

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 12, 2026

7:00 PM

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following members in attendance:

I. Call Meeting to Order

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

II. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

II.A. Public comments will not be received after this period of time. Public comment period is limited to 5 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes overall.

III. Reorganization of the Southern School Board

III.A. Election of Officers

III.B. President

Motion to approve David Zimmerman as the President. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

III.C. Vice-President

Motion to approve Dana Dorn as Vice-President. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

III.D. Secretary

Motion to approve Debra Schlake as the Secretary. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

IV. Approval of Minutes from the December 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, December 17, 2025 Special Board Meeting and January 5, 2026 Special Board Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the December 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, December 17, 2025 Special Board Meeting and January 5, 2026 Special Board Meeting. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

V. Financial Statement: Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

V.A. Approval of Bills

V.A.1. General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Claims

Motion to approve the general fund, special building fund, depreciation fund, and qualified capitol purpose undertaking fund claims. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

V.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

VI. Support Service

VI.A. Facility Update

VI.B. Personnel Items

VI.C. Technology Update

VII. Administrative and Committee Reports

VII.A. Student Board Member Report

VII.B. Elementary Principal's Report

VII.C. Secondary Principal's Report

VII.D. Superintendent's Report

VIII. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

VIII.A. Appointments

VIII.A.1. Authorized Representative for State & Federal Programs

Motion to appoint the Superintendent as the authorized representative for state & federal programs. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.A.2. Bus Mechanic for Bus Inspections

Motion to appoint James Ullman as the bus mechanic for bus inspections. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.A.3. District's Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator

Motion to appoint the Superintendent as the district's non-discrimination compliance coordinator. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.A.4. Title IX Coordinator

Motion to appoint Jeff Murphy as the Title IX coordinator. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.A.5. Treasurer

Motion to appoint Taylor Schmidt as the treasurer. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.B. Designate the Fund Depository for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate Security First Bank of Blue Springs, Western National Bank of Wymore, and Cornerstone Bank of York as the depository for Southern Public Schools. This

motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.C. Designate the Legal Counsel for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate KSB School Law as the district's legal counsel. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.D. Designate the Legal Newspaper for Southern Public Schools

Motion to designate Fairbury Journal-News and Beatrice Daily Sun as the legal newspaper for Southern Public Schools. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.E. Designate the Method for Publicizing Meetings for the Southern Board of Education

Motion to amend the publicizing of meetings of the Southern Board of Education in accordance with Policy 2008: Meetings to include the Beatrice Daily Sun. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.F. Appoint School Board Standing Committees

Motion to approve the standing committees as appointed by the school board president. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, Tabled.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.F.1. American Civics

VIII.F.2. Building & Grounds

VIII.F.3. Finance

VIII.F.4. Negotiations

VIII.F.5. Policy

VIII.F.6. Transportation

VIII.G. Approve the 2026-2027 Negotiated Agreement with Southern Education Association

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 negotiated agreement with Southern Education Association. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.H. Superintendent Contract

Motion to approve the superintendent's contract. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.I. QCPUF Transfer

Motion to transfer \$565,726.00 from the 2025-2026 QCPUF bond fund for eligible reimbursement expenditures made in the 2024-2025 budget year. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.J. Option Enrollment Applications

IX. Adjournment

BY

President of the Board of Education

Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education

of this School District

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

84-1407. Act, how cited. Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

84-1409. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

- Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;
- Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;
- Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;
- Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;
- For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or
- For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (9) of this section, each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committees, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting to a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village, any advisory committee of such governing body, or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper;

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be

finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or (C) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted by the public body in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, (B) request the newspaper submit a post on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (C) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(iv)(A) and (C) of this section and a written record of the request to the newspaper pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(iv)(B) of this section. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met:

- A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;
- An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;
- The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;
- The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;
- An educational service unit;
- The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;
- An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;
- A community college board of governors;
- The Nebraska Brand Committee;
- A local public health department;
- A metropolitan utilities district;
- A regional metropolitan transit authority; and
- A natural resources district.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of (a) an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas, (b) an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, (C) a governing body of a risk management pool and any advisory committee of such governing body, or (D) any advisory committee of any state entity created in response to the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act, such organization, governing body, or committee may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing.

(3) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1413.

(8) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (2)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if:

- The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body;
- No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and
- The public body complies with subdivisions (2)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing. Except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, a public body shall allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

- A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;
- All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;
- Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;
- No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;
- Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and
- The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and shall be available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Revised 06/2025

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO SPEAK:
This is the portion of the meeting when members of the public may speak to the board about matters of public concern.

- **Getting Started:** When you have been recognized, please identify yourself, including an address and the name of any organization you represent. The board may waive the address requirement to protect the security of the individual.
- **Time Limit:** The board will generally 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.
- **Personnel or Student Topic:** If you are planning to speak about a personnel or a student matter involving an individual, please understand that the district has a complaint policy and/or procedures to resolve such complaints and concerns. The Board requests that you follow the policy and procedures before addressing these matters with the Board. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments about individual staff members or students.
- **General Rules:** This is a public meeting for the conduct of business. Comments from 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 unless it is on the published agenda.

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 8, 2025

7:00 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the following members were present: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Kane Hookstra, Jeff Murphy, & Virginia Moon. The following student board member was present: Annika Glynn.

Reasonable advance publicized notice of the meeting was given according to law by publishing, a designated method for giving notice of the school district. Posted Location:

- Fairbury Journal-News

Posted Date: 12/03/2025

Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda attached. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the back of the board of education meeting room.

II. Approval of Minutes from the November 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting & American Civics Committee Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the November 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting & American Civics Committee Meeting. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

III. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

III.A. Public comments will not be received after this period of time. Public comment period is limited to 5 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes overall.

Dave Creevan, Wymore NE

IV. FFA presentation on National Convention

Annika Glynn, Autumn McKernan, Amealia Hopkins & Mr. Meyer presented the board with a slideshow presentation. They spoke about their experience at National FFA convention and are looking forward to making this a yearly trip.

V. Financial Statement: Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

V.A. Approval of Bills

V.A.1. General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Claims

Motion to approve the general fund, special building fund, depreciation fund, and qualified capitol purpose undertaking fund claims. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

V.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

VI. Support Service

VI.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a written report on electrical work being done by Plymouth Electric and updated the board on the air handlers at the high school. He has received a quote to replace flooring in the commons, locker rooms and maintenance hallway and a quote to insulate the shed. Lastly, he provided updates on repairs that had to be done in the high school kitchen and basement.

VI.B. Personnel Items

VI.C. Technology Update

VII. Administrative and Committee Reports

VII.A. Student Board Member Report

Annika Glynn reported on FBLA teacher appreciation breakfast and their upcoming 2nd grade Christmas party, FFA will be going to Leadership Development Events next week, JAG visited companies, planning for the upcoming JH/Elementary quiz bowl competition to be hosted by Southern, winter sports results and two students who signed with Midland to wrestle.

VII.B. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the PK-6 student enrollment, PTO meeting, DIBELS testing and upcoming events for the elementary students.

VII.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the winter cake auction concert and the Veterans Day program. English 10 students put on a Wax Museum of Inspiring Leaders and Mrs. Fralin and her students have started the Southern Alumni Spotlight recognizing alumni that have been successful in their careers. He wanted to congratulate Carsen Goes, Paxx Adams, Drake Troxel, Hadlee Maxson, Calee Belding for receiving Fall Pioneer Conference honors, Carsen Goes, Paxx Adams, Drake Troxel and Ethan Decker for receiving Fall All District honors, Reegan Lauby, Mya Frase, and Reece Barnard for receiving Fall Journal Star All State honors. Carsen Goes and Jazlyn Schell were recognized as Fairbury Elks Lodge Teenagers of the Month and Jadun Carbonneau finished 7th at the ESports State tournament. Lastly, he reported on the upcoming Winter MAP testing and current 7-12 enrollment.

VII.D. Superintendent's Report

The superintendent reported on strategic plan updates, the elementary establishing a PTO, collaboration with ESU 5 for mental health and the upcoming launch of Apptegy, which will be the new host for the Southern website, app and emergency calling system. Dr. Moon also spoke about the upcoming changes to the old industrial tech area to allow for the space to be utilized for STEM/CTE, elementary playground equipment and future facilities projects. Lastly, she spoke about grant writing for artwork to cover the plywood panels in the auditorium, equipment to begin a broadcasting class and small renovations to the old industrial tech area.

VIII. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

VIII.A. Audit Review

VIII.B. Approve Early Graduation, Policy 5066

Motion to approve Haylee Barton, Ryan Boosinger, Logan Hopper, Melanie Mendes, Nickolias Morgan, Skylar Saia, Kasandra VonNiessen and Alizya Wollenburg for early graduation. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.C. Option Enrollment Applications

VIII.D. Executive Session: Annual Superintendent Evaluation - As Needed to Protect the Interest of the District & to Prevent the Needless Injury to the Reputation of an Individual

Motion to enter in to executive session at 8:29 p.m. as needed to protect the interest of the district & to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes,

David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VIII.D.1. Convene Executive Session: Annual Superintendent Evaluation

VIII.D.2. Reconvene Meeting from Executive Session

VIII.D.3. Approval of Any Action Deemed Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12th, 2026, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom in Wymore. The Board of Education will usually adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to amend the agenda as deemed necessary.

BY

President of the Board of Education

Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education

of this School District

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 17, 2025

7:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the following members were present: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Virginia Moon.

Reasonable advance publicized notice of the meeting was given according to law by publishing, a designated method for giving notice of the school district. Posted Location:

- Fairbury Journal-News

Posted Date: 12/10/2025

Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda attached. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the back of the board of education meeting room.

II. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

II.A. Public comments will not be received after this period of time. Public comment period is limited to 5 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes overall.

III. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

III.A. Approval of Superintendent Interview Candidates

Motion to approve the following Superintendent Interview Candidates: Mark Jolliffe, Jeffrey Murphy and Mikal Shalikow. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

IV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2026, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom in Wymore. The Board of Education will usually adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to amend the agenda as deemed necessary.

BY

President of the Board of Education

Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education

of this School District

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 5, 2026
1:00 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and the following members were present: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Virginia Moon.

Reasonable advance publicized notice of the meeting was given according to law by publishing, a designated method for giving notice of the school district. Posted Location:

- Fairbury Journal-News

Posted Date: 12/31/2025

Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda attached. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the back of the board of education meeting room.

II. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

II.A. Public comments will not be received after this period of time. Public comment period is limited to 5 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes overall.

III. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

III.A. Superintendent Interview with Jeffrey Murphy

III.B. Superintendent Interview with Mark Jolliffe

IV. Executive Session - As Needed to Protect the Interest of the District & to Prevent the Needless Injury to the Reputation of an Individual

Motion to enter in to executive session at 5:33 p.m. as needed to protect the interest of the district & to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

IV.A. Convene Executive Session

IV.B. Reconvene Meeting from Executive Session

Motion to Negotiate Superintendent Contract with Mr. Mark Jolliffe for the 2026-2027 School Year. This motion made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, David Zimmerman: yes, Jared McKeever: yes

Yes: 6, no: 0

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. This motion, made by Betsy Frerichs and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.

Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes

yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2026, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom in Wymore. The Board of Education will usually adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to amend the agenda as deemed necessary.

BY

President of the Board of Education

Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education

of this School District

2008 Meetings

The formation of policy is public business and will be conducted openly in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

1. Types of Meetings

- a. The board shall hold its regular meetings on or before the third Monday of each month.
- b. Special and emergency meetings may be called as provided by law.
- c. The board may schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide board members and administrators with the opportunity to plan, research, and engage in discussion.

2. Notice

The board shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each of its meetings, which generally will be 48 hours or more in advance of the meeting. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the board and to the public.

Publication Procedure if the Newspaper Will Not Be Finalized for Printing Prior to the Time and Date of the Meeting. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be (1) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (2) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the school district's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting.

Newspapers of general circulation in the district include the Fairbury Journal-News, Lincoln Journal Star, or the Omaha World-Herald. Such notice shall contain a statement that the agenda shall be readily available for public inspection at the administration office of the school during the normal business hours. In addition, the superintendent is authorized, but not required, to publish the notice of any meeting on the school district's website, posting in three prominent places within the school district, or by any other appropriate method designated by the board.

In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to timely publish the

notice, the school district will (1) post the notice on its website, if available, (2) submit a post on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (3) post the notice in a conspicuous public place in the school district's jurisdiction. The school district will keep a written record of the posting.

When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting, and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public no later than the end of the next regular business day.

3. Weather Delays

In the event of inclement weather which makes it dangerous or unreasonable for board members or members of the public to attend a meeting for which notice has already been given, such meeting may be postponed by the board president. The board will communicate the delay to members of the public by posting it on the district's website and by following the same communication protocol that the district follows when student attendance at school is called off due to inclement weather. When possible, the board president and superintendent will attempt to communicate the information to local media members and business owners to assist in notifying the public of the delay. Notice of the date, time, and location of the postponed meeting will be advertised as required in the "Notice" section above.

4. Minutes

- a. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, the method(s) and date(s) of the meeting notice, and the substance of all matters discussed.
- b. Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or not voting.
- c. The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public record and shall be published on the school district's website within ten working days of the last meeting or prior to the next convened

meeting, whichever occurs earlier. The minutes shall be available on the website for at least six months.

Adopted on: 7-9-2018

Revised on: 12-9-2024

Reviewed on: 1-10-2022

2002
Organization of the Board, Board Officers, Check Signing, and
Committees

1. Membership, Term and Election

- a. The Board of Education shall be comprised of six members who will be elected at large.
- b. Those who wish to serve on the board shall file, be elected, and serve terms of office on the board according to law.

2. Internal Organization and Officers

a. President

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
- ii. The president shall preside at all board meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law or by action of the board.

b. Vice President

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a vice president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
- ii. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the board.

c. Secretary

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The secretary shall serve in that capacity for one year. If the secretary is a member of the board, an assistant secretary may be named and his or her duties and compensation set by the board.

- ii. The secretary shall see that an accurate record of the proceedings of the board is kept, that a copy of the proceedings is provided to each board member and to the superintendent, and that a concise summary of each month's meeting is published along with a list of all approved claims. The secretary shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by law and assigned by the board.

d. Treasurer

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect, employ, or appoint a treasurer who need not be a member of the board if permitted by law. The treasurer shall serve in that capacity for one year, unless the board designates a longer term for the treasurer.
- ii. The treasurer may be designated to sign checks and certain other documents. The treasurer is the custodian of the monies of the district.
- iii. The treasurer shall give bond or equivalent insurance coverage payable to the district as prescribed by law with the cost of the bond being paid by the district.
- iv. The treasurer shall issue no warrant of payment of claim against the district until such claim has been duly authorized.

3. Signing and Authorizing Checks, Warrants, and other Instruments.

- a. Unless otherwise delegated by the board, the president and secretary of the board shall sign checks, warrants, and other instruments of the district.
- b. The board may delegate another person to sign and validate any checks, warrants, and other instruments. Facsimile signatures of board members may be used.
- c. The board delegates that the vice president or treasurer may sign any warrant in the absence of either the president or the secretary.

4. Board Officer Voting and Tie Breakers

- a. The vote to elect board officers may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.
- b. In the event any officer cannot be elected by a majority after 10 votes; no votes occur after ten motions fail for lack of a "second,"; or no member volunteers to serve as an officer for a particular position, the tie will be broken by the applicable method:
 - i. If the board is split between two members, the officer will be determined by coin flip. The winning member will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.
 - ii. If the board is split between more than two members who wish to serve as the officer, any member wanting to serve as the officer will put his or her name into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.
 - iii. If no member is willing to serve as an officer for a position which is required to be a member of the board, all non-officers' names will be put into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.

5. Committees

- a. The board shall authorize such special committees as it deems necessary. The board president shall appoint members to the committee, and designate its function, tasks it is to perform, and a completion date for its work.
- b. On or before the beginning of each calendar year, the board shall appoint three members to form a Committee on American Civics. The committee's duties shall be those prescribed by Nebraska statutes, which include:
 - i. Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted;

- ii. Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed;
- iii. Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01 and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
- iv. Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections 79-719 to 79-723 in order to instill a pride and respect for the nation's institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
- v. Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section;
- vi. Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01;
- vii. Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district incorporates one or more of the following for each student:
 - 1. Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student; or
 - 2. Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as defined by section 84-1409 followed by the completion of a

project or paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal learning experience of such student related to such attendance or participation; or

3. Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth grade on a person or persons or an event commemorated by a holiday listed in section 79-724(6) or on a topic related to such person or persons or event;
- viii. Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

6. Vacancies

- a. A vacancy on the board of education shall exist when any one of the following occurs:
 - i. A member submits his or her formal resignation from the board.
 - ii. A member removes himself or herself from the district or is absent from the district for a continuous period of sixty days.
 - iii. A member misses more than two consecutive regular board meetings unless excused by a majority of the remaining members.
 - iv. Such other reasons as are set forth in Nebraska statutes.
- b. The board shall make note the vacancy in its minutes and shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term to (1) the election commissioner or county clerk, and (2) the public by published notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.
- c. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner set forth in Nebraska statutes.

Adopted on: 7-9-2018
Revised on: 6-8-2020
Reviewed on: 2-10-2020

Aaron	Betsy	Betsy	Dana	Aaron	Angela
Dana	David	David	David	Angela	Dana
David	Jim	Jim	Jim	David	David
American Civics	Buildings & Grounds	Finance	Negotiations	Policy	Transportation
2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
Dana	Betsy	Betsy	Dana	David	Dana
David	David	David	David	Debra	David
Jared	Jared	Jeff	Debra	Jared	Jeff
American Civics	Buildings & Grounds	Finance	Negotiations	Policy	Transportation
2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Dana	Betsy	Betsy	Dana	David	Dana
David	David	David	David	Debra	David
Jared	Jared	Jeff	Debra	Jared	Jeff
American Civics	Building & Grounds	Finance	Negotiations	Policy	Transportation
2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
Dana	Betsy	Betsy	Dana	David	Dana
David	David	David	David	Debra	David
Jared	Jared	Jeff	Debra	Jared	Jeff

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT SOUTHERN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THIS CONTRACT is made by and between the **Board of Education of Southern Public Schools**, legally known as **Gage County School District No. 34-0001**, and referred to as "the Board" and "the District" respectively, and **Mark Jolliffe**, referred to herein as "the Superintendent". In accordance with its action taken and recorded in the minutes of a duly advertised board meeting, the Board agrees to employ the Superintendent, and the Superintendent agrees to accept such employment, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Section 1. Term of Contract. The Superintendent shall be employed for a period of 2 years beginning on July 1, 2026, and expiring on June 30, 2028. References to "contract year" shall mean the period from July 1st through June 30th and shall consist of all days Monday through Friday, but generally not Saturdays and Sundays and any legal holidays or leave days contained herein; however, the Superintendent will work all days necessary to complete the Superintendent's duties, even if those are weekend days or holidays.

Section 2. Renewal of Contract. If a Board representative does not inform the Superintendent in writing on or before **the seventh day after the regular December board meeting during the final contract year of this contract** of the Board's intention to consider the nonrenewal or amendment of this contract, the contract will automatically renew for a period of **one year** from and after the expiration date provided in Section 1 of this contract. The Superintendent shall remind the Board in writing of this provision no later than **its regular November meeting** of each applicable year of this contract and shall make the renewal of the employment contract an agenda item for the regular **December** board meeting during each applicable year of this contract whenever it is set to renew. At the time of each contract renewal and/or amendment, the Superintendent shall be responsible for taking all necessary steps to insure that the district has complied with the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act. Failure to comply with the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act shall be considered a material breach of the contract.

Section 3. Salary. The Superintendent's salary for the first contract year shall be \$165,000, which shall be paid in 12 equal monthly installments consistent with the District's regular payroll. The Board shall not reduce the Superintendent's salary during the term of the contract, but may increase it and/or the benefits during the term of this contract, as an amendment to the

contract, without the amendment constituting a new contract requiring a hearing or extending the term of this contract.

Section 4. Deductions. This contract shall conform to the statutes and regulations governing deductions from compensation. The Superintendent authorizes the District to deduct or withhold from each and every period of pay any amounts necessary to offset any damages caused by the Superintendent or the value of property or money entrusted to the Superintendent or owed by the Superintendent to the District during the course of or as a result of the Superintendent's employment, if such property or money have not properly been returned to the District. The District shall withhold other deductions as the Superintendent and Board may agree.

Section 5. Professional Status. The Superintendent affirms that the Superintendent is not under contract with any other board of education covering any part or all of the term provided in this contract. Throughout the contract term, the Superintendent will hold a valid and appropriate certificate to act as a superintendent of schools in the State of Nebraska which the Superintendent will register and maintain on file in the District's central administrative office. This contract shall not be valid and the Board will not compensate the Superintendent for any service performed prior to the date that the Superintendent registers the certificate. The Superintendent represents that: (1) all information provided in connection with the Superintendent's application for employment with the District was true and accurate at the time of application, and if there is or has been a material change in such information, the Superintendent will advise the Board immediately; (2) the Superintendent has never been convicted of or plead no contest to, a felony as defined in Title 92, Chapter 21, Sections 003.11 and 003.13 of the Nebraska Administrative Code ("Rule 21"), or any offense involving moral turpitude, abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct, as defined in Title 92, Chapter 21, Sections 003.12 and 003.13 of the Nebraska Administrative Code; and (3) the Superintendent has not had any professional licenses or certificates suspended or revoked.

Section 6. Superintendent's Duties. The Superintendent's duties shall be as prescribed by statute and by Board policies, rules, regulations and directives. The Superintendent agrees to devote the Superintendent's time, skill, labor and attention to the Superintendent's duties throughout the contract term. The Superintendent shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board at all times and shall perform such administrative duties as the Board assigns. By agreement with the Board, the Superintendent may undertake consultative work, speaking engagements, writing, lecturing, or other professional duties and obligations as long as they do not interfere with carrying out the duties and obligations to the District.

Section 7. Board-Superintendent Relationship. The Board shall be primarily responsible for formulating and adopting policy. The Superintendent shall be the chief administrative officer for the district and shall be responsible for implementing Board policy. The Superintendent shall organize the administrative, teaching, and classified staff, and select, place, and transfer personnel unless law or policy require concurrence of the Board. The Superintendent is responsible for administering the instruction of students and the business affairs of the District. The Board members agree, individually and collectively, to promptly refer all criticisms, complaints, and suggestions called to their attention to the Superintendent for action, study and/or recommendation, as appropriate.

Section 8. Cancellation or Mid-Term Amendment. The Board may cancel or amend this contract during its term for any of the following reasons: (a) the cancellation, termination, revocation, or suspension of the Superintendent's certificate (Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate, or the Nebraska Professional Administrative and Supervisory Certificate) by the State Board of Education; (b) any of the reasons set forth in this contract; (c) the breach of any of the material provisions of this contract; (d) incompetence; (e) neglect of duty; (f) unprofessional conduct; (g) insubordination; (h) conduct involving moral turpitude; (i) physical or mental incapacity; (j) immorality; (k) conviction of a felony; (l) any conduct that substantially interferes with the Superintendent's continued performance of duties; (m) any arrest, criminal charge, or criminal conviction of Superintendent or the failure to report the same; (n) any filing against the Superintendent under NEB. REV. STAT. Section 43-247 or any other provision of the Nebraska Juvenile Code for child abuse and/or neglect or the failure to report the same; (o) knowingly falsifying school district records or documents; (p) misrepresentation of fact to the District, Board, and its personnel in the conduct of the District's official business; (q) the use or possession of illegal drugs or controlled substances except as prescribed by a physician; or (r) being under the influence of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or alcohol while on school grounds, at school events, or in a vehicle owned, leased or contracted by the district except as prescribed by a physician. The procedures for cancellation or amendment shall be in accordance with state statutes. The parties agree that the Superintendent's failure to comply with the Superintendent's duties under the Renewal of Contract or Evaluation sections shall constitute a material breach of this contract.

Section 9. Disability. If the Superintendent is unable to perform the duties by reason of illness, accident or other disability beyond the Superintendent's control, and the disability continues for a period of more

than 6 months, or if the disability is permanent, irreparable, or of such a nature as to make performance of duties impossible, the Board may initiate action to cancel this contract, whereupon the respective rights, duties and obligations of the parties hereunder shall terminate, with the exception of any benefits to be paid to the Superintendent under any insurance coverage furnished by the District.

Section 10. Transportation. The Board shall provide the Superintendent with transportation or reimburse the Superintendent for mileage required in the performance of the official duties at the rate approved by the Board. This does not include regular commuting mileage to and from the District and the Superintendent's residence.

Section 11. Fringe Benefits. The Board shall provide the Superintendent with the following fringe benefits:

- a. Health Insurance.** Family health insurance that is provided to certificated staff through the District's health insurance carrier.
- b. Dental Insurance.** Family dental insurance that is available to certificated staff through the District's health insurance carrier.
- c. Sick Leave.** The Superintendent shall be entitled to 12 days of sick leave per year, which may accumulate to a total of 50 days. Sick leave may only be used for personal illness or as otherwise provided in District policy. If the Superintendent qualifies for disability pay under the long-term disability policy, the Superintendent shall be required to take the disability pay instead of sick leave pay. The Superintendent shall keep complete and accurate records of sick days and shall provide the Board of Education with a report of accumulated sick days upon request. The Superintendent shall not be compensated for unused days of sick leave upon the ending of the Superintendent's employment with the District.
- d. Disability Insurance.** The Superintendent shall purchase long-term disability insurance from the District's carrier at the Superintendent's own expense.
- e. Vacation.** The Superintendent shall receive up to 20 vacation days for each contract year which the

Superintendent may use at times the Superintendent chooses so long as the absence does not interfere with the proper performance of the Superintendent's duties. Any extended vacation period while school is in session will require advance approval by the Board, and the parties will cooperate in arranging vacation time so as to cause the least inconvenience to the normal operation of the District. After the initial contract year, the Board shall give the Superintendent the number of vacation days necessary to restore the total to 20 days. For example, if the Superintendent uses 12 days of vacation one year, the Board will provide the Superintendent with 12 days the following year to bring the total vacation days back to 20. The Superintendent shall develop a system for recording use of vacation days and shall keep such records current and on file in the District's central office. The Superintendent shall keep complete and accurate records of all vacation days and shall provide the Board of Education with a report of accumulated vacation days upon request. The Board may require the Superintendent to use vacation days and shall compensate the Superintendent for unused vacation days upon the conclusion of employment at a rate of \$100.00 per day.

- f. Professional Development.** The Superintendent is expected to pursue professional development and to participate in relevant learning experiences. With the approval of the Board, the Superintendent may attend appropriate professional meetings at the local, state, regional and national level; and the Board will pay for valid expenses of attendance. If the Superintendent attends a national convention and does not return following the initial year of employment as Superintendent, the Superintendent agrees to repay the District in full for national convention expenses paid by the District.
- g. Professional Dues.** The District will pay the annual dues for the Superintendent's membership in the following organizations: Nebraska Council of School Administrators, and any others approved by the Board.
- h. Cell Phone.** The Superintendent shall be required to purchase and maintain a cellular phone so that the Superintendent can be reached at all times for

work-related emergencies or while away from school grounds during the work day. The District will reimburse the Superintendent up to a maximum of \$100 per month for the actual cost of a cellular phone service plan.

- i. **Expense Reimbursement.** The Board shall pay or reimburse the Superintendent for expenses that are actually, necessarily, and reasonably incurred in attending educational seminars, conventions, and workshops; conferences; training programs; official school functions, hearings or meetings, provided that (1) such payment or expense is authorized by the Local Government Miscellaneous Expenditures Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2201 *et seq.*) or some other provision of law, and (2) the Superintendent shall secure the prior approval of the Board before incurring any such expense when the anticipated aggregate expense of any single event is \$1,000.00 or more.

Section 12. Residence/Domicile in District. The Superintendent shall establish domicile and principal residence within the boundaries of the District as they exist on the first duty day under the terms of this contract; and, the Superintendent shall maintain domicile and residence within the boundaries of the District during the term of this contract, or any renewal, amendment, or continuation thereof, except as otherwise provided herein. If the Superintendent does not establish domicile and principal place of residence within the District at the commencement of employment, the Superintendent shall move the Superintendent's domicile and principal place of residence into the corporate limits of the District before the conclusion of the first six months from the Superintendent's first duty day under this contract. It is the purpose of this paragraph to require the Superintendent to, at all times during such employment, live and maintain domicile and principal place of residence in the District to encourage the Superintendent: (1) to be highly motivated and deeply committed to the District's educational system; (2) to speak to and vote on ballot issues affecting the District as a legal voter of the District; (3) to be involved in school and community activities bringing the Superintendent in contact with parents and community leaders and be committed to the future of the District and its schools; (4) to be accessible to parents and students, and allow parents and students to become personally acquainted with the Superintendent; and, (5) to gain sympathy and understanding for the cultural basis of the community, and the social, economic, and environmental problems of the children of the school community and are thus less likely to be considered isolated from the community in which the Superintendent is the educational leader.

Section 13. No Penalty for Release or Resignation. There shall not be a penalty for the release or resignation of the Superintendent from this contract; provided no resignation shall become effective until the expiration of the contract unless it is accepted by the Board, and the Board shall fix the date at which the resignation shall take effect.

Section 14. Compensation Upon Termination. Upon lawful termination of this contract for any reason, the compensation to be paid hereunder shall be an amount which bears the same ratio to the annual salary specified as the number of months or fraction thereof to the date of such termination bears to the 12 months in the annual salary period in which termination occurs. The Superintendent shall refund any portion of the salary the Superintendent was paid but had not earned prior to the date of termination of this contract.

Section 15. Evaluation. The Board shall evaluate the Superintendent twice during the Superintendent's first year of employment and at least once each year thereafter. The first evaluation during the first year of employment and the yearly evaluations after the first year of employment shall occur no later than the **regular December meeting**. The Superintendent shall: remind the Board members in writing of this provision no later than its **regular November meeting**; if the evaluation will be conducted at a board meeting, make the Superintendent evaluation an agenda item for the regular **December** Board meeting during each year of this contract; and provide the Board members with the written evaluation instrument that is on file with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Section 16. Legal Actions. The Board will support the Superintendent if there is a legal dispute caused by carrying out the Superintendent's duties properly. If a legal action, including a professional practice complaint, is threatened or filed against the Superintendent as a result of the Superintendent's performance of duties or position as Superintendent of the District, the Board will provide the Superintendent with a legal defense to the maximum extent permitted by law so long as the Superintendent acted in good faith and in a manner which the Superintendent reasonably believes to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the District and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful. This provision will not apply to any action initiated by the Board or any action in which the Superintendent and the Board are adverse parties.

Section 17. Physical or Mental Examination. The Superintendent agrees that, at the request of the Board, the Superintendent will have a comprehensive physical and/or mental examination performed by one or more licensed physicians or psychologists of the Board's choosing during the term of this Contract. In deference to the requirements of state and federal confidentiality laws, the physician's report to the Board must address whether the Superintendent is able to perform the "essential functions" of the position, and by signing below the Superintendent authorizes any such medical professional to provide this information to the Board.

Section 18. Disciplinary Action. The parties agree that the Board president may place the Superintendent on paid leave by delivering written notice of the same when the Board president determines it is in the best interests of the District to do so. The paid leave shall continue unless and until a majority of the Board determines otherwise at a duly convened meeting. The Board may suspend the Superintendent without pay for a period not to exceed thirty (30) working days. Prior to suspending the Superintendent without pay, the Board president or secretary shall deliver a written notice to the Superintendent advising of the alleged reasons for the proposed action and provided the opportunity to present the Superintendent's version of the facts. Within seven calendar days after receipt of such notice, the Superintendent may make a written request to the secretary of the Board for a formal due process hearing under section 79-832. If such a request is not delivered within such time, the action of the Board shall become final.

Section 19. Governing Laws. The parties shall be governed by all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations in performance of their respective duties and obligations under this contact.

Section 20. Amendments to be in Writing. This contract may be modified or amended only by a writing duly authorized and executed by the Superintendent and the Board.

Section 21. Severability. If any portion of this contract is declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity or enforcement of the remaining provisions of this contract.

[THE FOLLOWING IS A SIGNATURE PAGE.]

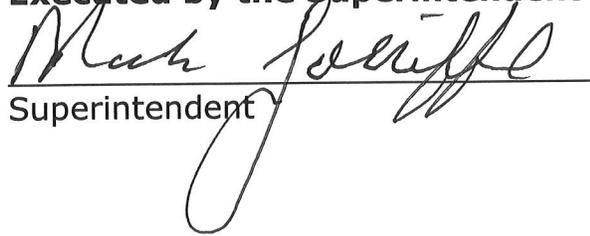
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this contract on the dates indicated below.

Executed by the Board this ____ day of _____, 2026.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Executed by the Superintendent this 6 day of January, 2026.



Superintendent