports & Discussions**

7.1. Board Committee Report: Curriculum & Personnel

John Maser presented to the board. He talked about the progress of the middle school and how he recently took a tour. It was an eye-opening experience. He discussed some of the second semester updates. Exciting to have 5 conference champions so far in our athletic programs! And excited that we are offering united bowling. The After-School Program recently received a \$250,000 grant, and they are currently buying things to expand their program. Currently, we are in negotiations for the 25/26 school year.

7.2. Board Committee Report: Business & Facilities

Josh Lacy presented to the board on how they have been talking with Andy Forney about the bond for the middle school, and we have a new resolution. He also talked about negotiations for the 25/26 school year. Our contracted services have decreased. For example, we decreased our seats in Vauts since we were not using them all. We are currently getting an RFP for food service next school year. He also talked about the facility update on the auditorium at the high school. Still needs some work, as the HVAC is still having issues. We need to upgrade our cameras throughout the district. We did receive a grant of \$36,000 to help with the cost of this.

7.3. Superintendent's Report

**This month, Board Appreciation begins January 26. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation for Matt Kautz for**

accepting his appointment tonight as well as John Maser, Josh Lacy, Greg Trautman, Tracy Wiese and Brian Copsey for their unwavering support and leadership in Gering Public Schools and the Gering Community. Last week at our board retreat, Dr. Jim Sutfin reminded us of the importance of board leadership. The greatest influencer to our community and the state of Nebraska resides in these 6 seats. As board members, you are very humble in your servant leadership. Each of you have cast your vision with core values on Gering pride, growth and opportunities in our school community. You have fostered an environment of trust which will carry the future of our district into opportunities and growth for all to benefit.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your leadership, your dedication, sacrifice and inspiration to make our district shine.

8. **Public Comments: 204.12**

Mary Winn addressed the board.

9. **Action Items**

- 9.1. Discuss, consider and take action on a resolution to call an election to authorize \$43 million in general obligation bonds for construction additions, renovations, and improvements for the safety, security, and structural stability of the Gering Middle School building, effectively replacing the \$45 million election resolution adopted in December.

10. **Board Comments**

Brian Copsey - Was absent at the last meeting, wanted to give a shout-out to B.J. on his 20 years with the board.

Tracy Wiese - Love Mary's comments about getting elementary families into the middle school and getting people registered to vote. Sad to know we are spending so much on the middle school that could be allocated for other things in the district. Loves seeing the community at the board meetings.

Matt Kautz - no remarks at the time

John Maser - Happy New Year! Thanks to the Middle School Committee and thanks on so many positive comments about the bond. Welcome to Matt! Congrats Greg and Tracy.

Josh Lacy - Congrats to Mocktrial. Thanks to the Middle School Committee. Welcome Matt and congrats to Greg and Tracy!

Greg Trautman - Thanks for voting me as president. Welcome to Matt. Thanks to the community members. Please register to vote, and we need to get people into the middle school to see its condition.

- 10.1. Tentative Upcoming Board Meeting/Event Dates

11. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

**POLICY 202.1**  
**GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**GERING, NE**

**BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS**

Board members' actions, verbal and nonverbal, reflect the attitude and the beliefs of the school district. Therefore, board members must conduct themselves professionally and in a manner fitting to their position.

Each board member shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

**AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER:**

1. I will listen.
2. I will respect the opinion of others.
3. I will recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and the merit of their work.
4. I will be motivated only by an earnest desire to serve my school district and the children of my school district community in the best possible way.
5. I will not use the school district or any part of the school district program for my own personal advantage or for the advantage of my friends or supporters.
6. I will vote for a closed session of the board if the situation requires it, but I will consider "secret" sessions of board members unethical.
7. I will recognize that to promise in advance of a meeting how I will vote on any proposition which is to be considered is to close my mind and agree not to think through other facts and points of view which may be presented in the meeting.
8. I will expect, in board meetings, to spend more time on education programs and procedures than on business details.
9. I will recognize that authority rests with the board in legal session and not with individual members of the board, except as authorized by law.
10. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the board meeting, about other members of the board or their opinions.
11. I will express my honest and most thoughtful opinions frankly in board meetings in an effort to have decisions made for the best interests of the children and the education program.
12. I will insist that the members of the board participate fully in board action and recommend that when special committees are appointed, they serve only in an investigative and advisory capacity.
13. I will abide by majority decisions of the board.
14. I will carefully consider petitions, resolutions and complaints and will act in the best interests of the school district.
15. I will not discuss the confidential business of the board in my home, on the street or in my office; the place for such discussion is the board meeting.

16. I will endeavor to keep informed on local, state and national educational developments of significance so I may become a better board member.

IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY:

1. I will consider myself a trustee of public education and will do my best to protect it, conserve it, and advance it, giving to the children of my school district community the educational facilities that are as complete and adequate as it is possible to provide.
2. I will consider it an important responsibility of the board to interpret the aims, methods and attitudes of the school district to the community.
3. I will earnestly try to interpret the needs and attitudes of the school district community and do my best to translate them into the education program of the school district.
4. I will attempt to procure adequate financial support for the school district.
5. I will represent the entire school district rather than individual electors, patrons or groups.
6. I will not regard the school district facilities as my own private property but as the property of the people.

IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT AND EMPLOYEES:

1. I will function, in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine, as part of a legislative, policy-forming body, not as an administrative officer.
2. I will recognize that it is my responsibility, together with that of my fellow board members, to see the school district is properly run and not to run them myself.
3. I will expect the school district to be administered by the best-trained technical and professional people it is possible to procure within the financial resources of the school district.
4. I will recognize the superintendent as executive officer of the board.
5. I will work through the administrative employees of the board, not over or around them.
6. I will expect the superintendent to keep the board adequately informed through oral and written reports.
7. I will vote to hire employees only after the recommendation of the superintendent has been received.
8. I will insist that contracts be equally binding on teachers and board.
9. I will give the superintendent power commensurate with the superintendent's responsibility and will not in any way interfere with, or seek to undermine, the superintendent's authority.
10. I will give the superintendent friendly counsel and advice.
11. I will present any personal criticism of employees to the superintendent.
12. I will refer complaints to the proper administrative officer.

TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER SCHOOL BOARDS:

1. I will not employ a superintendent, principal or teacher who is already under contract with another school district without first securing assurance from the proper authority that the person can be released from contract.
2. I will consider it unethical to pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass a neighboring board or its representatives.
3. I will not recommend an employee for a position in another school district unless I would employ the individual under similar circumstances.
4. I will answer all inquiries about the standing and ability of an employee to the best of my knowledge and judgement, with complete frankness.
5. I will associate myself with board members of other school districts for the purpose of discussing school district issues and cooperating in the improvement of the education program.

Legal Reference:                   Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference:                   201.1 Board Powers and Responsibilities  
  202.2 Board Member Conflict of Interest

## Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, December 9, 2024 6:00 PM

Gering High School - Freshmen Academy Wing  
1500 U Street  
Gering, NE 69341



## Minutes

### 1. GPS Board of Education Information

**Absent:** Brian Copsey, **Present:** Josh Lacy, John Maser, B.J. Peters, Greg Trautman, Tracy Wiese.

### 2. Opening Procedures

#### 2.1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President B.J. Peters.

#### 2.2. Roll Call

#### 2.3. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 2.4. Open Meetings Act

### 3. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was presented by Josh Lacy, seconded by Greg Trautman. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Absent, Josh Lacy: **Yea**, John Maser: **Yea**, B.J. Peters: **Yea**, Greg Trautman: **Yea**, Tracy Wiese: **Yea**

#### 3.1. Minutes from the previous month's board meeting(s)

#### 3.2. Approval of Claims/Bills

#### 3.3. Board Policy Adoption

##### 3.3.i. First Reading of Board Policies

##### 3.3.ii. Second Reading of Board Policies

#### 3.4. Personnel Items

##### 3.4.i. Certified Staff Contract(s)

##### 3.4.ii. Certified Staff Resignation(s)

Carol Propp - Retirement (May 23rd, 2025)

#### 3.5. Designation of District Newspaper of Record: Star-Herald

### 4. Celebration of Excellence

#### 4.1. Student Athletics and Accomplishments:

Jenn Sibal presented to the board all the activities and honors we recognized tonight. She awarded each individual and each group with a certificate signed by our board president, B.J. Peters, and Superintendent, Dr. Regan. B.J. commented that the softball team had a great season! Greg stated how great it is to see them improve and how proud he is of their team. Greg also thanked Mr. Zwig for his efforts in including kids in his schoolhouse in Santa's Village. It's always good to see student participation.

#### 4.2. Central Office Celebration

Kory Knight presented to the board on B.J. Peter's celebration of 20 years on the board at Gering Public Schools. This was his last board meeting, and our district staff presented him with a gift of appreciation. He was given a picture frame with a poem and several pictures of all the things B.J. has had his hand on over the last 20 years.

### 5. Reports & Discussions

#### 5.1. Board Committee Report: Curriculum & Personnel

John Maser presented to the board how the bond resolution survey went out to the community. Also, how Jack Baker is creating a design for the potential new Middle School building. He also talked about the potential need for a new JAG teacher position next school year as they have had excellent participation among students. There is also a potential grant that we can receive which will go towards helping improve 3rd grade reading. He also discussed the budgets for all student services that we provide and how we need to do what we can to serve our students in-house. Lastly, he talked about AQUESTT scores and how it's good to see where we fall. Our numbers are good, but it's also good to see where we can improve.

#### 5.2. Board Committee Report: Business & Facilities

Josh Lacy presented to the board in regard to their last meeting that Sentor Hardin was present via Zoom. He stated that we are feeling the pinch, and we need to do what we can as a district to use taxpayer money the best we can. In regard to facilities, we need several roof repairs at the Middle School and new filters for the Auditorium at the High School. We bought a snow plow, which will help reduce the cost of paying an outside company.

#### 5.3. Superintendent's Report

**When you think about leadership talent and a culture of excellence...it starts at the top with our Board of Education. In 2004, Board President BJ Peters began his leadership journey serving the Gering community. For 20 years, BJ has dedicated his time and talent in promoting a culture in Gering Public Schools that is unmatched. His passion for public education, heart for students and deep understanding of the systems in a school district has earned him accolades throughout the state of Nebraska.**

**Although this critical leadership seat is not monetary, the dividends are profound. Just a few notable accomplishments of BJ Peters:**

- **He has lead the hiring of 4 superintendents,**
- **Served on all committees including policy review, personnel, curriculum and assessment, business and finance**
- **2017 bond passed GHS**
- **2008 bond passes for Lincoln Elem.**

- Facility enhancements of district tennis courts, greenhouse, elementary preschool
- He has high standards driving excellence in all areas but also trusting us to do the work to continuously make Gering Great in every sense.

**BJ has been the thread woven into the fabric of our success in Gering Public Schools. He has been a voice on the state level advocating for strong leadership and responsibility to serve our most precious resources, our students as well as a call to action to serve as a school board member to others.**

**Steven Covey- Begin with the end in mind....I hope we have supported your vision and you can see what you have so successfully set forth in accomplishing for Gering Public Schools.**

**I hope your story is the happy ending that you sought 20 years ago.**

**Because of you, there is a foundation of excellence, high talent in this room, an empowering culture and a team of leaders in all of us where you can feel proud of the work and commitment you have done for us.**

**Although your board appointed journey ends this year, your impact continues as making a difference in the lives of students and the community.**

**Call to action: Leadership matters. Just as we know as educators, we have young lives looking to us, watching us, placing their hopes and dreams in our hands for us to open doors, experiences and opportunities for them to have the best opportunities this life has to offer us.**

**Thank you BJ, for being such a support to me personally and professionally.**

**6. Enter into Executive Session for the sole purpose of discussing personnel matters to prevent needless injury to the reputation of an individual if deemed necessary.**

The board entered into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m.

**7. Reconvene from the Executive Session.**

A motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. was presented by Tracy Wiese, seconded by John Maser. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Absent, Josh Lacy: **Yea**, John Maser: **Yea**, B.J. Peters: **Yea**, Greg Trautman: **Yea**, Tracy Wiese: **Yea**

**8. Any action deemed necessary as a result of the Executive Session discussion.**

**9. Public Comments: 204.12**

Mike Brunner and Curt Richter addressed the board.

**10. Action Items**

10.1. Discuss, consider, and take action regarding the approval of a second JAG (JOBS for America's Graduates) position for the district.

A motion to approve a second JAG position for the district was presented by John Maser, seconded by Tracy Wiese. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Absent, Josh Lacy: **Yea**, John Maser: **Yea**, B.J. Peters: **Yea**, Greg Trautman: **Yea**, Tracy Wiese: **Yea**

10.2. Discuss, consider and take action on a resolution to call a special election to pay for the costs of construction additions, renovations and improvements to the Gering Middle School building and related matters.

A motion to take action on a resolution to call a special election to pay for the costs of construction additions, renovations, and improvements to the Gering Middle School building and related matters was presented by Josh Lacy, seconded by Greg Trautman. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Absent, Josh Lacy: **Yea**, John Maser: **Yea**, B.J. Peters: **Yea**, Greg Trautman: **Yea**, Tracy Wiese: **Yea**

10.3. Discuss, consider, and take action regarding the review and approval of the Superintendents' 2024-2025 school year evaluation.

A motion to review and approve the Superintendent's 2024-2025 school year evaluation was presented by Tracy Wiese, seconded by Josh Lacy. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Absent, Josh Lacy: **Yea**, John Maser: **Yea**, B.J. Peters: **Yea**, Greg Trautman: **Yea**, Tracy Wiese: **Yea**

10.4. Discuss, consider, and take action regarding the annual review and approval of the Superintendents' 2025-2026 school year contract and salary.

A motion to review and approve the Superintendent's 2025-2026 school year contract and salary was presented by Greg Trautman, seconded by Josh Lacy. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Absent, Josh Lacy: **Yea**, John Maser: **Yea**, B.J. Peters: **Yea**, Greg Trautman: **Yea**, Tracy Wiese: **Yea**

## 11. Board Comments

Josh Lacy - Good to see the softball team and construction class tonight! Thank you for the public comments and a special thanks to B.J. for what he has done on the board.

John Maser - Great to see input from the public. Awesome to have had B.J. on the board for the last 20 years!

Tracy Wiese - Loved seeing the softball team! Cool to see Mr. Zwig and how he changes the lives of our students! Thanks for the public comments. Glad that the public gets to vote. I am also a taxpayer and understand that this is a difficult discussion going forward on the bond. We do have a building fund now. We have spent ESSER funds, not our budget money, on certain things. Even though my kids are gone, I still want to invest in GPS. Thanks to B.J. for being so kind and having taught me a lot!

Greg Trautman - Thank you for the public comments. We do have things to improve, and we need to do more preventive maintenance. So cool that GPS has unified bowling now! GPS is becoming more inclusive. Thanks to B.J. for being a mentor and for his leadership.

B.J. Peters - How do you put 20 years into words? I want to thank my wife for all her support over the years. Thank you to parents, students, and staff. Thank you to the past and present board members. Be confident in what you are doing!

11.1. Tentative Upcoming Board Meeting/Event Dates

## 12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

**POLICY 205.2**  
**GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**GERING, NE**

POLICY ADOPTION

The board shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two regular board meetings. The proposed policy changes shall be distributed and public comment will be allowed at each meeting prior to final board action. This notice procedure shall be required except for emergency situations. If the board adopts a policy in an emergency situation, a statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The board shall have complete discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation.

The final action taken to adopt the proposed policy shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the board at the next regular meeting after the meeting allowing public discussion. The policy will be effective on the later of the date of passage or the date stated in the motion.

In the case of an emergency, a new or changed policy may be adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the board. The emergency policy shall expire at the close of the third regular meeting following the emergency action, unless the policy adoption procedure stated above is followed and the policy is reaffirmed.

Legal Reference:           Neb. Statute 79-520 (Class III)  
                                  79-521 (Class IV)  
                                  79-522 (Class V)  
                                  79-523 (Class VI)  
                                  79-526  
                                  84-712 et seq.  
                                  NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference:           201.1 Board Powers and Responsibilities

23  
24

# Gering Public Schools Annual Report



## BULLDOGS LEADING FOR IMPACT

- GHS Construction Students Build Gering Preschool  
*As Featured In ...*
  - Stanford Journal for Early Childhood Learning
  - Nebraska Public Media
  - Statewide through "Public Schools Proud"



### Graduation Rate



**94%**

### Student Diversity

African American	1%
Native American	2%
Asian	1%
Hispanic	33%
White	63%

### Free & Reduced Meal Rate



**55%**

### Attendance Rate



**94%**



### ENROLLMENT

**2,020**

Students



### DUAL CREDIT

**1143.5** Dual Credit Hours Complete

Success/Passing Rate **98.15%**

GHS Dual Credit saved families **\$143,368** in tuition & fees



### TEACHERS



**126**

**16:1** Student/Teacher Ratio



Teachers with a Masters Degree



Staff Are Gering Alumni

# Adopted 2024-29 Strategic Plan

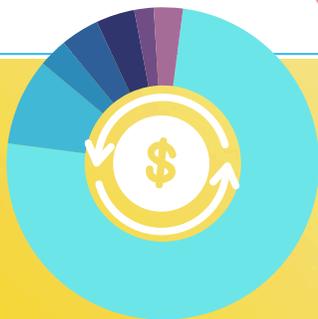


- 18 Hours of Focus Groups
  - Students, Staff, Parents, Business, Alumni, Community
- 540 Surveys
- 37 Hours of Planning



geringschools.net

## Expenditures



**74% Teaching & Teaching Support** \$20,254,447

Last year, 74 cents of every dollar spent was used for teaching and learning support such as counselors, librarians and paraprofessionals

**9% School & Central Office Admin** \$2,689,810

Administration, which includes principals and central office staff account for 9 cents of every dollar.

**7% Custodial, Maintenance & Grounds** \$1,823,675

More than 7 cents per dollar was spent on school maintenance, custodians or grounds crews.

**3% Transportation** \$830,188

Buses and drivers to safely transport students daily cost the District less than 3 cents per dollar each year.

**Nutrition Services**

A little more than 5 cents of every dollar provided nutritious meals for students.  
\$1,271,455

**Utilities** \$687,008

We invest right back into the Gering community through water, power & sewer  
2%

## REVENUE

### LOCAL

Local taxes are referred to as "levies" because they are levied on a calendar-year basis from local property taxpayers. Levies are critical to district funding.

**36%** \$9,549,884

### STATE

The State of Nebraska accounts for 53 cents for each dollar. The amount paid by the state is dependent on enrollment..

**53%** \$13,664,723

### FEDERAL

Federal money accounts for 10 cents of every dollar and helps provide vital services to specific areas like special education.

**10%** \$2,440,265

### OTHER

All other funding sources combined make up the remainder.

**1%** \$256,549

## ACADEMIC IMPACT



2nd Year: GHS & WNCC Dual Grad!



### 2023-24 NSCAS Results

SCIENCE - % At or Above Proficiency

Gering Public Schools 72%

State 74%

MATH - % At or Above Proficiency

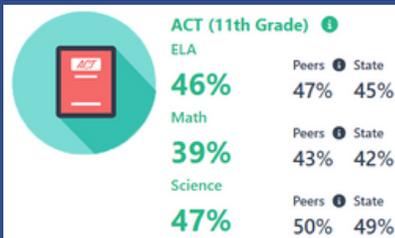
Gering Public Schools 56%

State 58%

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - % At or Above Proficiency

Gering Public Schools 50%

State 59%



### Activity Takeaways



- 3 Individual State Champions: Creighton Beals, Natalie Peterson & Jordan Shirley
- Back 2 Back State Speech Champions
- 6 All NSAA Academic Teams: Volleyball, Cross Country, Girls Golf, Girls Track, Girls Tennis
- Ranked 5th across the NSAA with Students Participating in At Least 2 Sports
- 24 All-Conference Participants



# GMS

# Safety & Stability = Success

After months of staff, student, parent and community feedback, we launched our strategic plan in 2023. One key GMS goal emerged ...

**Invest in safe and inviting facilities for the purpose of fostering an optimal learning environment**

## Critical Focus Areas



### Safe & Secure Entrances

Single secure entrance that ensures safe and secure access for students, staff, & visitors



### Structural Stability

Address structural issues, including sinking foundation, to ensure long-term stability



### Improved Learning Environment

Update inefficient & outdated HVAC systems to provide healthy learning environment

### Why Does It Matter?

An updated Gering Middle School is essential for creating a safe environment for students and staff who use the building daily. Addressing ongoing foundation and HVAC issues along with building security will ensure students can focus on learning without ongoing disruptions from inefficient or uncomfortable building conditions.



## GERING

MIDDLE SCHOOL



**1**  
Lincoln  
Elementary  
Bond  
Paid Off

**2**  
District has  
an A2  
Financial  
Rating

**3**  
Maintenance  
Costs are **355%**  
higher at GMS  
than any other  
GPS Facility

**4**  
City Main  
Sewer Line  
Directly  
Under GMS

**5**  
You Are  
Welcome to  
See & Explore!

**5 FAST FACTS**



**What's**

Tear down the east and south sections of the existing middle school



**The**

New 64,000+ sq ft two story classroom addition to the west side of the campus



**Plan?**

NEW secure & clearly defined front entrance

**Voters will consider a bond proposal for Gering Middle School March 11th**

If approved, the proposal would provide **\$43 million** for a series of infrastructure updates to Gering Middle School to address, safety, security, structural issues and classroom environment.

**What's The Financial Impact?**

**ONE MEAL OUT/MONTH**

See the estimated financial impact



For more info visit [www.geringschools.net](http://www.geringschools.net)



- GMS Discovery Tours**
- Every Wednesday in January at 6pm
  - Saturday, January 11th at 10am
  - Saturday, January 25th at 10:30am



SCAN ME!



**GERING**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Focus



# POLLING FEEDBACK





GERING  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL



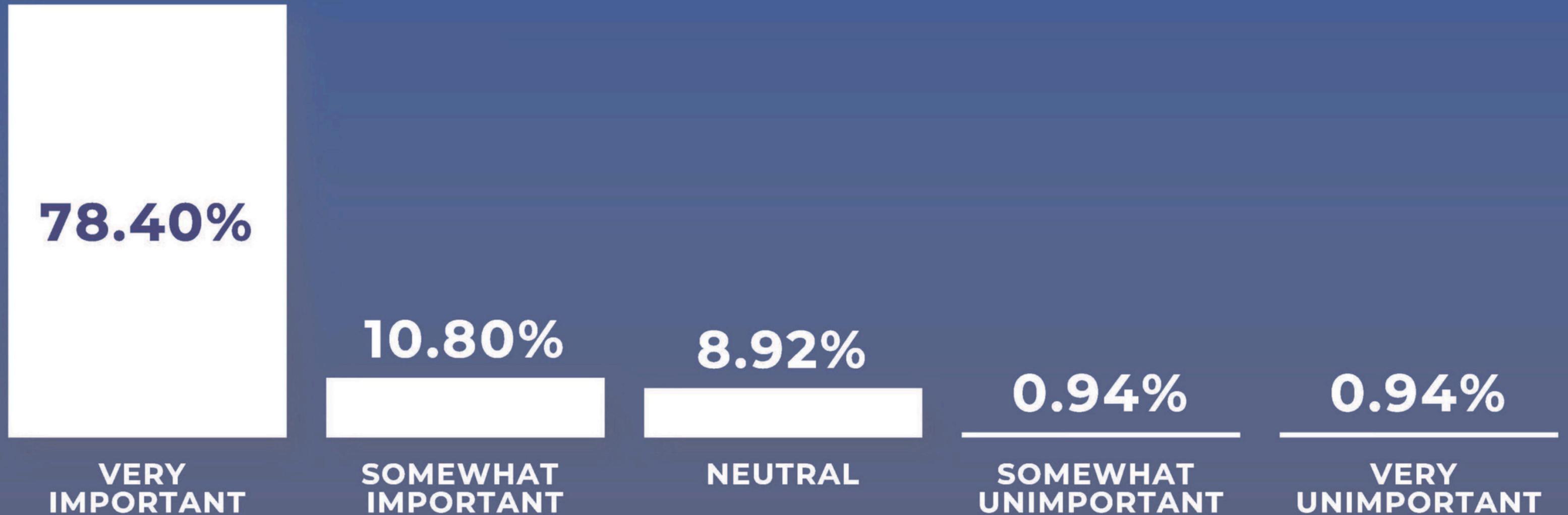
# GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND ISSUE SURVEY 2024

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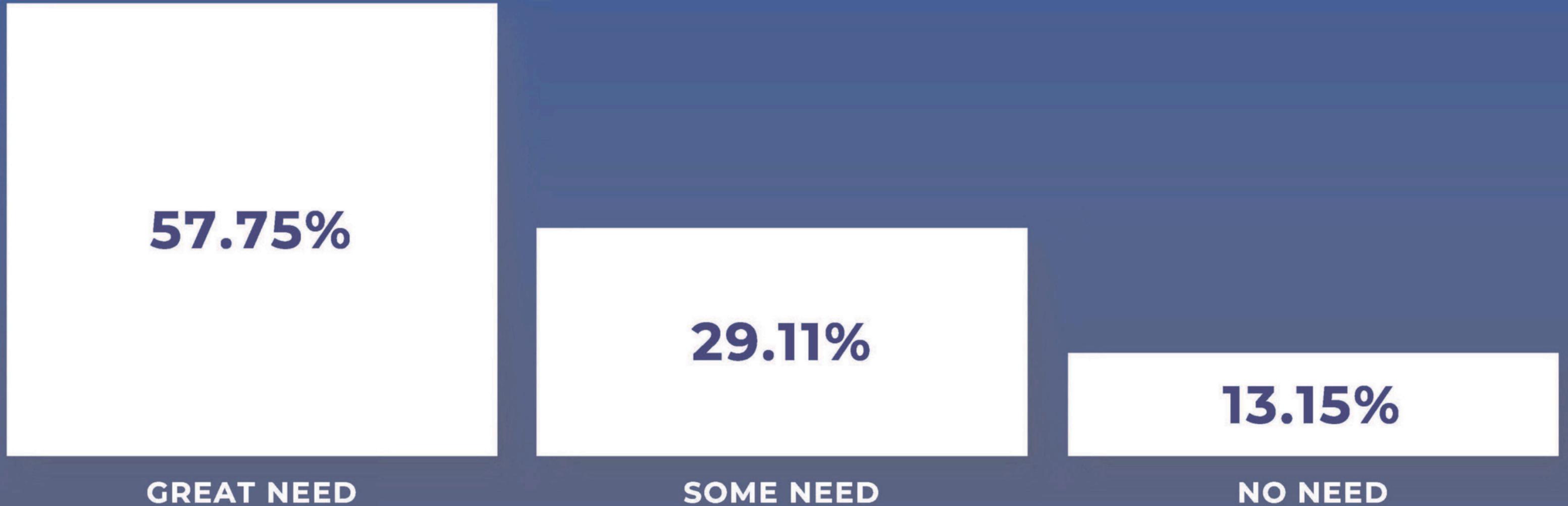
## 2) HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO YOU FOR GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HAVE HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS?



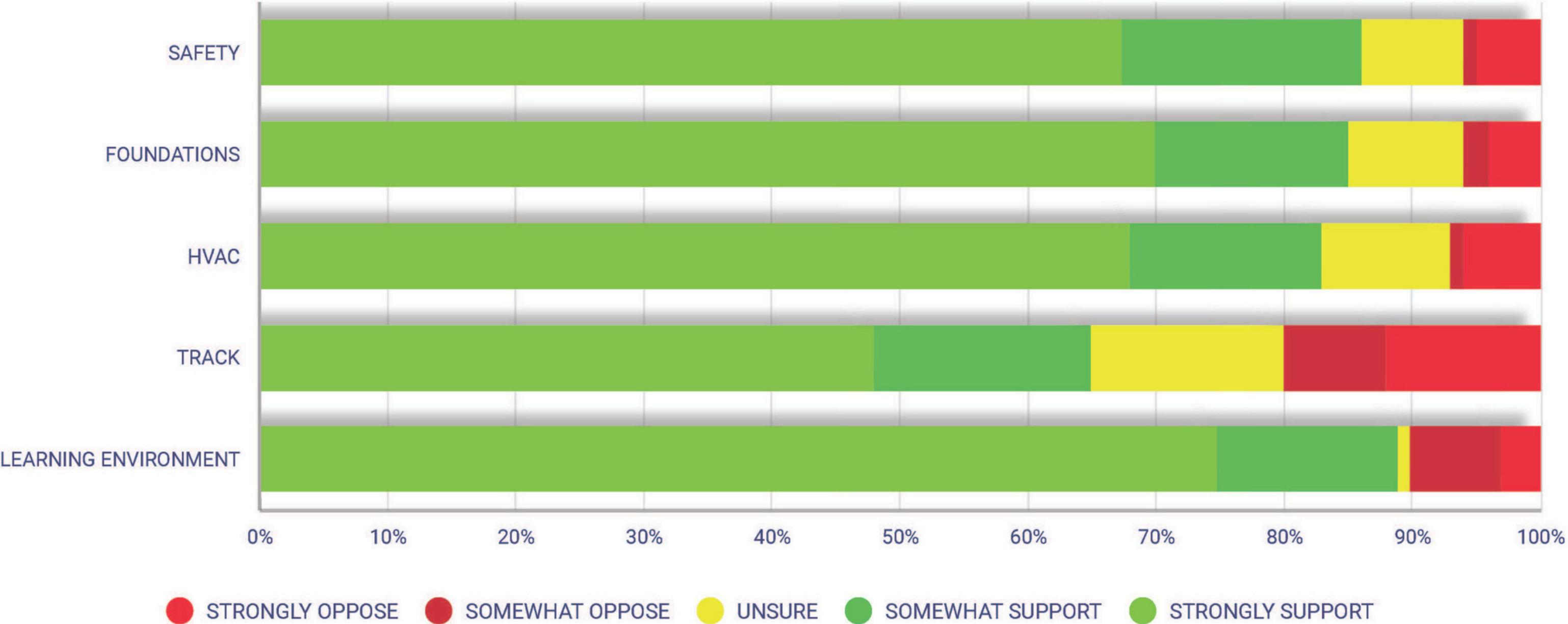
# 6) HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE GERING MIDDLE SCHOOL?



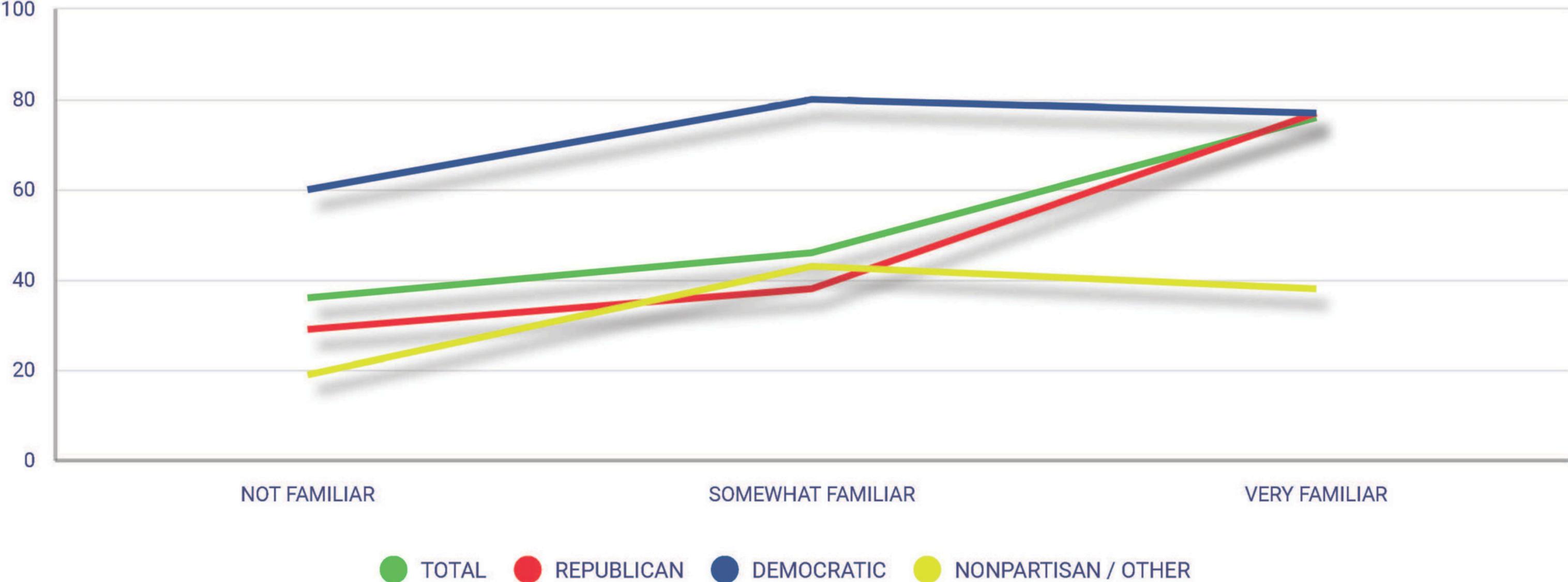
# 11) WOULD YOU SAY GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAS A GREAT NEED, SOME NEED, OR NO NEED FOR THIS BOND ISSUE?



# SUPPORT FOR BOND PROGRAMS



# PERCEIVED GREAT NEED VERSUS FAMILIARITY WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS



# Gering Middle School Discovery Tours



Every Wednesday in January (except Jan. 1) at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 11th | 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 25th | 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Coming Soon ...**



*Later This Month ...*

**Bond Info Website**

**Info @ GPS Events**

**Info Mailers to Voters**

*In February*

**Community**

**Information**

**Meetings**



# Fast Facts

1

Lincoln  
Elementary  
Bond  
Paid Off

2

District has  
an A2  
Financial  
Rating

3

Maintenance  
Costs are **355%**  
higher at GMS  
than any other  
GPS Facility

4

City Main  
Sewer Line  
Directly  
Under GMS

5

You Are  
Welcome to  
See & Explore!

**POLICY 204.12**  
**GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**GERING, NE**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS**

The board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school district matters. In order to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner, the board shall set time aside for citizen participation, either at a specific time during the meeting or during the discussion of agenda items. The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation.

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: Tonight the board will allow a total of 30 minutes for the presentation of ALL public comments. Individuals may speak only one time, and must limit comments to around 5 minutes. If there are more than 6 individuals who wish to address the board, the 30 minutes will be divided equally between the number of speakers. These time limits may be changed by a majority vote of the board members in attendance to extend the time for a specific item or speaker. You may only speak ONCE.
- Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies may require you to follow the district's complaint procedure before addressing the board. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask 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. Lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous, threatening and hostile conduct or statements and fighting words (words whose mere utterance entails a call to violence) will not be tolerated.
- No action by the Board: The board will not act on any matter which is not on the agenda and will not take action upon the conclusion of public comment.

If the pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the board president may decide to eliminate this practice at a particular meeting. The board president will recognize these individuals to make their comments at the appropriate time. The orderly process of the board meeting shall not be interfered with or disrupted. Only those speakers recognized by the board president shall be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. If disruptive, the individual making the comments or another individual causing disruption may be asked to leave the board meeting.

Citizens wishing to address the board on a certain agenda item must notify the superintendent prior to the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the board may do so at this time. However, the board will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents.

Subjects for comment should involve areas within the board's proper responsibility. Discussion on unrelated matters is to be discouraged.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees may bring their complaint to the board only after they have followed board policy addressing citizens' complaints. Students who have a complaint may only bring their complaint to the board after they have followed board policy addressing students' complaints.

Any written or printed materials to be circulated for a meeting of the school board must be submitted to the superintendent by the Wednesday preceding a Monday night meeting.

This material will be transmitted to the members of the board for their consideration.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 201.7 School Board Liability  
204.3 Public Hearings  
204.10 Agenda  
403.5 Public Complaints about Employees

Approved 01/20/2003

Reviewed 02/23/2015, 10/14/2021 6/9/22

Revised 09/14/2009, 7/20/22

## RESOLUTION

### A RESOLUTION CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION IN SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0016 (GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS) IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA; AND RELATED MATTERS

#### BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0016 (GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS) IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA:

**Section 1.** The Board of Education (the “**Board**”) of Scotts Bluff County School District 0016 (Gering Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska (the “**District**”) hereby finds and determines as follows:

(a) The District is duly organized as a Class III school district under Sections 79-102 and 79-407, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended, embracing territory having a population of more than 1,000 and less than 150,000 inhabitants that maintains both elementary and high school grades under the direction of a single board of education.

(b) That the Board adopted a resolution on December 9, 2024, (the “**December Resolution**”) finding that it is necessary that funds be provided to pay the costs of reconstructing and constructing additions, renovations and improvements to the District’s existing middle school building, grounds and facilities, which shall include improvements for safety, security, and structural stability of such buildings and facilities, and providing necessary equipment and apparatus for such buildings, grounds and facilities (collectively, the “**Project**”).

(c) The Board further found and determined in the December Resolution that, to pay the costs of the Project, it will be necessary for the District to issue general obligation bonds of the District in an aggregate stated principal amount not to exceed Forty-Five Million Dollars (\$45,000,000), but now finds and determines that it will be necessary for the District to issue fewer general obligation bonds of the District in a lower aggregate stated principal amount not to exceed Forty-three Million Dollars (\$43,000,000).

(d) It is necessary and appropriate for the District to repeal and replace the December Resolution with this resolution to effect the change from \$45,000,000 to \$43,000,000, with all other provisions remaining the same.

(e) The December Resolution is hereby repealed and replaced with this Resolution. No proposition for the issuance of bonds for any such purposes has been submitted to the electors of the District within six months preceding the date of the special election called by this Resolution.

**Section 2.** A special election (the “**Election**”) is hereby called and shall be held in the District on March 11, 2025, (the “**Election Date**”) at which election there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District the following proposition:

“Shall Scotts Bluff County School District 0016 (Gering Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska issue its general obligation bonds in an aggregate stated principal amount not to exceed Forty-Three Million Dollars (\$43,000,000), to pay the costs of reconstructing and constructing additions, renovations and improvements to the District’s existing middle school building, grounds and facilities, which shall include improvements for safety, security, and structural stability of such buildings and facilities, and providing necessary equipment and apparatus for such buildings, grounds and facilities; with such bonds to be issued in one or more series, at such time or times, to bear interest at such

rate or rates, to be sold at such prices and to become due at such time or times as may be fixed by, or determined at the direction of, the Board of Education; and

“Shall the School District cause to be levied and collected annually a special levy of taxes against all the taxable property in the School District sufficient in rate and amount to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due?”

The ballots to be voted on and cast at such election shall have printed thereon the foregoing proposition with the words “FOR such Bonds and tax” and “AGAINST such Bonds and tax” following the proposition.

Qualified electors voting in favor of the proposition shall blacken the oval opposite the words “FOR such Bonds and tax” following such proposition, and qualified electors voting against such proposition shall blacken the oval opposite the words “AGAINST such Bonds and tax” following such proposition.

**Section 3.** Notice of the Election shall be published at least 42 days prior to the Election Date by the Election Commissioner of Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska (the “**Election Commissioner**”). Notice of the Election shall also be given to the qualified electors of the District at least 20 days prior to the Election and a copy of the sample ballot shall be published one time not more than ten days nor less than three days prior to the Election, or as otherwise provided by law, such notice and sample ballot to be published in the *Gering Courier*, a newspaper of general circulation in the District, and the Secretary be and hereby is directed to cause such notice and sample ballot to be published.

**Section 4.** The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to certify a copy of this Resolution on or before January 17, 2025, which is the eighth Friday prior to the Election Date, to the Election Commissioner, who shall designate the polling places (if the Election Commissioner determines to hold an election at polling places), appoint the election officials and otherwise conduct the Election as provided by law. The District hereby agrees to reimburse the Election Commissioner for the expenses of conducting the Election.

**Section 5.** The form of ballot and form of notice for such bond election shall be in substantially the form attached to this Resolution as **Attachment I**, utilizing the appropriate provisions for an election held by mail or at polling places, as applicable, and with such other additions and changes determined appropriate by the Election Commissioner. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed in conjunction with the Election Commissioner conducting the Election, to arrange for the printing of the necessary ballots for the Election and to do all other things and to take all other appropriate or necessary action in order to cause the Proposition to be submitted to the qualified electors of the District as above provided.

**Section 6.** Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, the President and Secretary of the Board and the Superintendent of the District are each hereby authorized and directed to (a) cause the form of ballot and form of notice approved herein and attached hereto as **Attachment II** to be published in accordance with such laws, with such changes therein as such officials, in consultation with counsel to the District and bond counsel, deem necessary or appropriate to conform to such laws, and (b) take all further actions necessary to comply with all publication and filing deadlines and other election procedures and requirements as may be necessary or proper to submit the proposition described in **Section 2** hereof to the qualified electors of the District on the Election Date.

*[The remainder of this page intentionally left blank.]*

**Section 7.** The December Resolution is hereby repealed and replaced with this Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage as provided by law.

**PASSED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

**SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 0016 (GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS)  
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**OFFICIAL BALLOT  
SCHOOL BOND ELECTION  
SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0016  
(GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS)  
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

“Shall Scotts Bluff County School District 0016 (Gering Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska issue its general obligation bonds in an aggregate stated principal amount not to exceed Forty-Three Million Dollars (\$43,000,000), to pay the costs of reconstructing and constructing additions, renovations and improvements to the District’s existing middle school building, grounds and facilities, which shall include improvements for safety, security, and structural stability of such buildings and facilities, and providing necessary equipment and apparatus for such buildings, grounds and facilities; with such bonds to be issued in one or more series, at such time or times, to bear interest at such rate or rates, to be sold at such prices and to become due at such time or times as may be fixed by, or determined at the direction of, the Board of Education; and

“Shall the School District cause to be levied and collected annually a special levy of taxes against all the taxable property in the School District sufficient in rate and amount to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due?”

- FOR such Bonds and tax
- AGAINST such Bonds and tax

Electors voting in favor of the proposition shall blacken the oval opposite the words “FOR such Bonds and tax” following such proposition, and electors voting against such proposition shall blacken the oval opposite the words “AGAINST such Bonds and tax” following the proposition.

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**NOTE: PUBLISH 1 TIME before election on or after February 24, but before March 9, 2025**

**NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOND ELECTION  
SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0016  
(GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS)  
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the qualified electors of Scotts Bluff County School District 0016 (Gering Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska (the “**District**”) that a special election has been called and will be held in the District on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at which time there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District the following proposition:

“Shall Scotts Bluff County School District 0016 (Gering Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska issue its general obligation bonds in an aggregate stated principal amount not to exceed Forty-Three Million Dollars (\$43,000,000), to pay the costs of reconstructing and constructing additions, renovations and improvements to the District’s existing middle school building, grounds and facilities, which shall include improvements for safety, security, and structural stability of such buildings and facilities, and providing necessary equipment and apparatus for such buildings, grounds and facilities; with such bonds to be issued in one or more series, at such time or times, to bear interest at such rate or rates, to be sold at such prices and to become due at such time or times as may be fixed by, or determined at the direction of, the Board of Education; and

“Shall the School District cause to be levied and collected annually a special levy of taxes against all the taxable property in the School District sufficient in rate and amount to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due?”

FOR such Bonds and tax

AGAINST such Bonds and tax

Electors voting in favor of the proposition shall blacken the oval opposite the words “FOR such Bonds and tax” following such proposition, and electors voting against such proposition shall blacken the oval opposite the words “AGAINST such Bonds and tax” following the proposition.

Ballots for early voting may be obtained from the Election Commissioner of Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska in Gering, Nebraska.

**By Mail Election**

This election will be an election by mail. All registered voters residing within Scotts Bluff County School District 0016 (Gering Public Schools) will receive their ballot by mail and therefore no polling places will be open for voting. Ballots will be mailed by the Election Commissioner of Scotts Bluff County between February 17, 2025, and March 1, 2025. Upon receipt of the official ballot, the registered voter shall mark it, seal the ballot in the identification envelope supplied with the ballot, sign the identification envelope, and comply with the instructions provided with the ballot.

**Voter Registration Deadlines**

The deadline to register to vote at an agency, online, with a deputy registrar, by mail or delivered by an agent is February 21, 2025. The deadline for in-person registration is February 27, 2025, by 6:00 p.m. at the Scotts Bluff County Election Commissioner's Office located at 1825 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Gering, Nebraska. Any voter who changes information on a current registration or registers to vote after the ballots have been mailed but before the in-person registration deadline of February 27, 2025, by 6:00 p.m., will be given a ballot at the time of registration or change.

**Ballot Return Deadline**

Voted ballots, sealed in the completed identification envelope and completed in accordance with the instructions provided with the ballot, must be delivered by mail, in person, or by an agent to the Scotts Bluff County Election Commissioner's Office located at 1825 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Gering, Nebraska, or placed in an official ballot drop box, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 0016 (GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS)  
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

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**NOTE TO ELECTION COMMISSIONER: PUBLISH no less than 42 days prior to election (on or before January 28, 2025)**

**NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT: PUBLISH weekly for 4 consecutive weeks immediately preceding the election, with final publication within 7 days of March 11, 2025.**