

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**February 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM**  
**Southern School District**

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Board of Education, Southern School District #1 on February 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Board Room in Wymore. A current agenda is also available at the office of the Superintendent.

I hereby certify that the above notice was posted in three public places as follows:

Southern Elementary School

Southern Jr./Sr. High School

U.S. Post Office in Wymore

- I. Call Meeting to Order
  - I.A. Roll Call
  - I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted
- II. Approval of Minutes from the January 12th Working Board Meeting, January 12th Regular Board Meeting and January 19th Working Board Meeting.
- 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.
- IV. Financial Statement: Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action
  - IV.A. Approval of Bills
    - IV.A.1. General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Claims
    - IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

- IV.B. Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund
- IV.C. QCPUF
- V. Support Service
  - V.A. Facility Update
  - V.B. Personnel Items
    - V.B.1. Resignation
      - V.B.1.1. Mary Jane Spence - 1.0 FTE - 3rd Grade Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2025-2026 School Year
      - V.B.1.2. Josie Dickinson - 1.0 FTE - K-12 Art Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2025-2026 School Year
    - V.B.2. SRO Report
      - V.B.2.1. SRO Memorandum of Understanding between Gage County, Nebraska and Freeman Public Schools, Southern Schools and Diller-Odell Public Schools.
- VI. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action
  - VI.A. Future Facility Projects
  - VI.B. Lease Option Funding
  - VI.C. Declare the Surplus for Immediate Sale or Disposal
  - VI.D. Preschool Calendar 2026-2027
  - VI.E. District Calendar 2026-2027
  - VI.F. Appoint School Board Standing Committees
    - VI.F.1. American Civics
    - VI.F.2. Building & Grounds
    - VI.F.3. Finance
    - VI.F.4. Negotiations
    - VI.F.5. Policy
    - VI.F.6. Transportation

VI.G. 2026 NRCSA Spring Conference - March 18-20

VI.H. Budget & Finance Workshop - March 10th

VII. Administrative and Committee Reports

VII.A. Elementary Principal's Report

VII.B. Secondary Principal's Report

VII.C. Superintendent's Report

VIII. Adjournment

# 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:

- (a) 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;
- (b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;
- (c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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
- (f) 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:

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

- (a) 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;
- (b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and
- (c) 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) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;
- (b) 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;
- (c) 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;
- (d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;
- (e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and
- (f) 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

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 12, 2026  
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.

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: 1/07/2026

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.

Public comment was received from John Shalla, Skip Barr, Bev Acton, Jake Allington, Gera Remmers, Deb Kier, Roland Hardin and Roger Kier.

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

John Eisenhower provided the school board with a report over repairs and cleaning at the high school. The new coils for the high school are 3 inches too tall. Johnson Controls are coming up with a plan.

#### 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

The elementary principal reported on PK-6 enrollment, Elementary PTO, winter DIBELS and MAP testing, 4th-6th grade vocal/band concert. The JH and Elementary will be hosting a quiz bowl on January 19th. On January 6th, ESU5 staff presented workshops on student engagement, implementing behavior improvement plans, secondary literacy and math acceleration. Additional training was provided to the paraeducators. Stacy Fossler, Shelby Decker, Loni Rabstejnek, Darcie Schmidt, Carla Wegner, Angel Panes-Husa and Marriah Proctor attended a 10.5 training called Practical Functional Assessment and Skills-Based Treatment.

#### VII.C. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on 7-12 enrollment, alternative school and 2026-2027 registrations and schedules. He stated we had 8 mid-term graduates and wanted to recognize the Academic All-State Award Winners:

Football: Carsen Goes & Jacob Ward

Softball: Mya Frase & Reegan Lauby

Volleyball: Emma Eisenhower & Jaylin Klover

He also reported on what JAG did during the first semester and wanted to compliment Miss Schmidt on the great job she has done building relationships with the students.

#### 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 table the standing committees as appointed by the school board president to the next regular board meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026. 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.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

For the 2026-2027 school year, teachers will receive a \$500.00 raise to the base salary and this will represent a 1.22% increase. The teachers also received an adjustment to the salary and extra duty schedule.

#### 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

Mr. Jolliffe's contract was approved through the 2026-2027 school year.

### 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

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 16, 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 12, 2026  
5:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:31 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.

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: 1/07/2026

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. Strategic Planning

IV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. 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

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 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 19, 2026  
5:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 5:30 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: Kane Hookstra, Jeff Murphy, & 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: 1/15/2026

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. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

II.A. Review of Gymnasium Project Plans and Collection of Feedback from Athletic Coaches and Activity Sponsors

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.

IV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 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, February 16, 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

## 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.

**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 where 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
<b>American Civics</b>	<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Negotiations</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>
Dana	Betsy	Betsy	Dana	David	Dana
David	David	David	David	Debra	David
Jared	Jared	Jeff	Debra	Jared	Jeff
<b>American Civics</b>	<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Negotiations</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
Dana	Betsy	Betsy	Dana	David	Dana
David	David	David	David	Debra	David
Jared	Jared	Jeff	Debra	Jared	Jeff
<b>American Civics</b>	<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Negotiations</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
Dana	Betsy	Betsy	Dana	David	Dana
David	David	David	David	Debra	David
Jared	Jared	Jeff	Debra	Jared	Jeff