MINUTES OF THE GIBBON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
October 14, 2025 7:00 pm
1030 Court Street, Gibbon NE
High School Media Center

Present:

Brian Kroll	Scott Baker	Jodi Bendfeldt
Brandon Kee	Kim Wadkins	Mike Bennett

Dr. Vern Fisher, Superintendent
Josh Miller, High School Principal
Jeff Montgomery, Assistant HS Principal/AD
Tina Godfrey, Elementary Principal

Call to Order

President Kroll called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm following the Committee of the Whole, verified the notification of publication and that Board members received a copy of the previous Month's minutes and the agenda prior to this meeting.

Celebrations

A shoutout to the Gibbon Boosters for increasing membership from last year, the addition of The Gibbon Boosters Sideline Report and their active participation with athletics this year.

The Girls Golf Team has experienced success in their season. Coach Benge shared these successes including their Runner Up plaque from Loup City for the first time. Natalie Bendfeldt tied for 10th place at the District Tournament at Indianhead Golf Course and qualified for the Girls State Golf Championships, where she placed 19th.

Results of the LouPlatte Conference CC meet held at Gibbon were medalists Kaleigh Pracht-5th and Maria Zaldana-9th. The girls placed 2nd overall. In the boys division Gio Hernandez placed 8th.

Ag Teacher Kealey Widdowson is the recipient of the Blezek Teacher Retention Award. Kealey earned a $1500 scholarship with opportunities to earn additional dollars in the future.

Gibbon graduate, Hernan Vargas had an exciting experience this summer through a prestigious internship.

Music accolades include Darian Hernandez, Valeria Simental, Korbyn Smallcomb and Erica Rivera were selected to be a part of The Best of the West Music Festival in October. Korbyn Smallcomb, Keeley Bigler and Ivy Noller qualified for the Midland Honor Choir.

6th grade teacher Brett Kluever was asked to present at two teacher conferences in October, in Kearney and Norfolk.

Dr Fisher shared reports on the School Improvement Team, Academic Achievement, Thundering Herd, Presentation by GPS at ESU 3 and Tech PLC as well as accolades from the Safety Audit From Alicap.

The finance committee held a routine meeting prior to the board meeting and the facilities committee will be meeting in the next week. A follow up on the budget on the notification on the adjusted valuation, which was a minimal decrease.

Discussion Items

The Option Enrollment Resolution and Policy 718.01, first presented during the committee of the whole, was once again presented to the board, no discussion needed.

The district will be asked to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department with respect to a school resource officer that will be in the building one day a week at random. This is part of a grant, granted to the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department.

Operating Principle 6: Handling of Concerns was read by Superintendent Fisher.

An update was given on the football and soccer athletic programs. Head Football Coach, Steve Yockey presented a proposal for the option to move to 8 man football for the 2026-2027 seasons. Additional information on weight room participation, enrollment and summer scheduling was also shared. Yockey and AD Montgomery stated that there would be a player and parent meeting to discuss the option of moving to 8 man for the following cycle.

In regards to the soccer co-op with Kearney Catholic, Superintendent Fisher reiterated the information that was shared at the May board meeting and then communication with the follow-up with Kearney Catholic and reaching out to other schools for interest in a soccer co-op.

Patron Participation

8 patrons addressed the Board of Education in regards to the Soccer Coop and the Football program.

SJ-Kearney Catholic Soccer coach, stated that although the players aren't recognized in the Gibbon school name, he recognized them during the season and appreciated these kids. SJ stated that two players have opportunities to try out for college teams and he appreciated how 2 cultures come together as a team and play together. He is here to advocate for them to continue the co-op and is here on behalf of himself as the coach. SJ made a suggestion that he would be able to pick the boys up from Gibbon and get cleared to drive from Gibbon Public Schools to be able to do so for transportation and also would be willing to have practices here at Rosen Park.

ZF-Reiterated that the boys and girls love the soccer programs and it is so good for our kids to experience the success that the co-op has offered. He stated that he didn't see administration support in past seasons, but the decision of the program should be made for the best interest of the student athletes, that the rift is between the administrations and the kids shouldn't be caught up in it. ZF also asked about the grading scale and was concerned that students were having to choose between activities during the school day or being in class. ZF also stated that 2 years ago the booster club president of Kearney Catholic approached the AD of Kearney Catholic to add the representation for the 3 schools in name change to the coop and was shot down. Following that, the parents designed their own apparel to include all three schools.

MH-Supports the soccer program and wants the kids to be able to continue to play soccer. Asked the board why a decision wasn't made in the past to move to 8 man since it had been discussed several times. MH questioned the number of coaches that were staffed for sports and that he believed we are under manned.

SL-Stated that if we don't have foundational knowledge we will not be successful in relation to the football program. SL stated that we have tools such as the sled not being used and asked the board to dig deeper into the data of the football program to find the way as to why the weight room isn't being attended. SL stated that moving to 8 man will not fix the fundamental issues and asked what has been done in the past 4-6 years of the program and asked that the board take a look through a leadership lens to ask the harder questions.

RR-Stated that every program starts in the weightroom. Why are the numbers dropping? RR is also the assistant soccer coach and states that the soccer program has opened doors for players and would like to see the program continue and have the support of administration at games.

JB-Concerns about football. Stated that he hoped that there will be the parent/player meeting as he is concerned with the boy numbers going up and we might not be able to continue with the 8

man program, unless it is with the stipulation of not being eligible for playoffs. Stated that the Gibbon Ball Association did a great job of developing the youth. Asked the board to do their due diligence with the decision of moving from 11-man to 8-man.

CB-Stated that this year's freshman class is the biggest class. With the commitment of moving to 8 man he is concerned that his son might not be able to be recruited like he would when playing an 11-man schedule. Stated that the skill and development through the youth programs are beginning to be seen on the field. Asked again if there would be a meeting with the parents. CB feels like it takes something away from the game moving to 8-man.

JM-stated he had two sons who played football. His kids committed and benefited from the process and stated that if we can stop pointing fingers and support the process it will happen for these athletes.

The board held good dialogue with each of the patrons who chose to speak. On not moving to 8 man prior, it was discussed however the numbers were too high and were not eligible to have the option to move down. We are in that position today that we would qualify with our numbers. On the number of coaches, Dr Fisher stated that this was negotiated and there were criteria for each support and we are within the negotiated guidelines. Dr Fisher stated that we need to look at the weight room and other things as the picture is being painted differently…we all need to sit down at the same table and think about the football program's goals and needs. Mr Montgomery did reiterate that there would be a parent meeting in regards to the football program.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Baker and seconded by Bendfeldt to approve the Consent Agenda Action Items as Presented.
Voting for: Baker, Kroll, Bendfeldt, Wadkins, Kee, Bennett
Motion carried 6-0

Moved by Wadkins and seconded by Kee to approve the Option Resolution as presented by the administration.
Voting for: Wadkins, Bendfeldt, Kroll, Kee, Baker, Bennett
Motion carried 6-0

Moved by Baker, seconded by Bennett, to approve Policy 718.01, Travel Costs Related to Federal Grants
Voting for:Baker, Kee, Kroll, Wadkins, Bennett, Bendfeldt
Motion carried 6-0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:59 pm