

Scottsbluff Board of Education Special
Meeting
Monday, January 5, 2026 6:00 PM

Scottsbluff High School Board Meeting Room
313 E 27th Street
Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

Agenda

1. Opening Procedures
 - 1.a. Call to Order
 - 1.b. Roll Call
 - 1.c. Excuse Absent Member(s)
2. Open Meetings Law
3. Adopt Agenda
4. Update
 - 4.a. Lake Minatare Elementary
Speaker(s): Dr. Wendy Kemling, Mike Mason, & Marianne Carlson
5. Public Comment - a total of 120 minutes will be allotted (no more than 5 minutes per speaker)
6. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action in regard to Lake Minatare Elementary.
7. Adjourn

PO Box 1709
Scottsbluff, NE 69363

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

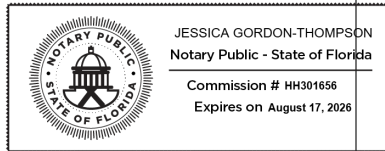
State of Florida, County of Orange, ss:

Anjana Bhadoriya, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That (s)he is a duly authorized signatory of Column Software, PBC, duly authorized agent of Scottsbluff Star-Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation, published daily except Mondays, at Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska; that the notice hereto attached and which forms a part of this affidavit was Published in said paper, and that said notice was published in the regular and entire issues and every number of the paper on the days mentioned, the same being the corresponding day of each week during the period of time of publication and that said notice was published in the newspaper proper and not in the supplement, with insertion date(s) having been on:

Dec. 30, 2025

Anjana Bhadoriya

(Signed) _____



VERIFICATION

State of Florida
County of Orange

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: **12/30/2025**

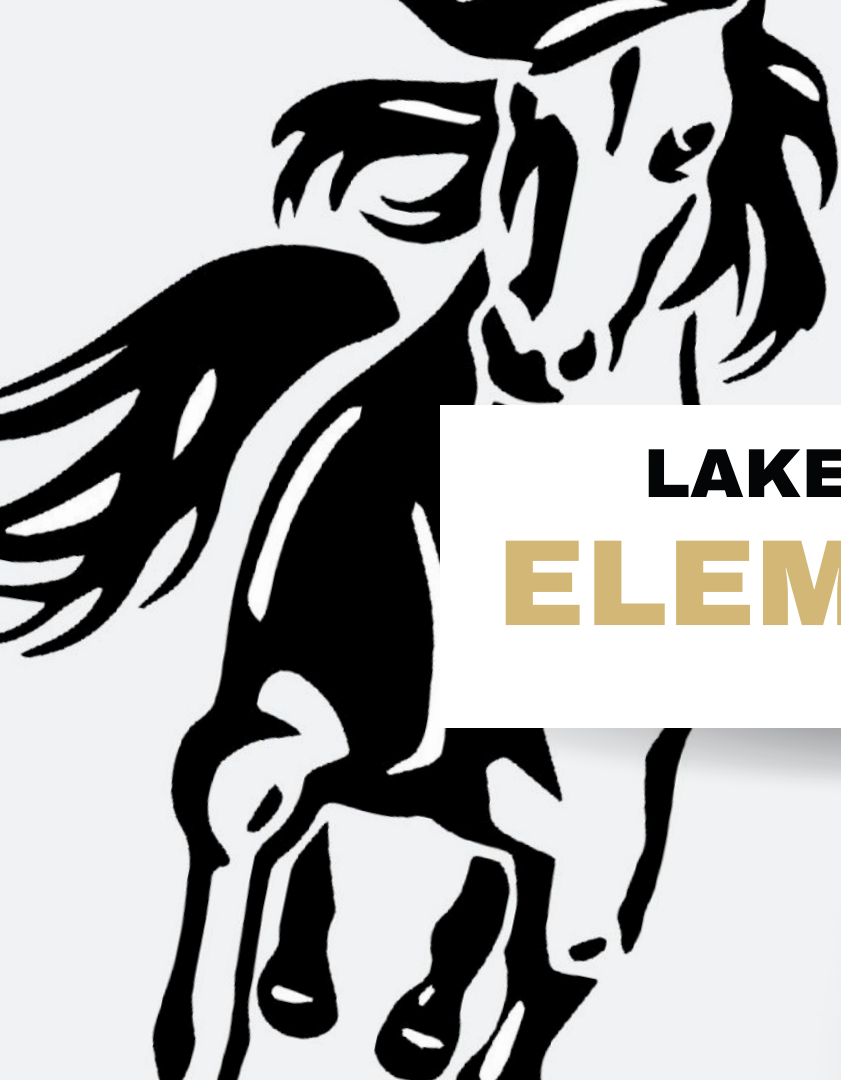
J. Thompson

Notary Public

Printers Fee: **\$12.00**
Customer Number: 1014315
Order Number: COL-NE-203527

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the Board of Education for the School District of Scottsbluff, in the county of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, January 5, 2026, at Scottsbluff High School, 313 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361 and via virtual meeting. The meeting agenda, kept continuously current, will be available for inspection on the Scottsbluff Public Schools website, www.sbps.net. Agenda items may be subject to Closed Session. Agenda items are subject to change up until 24 hours prior to the meeting. Sequence of the agenda may be adjusted; please attend the entire meeting. Published in the Star-Herald Scottsbluff, NE COL-NE-203527 December 30, 2025 ZNEZ



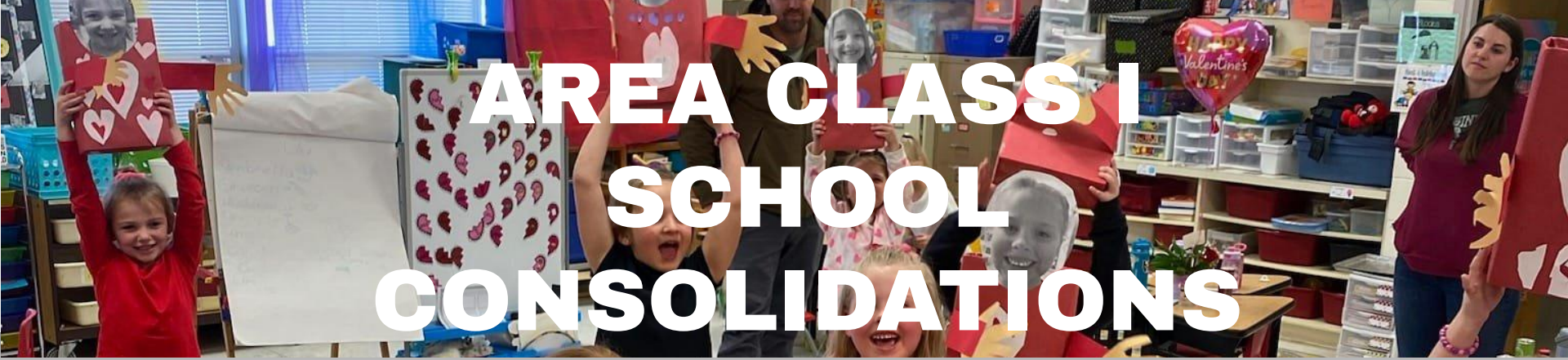
LAKE MINATARE
ELEMENTARY



2000'S

- 2006 - LB 126 Nebraska set to dissolve many Class I schools- parts of the bill were repealed by Measure 422 but by 2007 there were no Class I school Districts in the state of Nebraska.
- SBPS voted on June 15, 2006, and Lake Minatare was taken in by Scottsbluff Public Schools.
- 2007 - Last year K-8 school
- 2009 - Lake Alice School consolidated with Lake Minatare
- 2012-2013 - Last year K-6 school





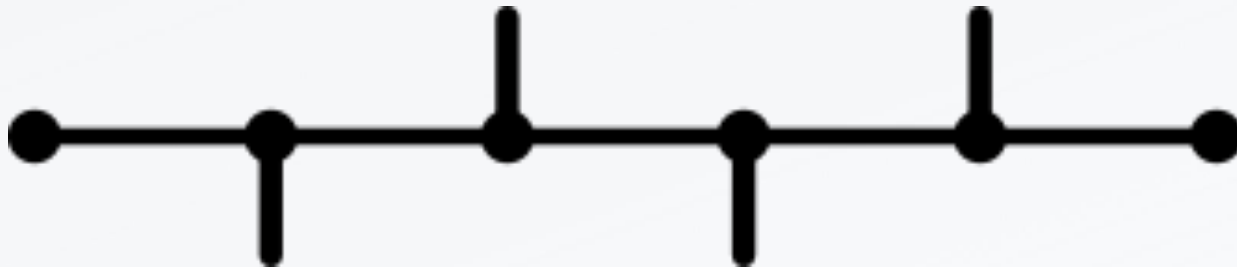
AREA CLASS I SCHOOL CONSOLIDATIONS

2007

Haig

2017

Cedar Canyon



2006

Highland

2009

Lake Alice

CURRENT DAY

2025-2026 School Year

Total Enrollment - As of October 1	65 students
Options	10 students
In-District Transfers	18 students

- Since 2014 - Average enrollment – 70 students K-5
- 2024-2025 NEP Data
 - Excellent Rating on AQuESTT
 - 42.11% Free/Reduced (District is 65.70%)
 - 66.67% NSCAS English Language Arts
 - 89.74% NSCAS Mathematics
 - 80.00% NSCAS Science



K-5 STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO

Building	Student Count As of October 1	Teachers	Ratio
Lake Minatare	65	5.2	12.50:1
Lincoln Heights	247	17.0	14.53:1
Longfellow	351	22.0	15.95:1
Westmoor	373	23.0	16.22:1
Roosevelt	260	16.0	16.25:1

*Teachers includes classroom teachers, counselors, and specialists (music, physical education, library/media, and reading intervention) but does not include special education and EL instructors.



Birth Rates

Nebraska Birth Rates per Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Year	Births
2015	26,678
2016	26,594
2017	25,833
2018	25,495
2019	24,758
2020	24,293
2021	24,602
2022	24,340
2023	24,111
2024	24,785

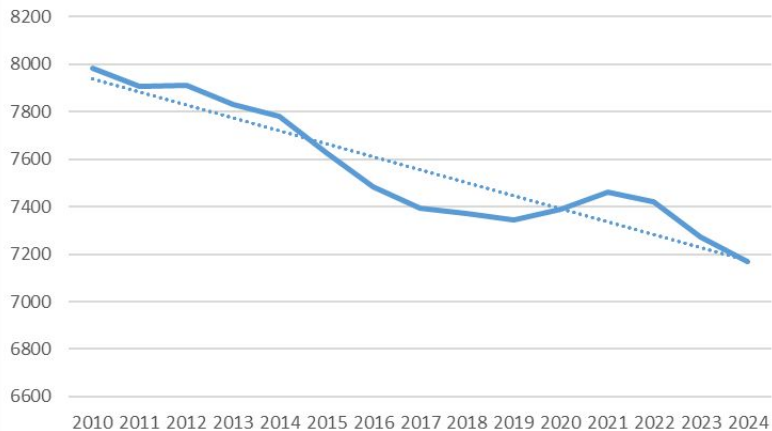


Birth Rates

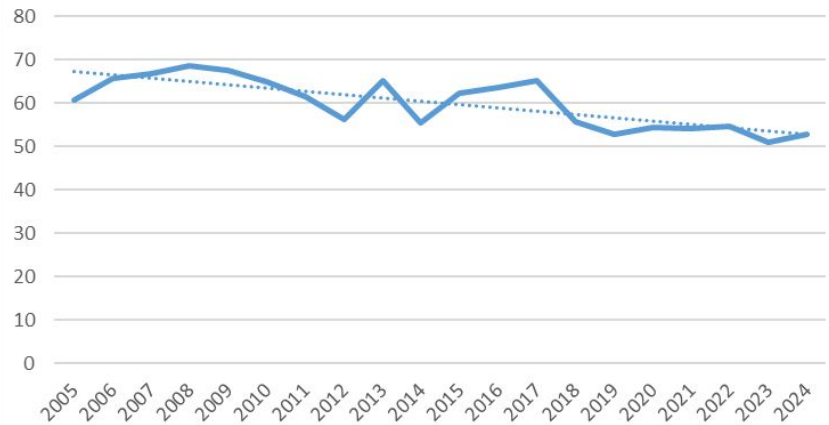
Scotts Bluff County Birth Rates per Panhandle
Public Health District



of Women and Girls (15-49)



Birth Rate per 1000 women and girls (15-49)



Regional K-12 Enrollment Trends

Data collected by ESU 13

REGIONAL K-12 ENROLLMENT TRENDS

District	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	% Change Last 10 Years	% Change Last 6 Years	% Change Last 3 Years
Alliance	1397	1321	1314	1362	1303	1301	1279	1280	1222	1181	-15.46%	-9.36%	-7.73%
Gering	1909	1831	1825	1791	1737	1756	1767	1755	1721	1715	-10.16%	-1.27%	-2.28%
Minatare	198	191	182	171	158	148	143	132	133	137	-30.81%	-13.29%	3.79%
Mitchell	618	632	671	659	594	587	569	554	606	605	-2.10%	1.85%	9.21%
Morrill	348	356	360	347	352	335	295	279	238	235	-32.47%	-33.24%	-15.77%
Scottsbluff	3289	3312	3268	3315	3236	3220	3268	3203	3179	3103	-5.66%	-4.11%	-3.12%
TOTAL CHANGE											-10.09%	-5.47%	-3.15%

How the School District Property Tax Limitation Act Works

Growth Cap

LB243 creates a ceiling where revenues in the General and Building funds cannot exceed 3%.



Valuation

9.49% increase in
2025-26



As valuation increases, income cannot exceed the cap so the levy must be reduced in order to stay within the 3% growth allowance.

What Funding Sources are included in the cap?

Non Property Tax Revenue

State Aid

Special Education Reimbursement

Local Property Tax

Revenue



If a funding source decreases, the property tax levy can increase in order to maintain revenue up to the cap.

Budgeting

With a limit to how much revenue can be brought in, school districts must cut expenses in order to maintain a balanced budget. Examples of expenses that can increase that are beyond the Districts control include:

Expenses

- Negotiated Compensation (approximately 70% of the District's budget)
- Insurance
- Utilities
- Transportation
- Supplies and Materials



School District Property Tax Limitation Act Impact to SBPS

- Established a Certified Property Tax Authority for the General and Building Fund
 - School District revenues are capped at 3% annual growth plus growth for Membership, LEP, & Poverty
 - For 2025-2026, SBPS was allowed a 3.0937% growth
- 2025-2026 Revenue Cap was \$43,736,192
 - 23-24 Other Non Property Tax Revenue - \$4.43M
 - 24-25 SPED Reimbursement - \$6.44M
 - 25-26 TEEOSA = \$18.43M
 - Remaining amount is our 25-26 Property Tax Authority - \$14.44M
- Based on 25-26's revenue cap, anticipate our revenue cap for 26-27 will be \$45M

OTHER INFORMATION

- Strategic Priority 3.4.b - Continue to make fiscally sound decisions to ensure the District's strong financial position while supporting our maintenance and expansion.
- Since the implementation of the School District Property Tax Limitation in 2023, SBPS has taken a fiscally conservative approach to keep property tax requests as low as possible, resulting in the following annual budget reductions:
 - 2023-24 School Year - The receipt of ESSER funds made reductions unnecessary.
 - 2024-25 School Year - \$1.8M
 - 2025-26 School Year - \$1.3M
- At this time, based on the available information, to maintain a balanced budget, we project a need to reduce General Fund expenditures by \$950K for the 2026-27 school year.

OTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED

- Although it is unknown exactly how many students may leave the District if Lake Minatare closes, for the purpose of financial forecasting, we assumed all students would remain attending SBPS.
- Lake Minatare boundaries would be absorbed into the Longfellow boundaries, contingent upon board approval at a future meeting.
- Our conservative projection is that we would be able to reduce our overall staffing by 9 FTE (4 certified and 5 classified). All 9 positions could be absorbed through attrition (routine retirements and resignations throughout the District).
- Based on enrollment projections, one certified position would be added to Longfellow.
- The building could be sold to save the insurance, utility, repair, and maintenance costs.



MINAT
MENTAR

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Expenditures	Lake Minatare	
	School Open	School Closed
Wages/Benefits*		
Teachers	560,500	180,500
Paras	100,000	-
Custodian	55,800	55,800
Secretary	47,900	-
Administrator (.43 FTE)	59,000	-
Student Transportation***	127,839	20,708
Insurance	3,277	-
Supplies, Field Trips, Etc.	7,331	7,331
Repairs & Purchased Services**	26,010	-
Utilities**	33,909	-
Total	1,021,565	264,339
Annual Expenditure Difference		757,226

*Figures include employer-paid benefits and are the average staff costs for the 2025-26 school year.

**Data from the 2024-25 fiscal year.

***First Student has informed the District that we can reduce two routes while still maintaining transportation for all students who currently ride the bus.



RECOMMENDATION

- In alignment with the Strategic Plan, over the course of the last 14 months, the District has thoroughly reviewed options for maintaining a balanced budget. To ensure the District is able to maintain cash reserves in accordance with Nebraska State Statute, the recommendation is to close Lake Minatare at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year.
- If Lake Minatare is closed:
 - The building would be listed for sale upon completion of the 2025-2026 school year.
 - At the January 12th Board Meeting, a recommendation for boundary changes would be presented for consideration.



Questions?

