



Wilcox-Hildreth Public School News & Views

<http://whfalcons.org>

SEPTEMBER, 2026

FROM THE FALCON'S PERCH

- Justin Patterson, Superintendent

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

As we get the school year underway, I want to take a moment to thank our students, staff, parents, and community for helping make it such a great start to the year. It has been exciting to see our students back in the classrooms, building relationships, learning new things, and getting involved in the many activities our school has to offer. Our staff has worked hard to create a positive and welcoming environment where students can learn and grow, and we are already seeing many great things happening throughout our schools. We appreciate the continued support and partnership of our parents and community members, and we look forward to a successful and exciting school year together. Go Falcons!



Wilcox-Hildreth Public School

Two Towns, Four Counties, One Great School

Justin Patterson, Superintendent

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A Message from the Superintendent

Looking Ahead at the Future of Our Schools and Facilities

Dear Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools Patrons,

One of the most important responsibilities we have as a school district is making sure our students have safe, welcoming, and effective places to learn. At the same time, we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the resources our communities have entrusted to us.

Over the past several years, the Board of Education has been working to address the facility needs of Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools. As we look toward the future, we want our patrons to be part of that conversation.

Where We Have Been

During the 2017–2018 school year, the Board of Education began developing a multi-phase plan to address the facility needs of the district. The Board decided to begin by addressing some of the most immediate needs at the Wilcox site.

That first phase resulted in a significant investment in our school and community. The project included:

- A secured entrance and new office area
- Two new classrooms, including a science lab and FCS lab
- A new kitchen and commons area
- A new competition gymnasium
- New locker rooms

The project was financed through district funds and a lease-purchase agreement. The principal amount of the lease-purchase was \$6.1 million to be paid back over seven years, and was paid off a year early. The district also invested approximately \$3 million in cash funds toward the project.

These improvements have provided our students and community with some outstanding spaces that will serve us for many years.

Where We Are Today

With the first phase completed, the Board of Education has begun having conversations about what the next phase of our facility plan might look like.

These conversations are not simply about buildings. They are about how we can best serve our students, support our staff, use our resources wisely, and make sure our district is positioned for the future.

One of the ideas the Board is exploring is restructuring our grade configuration while continuing to operate schools in both Wilcox and Hildreth.

One possible configuration would be:

PK–6 at one site

7–12 at the other site

Having all of our elementary students together at one location could provide some opportunities to better utilize our staff and resources. It could allow our elementary teachers to collaborate more closely, improve the use of special-area teachers and special education staff, and create additional opportunities for students and staff to work together across grade levels.

This is **one option being considered, not a decision that has been made**. Before any decisions are made, we want to listen to our parents, students, staff, and patrons.

What Are the Facility Needs?

As the Board has looked carefully at our current buildings, several areas have been identified that may need significant repairs, renovation, or replacement.

Wilcox Site – Potential Renovation Projects

- Addressing water intrusion in the two-story building
- Repairing or replacing the track, as the existing base has deteriorated
- Improvements to the track bleachers
- Renovation of the pool locker rooms

Hildreth Site – Potential Renovation Projects

- Replacing the aging boiler system and upgrading HVAC
- Electrical upgrades needed to support a new HVAC system
- Kitchen remodeling
- Bathroom renovations on the second and third floors

Could New Construction Be Part of the Solution?

The Board has also discussed whether some of these needs may be better addressed through new construction rather than continuing to invest significant resources into older portions of our buildings.

Some of the ideas being considered include:

Wilcox Site

- New ground-level construction to replace the existing two-story building

Hildreth Site

- New ground-level construction to replace the existing three-story building
- A new bus barn
- New football field bleachers and a crow's nest

Again, these are **ideas for discussion and consideration, not final plans.**

We Want to Hear From You

As a school district, we know that our schools belong to all of us. The decisions we make about our facilities will impact not only our students and staff, but also our families, taxpayers, businesses, and communities for many years to come.

We also understand that people will have different ideas about what should be done. Some may believe we should renovate our existing buildings. Others may believe new construction makes more sense. Some may support changing our grade configuration, while others may have concerns about that approach.

We want to hear all of those perspectives.

The Board of Education will continue gathering information and studying the options available to us. Before moving forward, we want to have meaningful conversations with the people who live, work, raise families, and invest in our communities.

As part of that process, we will be asking our patrons to provide feedback about our current facilities, potential improvements, and possible changes to how we organize our schools.

Your input matters.

Our goal is not simply to build or remodel a building. Our goal is to make thoughtful decisions that will put Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools in the best possible position to serve our students for the next 20, 30, and even 50 years.

We are fortunate to have strong communities that care deeply about our schools. I encourage you to take the opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, and be part of this important conversation.

Thank you for your continued support of Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools and for everything you do to make our schools and communities great places to live and raise a family.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to **complete the patron survey** and share your thoughts and priorities. Links to the survey will be shared on our school website and social media pages. You can also scan the QR Code below with your phone to access the survey.



Sincerely,

Justin Patterson
Superintendent
Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

We are excited for the 2026–27 school year, and it has already gotten off to a great start! As we begin a new year, we want to take a moment to recognize the importance of regular school attendance.

Our district's attendance policy remains the same as it has been over the past several years. We are proud to share that our district has seen significant improvements in attendance over the past few years. This progress reflects the commitment of our students, families, teachers, and staff to making consistent attendance a priority.

Thank you to our students and parents for your continued partnership and for recognizing that every school day matters. Being present and engaged in school is an important part of student success, and we appreciate everything our families do to support that success.

We look forward to the school year ahead and celebrating all the growth and success of our students. Go Falcons!

Luke Glenn, Assistant Principal

WELCOME TO OUR

Counseling Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!

College Access Grant

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools was one of the winning recipients of EducationQuest's *College Access Grant*. The counseling department wrote the grant application last spring, and was awarded \$10,000 over four years. This grant provides additional funding for students to explore post-secondary opportunities. These opportunities can be for college visits, speakers, financial aid nights, incentives for students to apply to college, trades/technical programs, and many other post-secondary areas. Wilcox-Hildreth is proud to work alongside the EducationQuest Foundation which is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.



Career Exploration

At Wilcox-Hildreth, students are provided opportunities to explore careers throughout the year. Working with partners such as: UNL extension, Kearney Chamber of Commerce, CHS, Central Community College, University of Nebraska, and other local industries, our students are able to get an insight into the multitude of careers available. We look to combine the skills and interests of our students with matching career options that will help to propel them to life after high school. With the ever-changing workforce demand in different career clusters, we work to find the resources and tools that help build quality employees. As the community finds new opportunities for our students, feel free to share them our way.



Upcoming Events

John Baylor ACT Prep, and College Fair, September 28th

ASVAB Testing, October 8th

Apply2College Month October

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
Budget Hearing
Monday, September 21, 2026 ~ 8:00 PM
Posting Locations:
Minden Courier Posting Date 09/10/2026
Franklin Chronicle Posting Date 09/02/2026
School Website whfalcons.org on 9/14/2026
Conference Room - Wilcox
404 Sapp Street
Wilcox, NE 68982-0190

1. Call to Order. Roll Call

2. Announce location of posted Open Meetings Act

2.A. Pledge

3. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Patterson presented the budgets for all funds.

4. Visitors and communication from the public

Visitor in attendance: Joe Fouts

5. Adjourn

Motion by Teresa Carey, seconded by Chris Stuehm, to Adjourn meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
Tax Request Hearing
Monday, September 21, 2026 ~ Immediately following the Budget Hearing
Posting Locations:
Minden Courier Posting Date 09/10/2026
Franklin Chronicle Posting Date 09/02/2026
School Website whfalcons.org on 9/14/2026
Conference Room - Wilcox
404 Sapp Street
Wilcox, NE 68982-0190

1. Call to Order. Roll Call

2. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Patterson presented the tax request for all funds.

3. Visitors and communication from the public

Visitor in attendance: Joe Fouts

4. Adjourn

Motion by Ryan Knaus, seconded by Alan Casper, to Adjourn meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2026 ~ Immediately following the Tax Request Hearing
Posting Locations:
Minden Courier Posting Date 09/10/2026
Franklin Chronicle Posting Date 09/02/2026
School Website whfalcons.org on 9/14/2026
Conference Room - Wilcox
404 Sapp Street
Wilcox, NE 68982-0190

1. Call to Order. Roll Call

2. Announce location of posted Open Meetings Act

3. Consent Agenda

Motion by Alan Casper, seconded by Chris Stuehm, to approve the consent agenda. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3.A. Approval of Agenda

3.B. Approval of minutes of Regular August 17, 2026 Board Meeting and Budget Workshop and Facility Planning Meeting of August 25, 2026.

3.C. Approval of Claims

3.D. Financial Report

4. Visitors and communication from the public

Visitor in attendance: Joe Fouts

5. Action Items

5.A. Discuss, Consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-27 General Fund Budget of \$7,314,183 Depreciation Fund \$2,313,680, Employee Benefit Fund \$27,194, Activities Fund \$568,664, School Nutrition Fund \$370,000, Special Building Fund \$2,099,494, QCPUF \$755,742, and Student Fee \$16,842

Motion by Ryan Knaus, seconded by Kirk Nelson, to approve the 2026-27 General Fund Budget of \$7,314,183 Depreciation Fund \$2,313,680, Employee Benefit Fund \$27,194, Activities Fund \$568,664, School Nutrition Fund \$370,000, Special Building Fund \$2,099,494, QCPUF \$755,742, and Student Fee \$16,842. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.B. Discuss, Consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Tax Request Resolution #2026 with a General Fund Tax Request of \$5,437,761, Special Building Fund Tax Request of \$1,010,101

Motion by Alan Casper, seconded by Kirk Nelson, to approve the 2026-2027 Tax Request Resolution #2026 with a General Fund Tax Request of \$5,437,761, Special Building Fund Tax Request of \$1,010,101. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.C. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve a transfer from the general fund to the nutrition fund in the amount of \$157.95, to reimburse the cost of adult meal prices, and \$167.21 to reimburse the nutrition fund for the cost of K & PK milk and snacks that are not reimbursable.

Motion by Teresa Carey, seconded by Chris Stuehm, to approve a transfer from the general fund to the nutrition fund in the amount of \$157.95, to reimburse the cost of adult meal prices, and \$167.21 to reimburse the nutrition fund for the cost of K & PK milk and snacks that are not reimbursable. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

**5.D. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to review board policies:
4005,4008,4015,4019,4044,4046,4050,4054**

Motion by Kert Hansen, seconded by Ryan Knaus, to review board policies:
4005,4008,4015,4019,4044,4046,4050,4054. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea,
Chris Stuehm: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6. Discussion Items

**6.A. Review the public information document about facilities to be released by
Superintendent Patterson**

Superintendent Patterson presented the Board with a letter for their review that will be released
to the public.

**6.B. Review the public information survey about facilities to be released by Superintendent
Patterson**

Superintendent Patterson presented the Board with a survey for their review that will be released
to the public.

7. Administrator Report

7.A. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Patterson reported:

1. School Finance Updates
2. Public Letter
3. Public Survey
4. School Audit
5. Negotiations

7.B. Principal Report

Principal Glenn reported:

1. Attendance
2. Americanism Act

8. Next Board Meeting: 8:00 PM Monday, October 19, 2026 in the Wilcox Conference room

9. Adjourn

Motion by Alan Casper, seconded by Ryan Knaus, to Adjourn meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Nay, Chris Stuehm: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 1

Music Schedule 2026-2027

When	What	Where	Who	Report	Performance
September 12	Wilcox Fall Festival	Wilcox	HS Band	9:40 AM	10:00 AM
September 18	Pep Band - FB - Homecoming	Hildreth	JH & HS Band	2:15 PM	3:00 PM
September 19	UNK Band Day Parade	Kearney	HS Band	TBA	TBA
October 1	VB - National Anthem	Wilcox	JH Choir	4:15 PM	4:30 PM
October 3	UNK Homecoming Parade	Kearney	HS Band	TBA	TBA
October 16	Pep Band - FB	Hildreth	JH & HS Band	6:30 PM	6:40 PM
October 17	Minden Band Fest Parade	Minden	JH & HS Band	TBA	TBA
November 11	Veteran's Day Program	Wilcox	K-12	8:45 AM	9:00 AM
November 13	Storm Hockey - National Anthem	Kearney	HS Choir	6:00 PM	7:05 PM
November 17	FKC Choral Clinic	Overton	HS Choir	8:00AM	5:00 PM
December 4	Pep Band - BBall	Wilcox	JH & HS Band	5:30 PM	5:40 PM
December 11	Pep Band - BBall	Wilcox	JH & HS Band	4:30 PM	4:40 PM
December 14	Christmas Concert	Wilcox	K-12	6:10/7:10 PM	6:30/7:30 PM
January 5	Pep Band - BBall	Wilcox	JH & HS Band	5:30 PM	5:40 PM
January 15	Pep Band - BBall	Wilcox	JH & HS Band	5:30 PM	5:40 PM
January 25	UNK Honor Band/Choir Day	Kearney	Audition Only	8:00 AM	5:00/6:30 PM
February 9	BBall Rhythm - Half of Girls Game	Wilcox	4th-5th Grade	6:15 PM	6:30 PM
February 11	FKC Instrumental Honors	Loomis	HS Band	8:00AM	5:00 PM
February 25	Men's Choir - KHS	Kearney	HS Men's Choir	8:00 AM	informal
March 17	FKC Contest	Ansley/Litchfield	Solos/Ensembles	TBA	TBA
March 18	Women's Choir - KHS	Kearney	HS Women's Choir	8:00 AM	informal
April 17	Hamilton-Lied Center	Lincoln	HS Choir	9:00 AM	1:30 PM
April 23	District Music Contest	Southern Valley	HS Band/Choir	TBA	TBA
April 30	Concessions - Track	Wilcox	JH & HS Band/Choir	8:00 AM	
May 3	Spring Concert	Wilcox	K-12	6:10/7:10 PM	6:30/7:30 PM

Go Falcons!

Lemonade Scholarship

Community members can now donate to the 4th Grade's Lemonade and Treat Sale Senior Scholarship!! Simply send your donation to one of the buildings' offices. Checks can be made out to WHPS with Lemonade written on the Note line. Thank you for supporting our 4th Grade class and our Seniors!!



Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Breakfast: Ham Bar A. Beef Stroganoff B: PB&J Beef in school	2 Breakfast: Donuts A. Pulled Pork on bun B: PB&J	3
4	5 NO SCHOOL	6 Break: Pancakes A. Walking Tacos B: PB&J Beef in school	7 Breakfast: Tornados A. Personal Pizza B: PB&J	8 Break: Breakfast Pizza A. Lasagna B: PB&J Beef in school	9 Breakfast: Banana Bread A. Chicken Nuggets B: PB&J	10
11	12 Breakfast: Muffins A. Chicken Strips B: PB&J	13 Breakfast:Breakfast Sandwich A. Chicken Fajitas B: PB&J	14 Breakfast:Breakfast Nuggets A. Hot Dogs B:PB&J	15 Breakfast: Ham Bars A. Egg Rolls B: PB&J	16 Breakfast: Donuts A. Grilled Hamburgers B: PB&J Beef in school	17
18	19 Breakfast:Breakfast Round A. Chicken Legs B: PB&J	20 Break: Pancakes A. Nachos B: PB&J Beef in school	21 Breakfast: Tornados A. Corn Dogs B: PB&J	22 Break: Breakfast Pizza A. Chicken Patty on Bun B: PB&J	23 Breakfast: Banana Bread A. Beef Pizza B: PB&J Beef in school	24
25	26 Breakfast: Muffins A. Popcorn Chicken B: PB&J	27 Breakfast:Breakfast Sandwich A. Beef Enchiladas B: PB&J Beef in school	28 Breakfast:Breakfast Nuggets A. Hot Ham and Cheese B:PB&J	29 Breakfast: Ham Bar A. Chicken Fried Steak B:PB&J	30 Breakfast: Donuts A. BBQ Rib on Bun B:PB&J	31
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Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Breakfast: Breakfast Round A. Cheese Pizza B: PB&J	3 Break: Pancakes A. Crispitos B: PB&J	4 Breakfast: Tornadoes A. Bosco Stix B: PB&J	5 Break: Breakfast Pizza A. Beef and Noodles B: PB&J Beef in school	6 Breakfast: Banana Bread A. BBQ Beef on Bun B: PB&J Beef in school	7
8	9 Breakfast: Muffins A. Chicken Nuggets B: PB&J	10 Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwich A. Soft Taco B: PB&J Beef in school	11 Breakfast: Breakfast Nuggets A. Mandarin Orange Chicken B: PB&J	12 Breakfast: Ham Bar A. Combo Subs* B: PB&J	13 Breakfast: Donuts A. Beef Pizza B: PB&J Beef in school	14
15	16 Breakfast: Breakfast Round A. Italian Dunkers B: PB&J	17 Break: Pancakes A. Walking Tacos B: PB&J Beef in school	18 Breakfast: Tornadoes A. Hot Dogs B: PB&J	19 Break: Breakfast Pizza A. Turkey B: PB&J	20 Breakfast: Banana Bread A. Hot Ham and Cheese B: PB&J	21
22	23 Breakfast: Muffins A. Chicken Strips B: PB&J	24 Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwich A. Chicken Fajitas B: PB&J	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 Breakfast: Breakfast Round A. Hamburger Mac and Cheese B: PB&J Beef in school					
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