the COYOTE connection

SEPTEMBER 2026

HTTP://CHAMBERSPUBLIC.ORG

From the Superintendent's Desk

Submitted by Frank Jesse, Chambers Public School Superintendent

Over the course of the last several years we have been working to build a positive climate and culture at Chambers Public School. There has been a wide array of initiatives and activities to strengthen our climate and culture with each year focusing on a central theme for the year. This year we are focusing on the idea of collective effort based on the Tham Luang cave rescue in July 2018.

In June 2018 a coach and 12 members of a youth soccer team ranging from 11-16 years old got trapped in a cave due to rising flood waters. Rescuing these 13 individuals would involve nearly 10,000 people, including over 100 divers from around the world. As this story was unfolding, it was not exactly clear how the rescue could proceed safely and several different strategies had to be considered. The collective effort of hundreds, if not thousands, of people working together resulted in the safe and successful rescue of all the children and their coach.

The idea of collective effort is not just one singular attempt or idea but a process of working together for a common goal. It is not my way or your way, instead it is our way. The concept of collective effort at Chambers is not a matter of life or death as it was in the rescue of the soccer players, but it does have an impact on the educational process at Chambers. Our collective effort is not just administration and faculty but a true effort to engage everyone including students, parents, and community members.

How and when do we build collective effort? Sometimes this concept of collective effort is organic and happens naturally while in other cases it has to be intentional and carefully thought out. For example, in April the Board of Education held a community meeting to discuss and get input on several pressing issues from facility needs and transportation needs. From that meeting, decisions were ultimately made to replace the 35-year-old water heater and 20-year-old boiler, make a long-term plan for the roof, and work towards the purchase of a bus to replace the school vans. Additional opportunities to be engaged in this collective effort include attending other school board meetings and completing the perceptual school survey.

Every five years the district must complete a review of our mission and vision statements, review our school improvement goals, gather input from parents, teachers, support providers and students, and host an external visit. That input comes in the form of a survey that will take about 15 minutes to complete. The survey is through the Nebraska Department of Education and is completely anonymous. The survey will be conducted between September 25 through October 2. A link will be provided on the school website as the opening date approaches. We anticipate that the results will be shared during the November school board meeting. The results will also be published

"Superintendent's Desk" continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE...

Page 1.....Superintendent's Desk
Page 2.....Principal's Desk
Page 3.....Kindergarten News
Page 4.....Counselor's Corner
Page 4.....FCS and FCCLA News
Page 5.....August Board Minutes
Page 7.....September Calendar

From the Desk of Mr. Firley

Submitted by Mr. Brady Firley, 7–12 Principal & Activities Director

ACADEMIC FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER

- **Establishing Strong Routines:** With the school year underway, teachers and students are continuing to establish expectations, classroom routines, and positive learning environments. A strong start helps set the foundation for success throughout the year.
- **Collective Effort:** Our school-wide theme this year is Collective Effort. Students and staff are being encouraged to recognize that success is built through everyone doing their part, supporting one another, and working toward common goals.
- **Assessment & Student Growth:** Early assessments and classroom data are helping teachers identify student strengths and areas where additional support may be needed. This information will help guide instruction and interventions throughout the semester.
- **Academic Responsibility:** Students are encouraged to develop strong study habits, stay organized, complete assignments on time, and communicate with teachers when they need assistance.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Sept. 7 – No School (Labor Day)**
- **Sept. 16 – No School (Teacher Inservice)**
- **Sept. 30 - 1:00 PM Early Dismissal / Parent-Teacher Conferences (3:00–8:00 PM)**

Please continue to check the Chambers Public School calendar, website, and school communications for event times, schedule changes, and additional information.

FALL ACTIVITIES ARE IN FULL SWING

September is an exciting and busy month for our students involved in activities. Our Chambers-Wheeler Central student-athletes are representing our schools in Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball.
We appreciate the time and commitment of our student-athletes, coaches, families, and community members who make these programs successful. We encourage everyone to attend events and support the Renegades throughout the fall season.
Our students are also actively participating in FFA, FCCLA, Music, and other school organizations. These programs provide valuable opportunities for leadership, teamwork, service, and personal growth outside of the classroom.

PARENT TIPS

- **Check JMC Weekly:** Stay informed about your student's grades, assignments, and attendance. Addressing concerns early can make a significant difference.
- **Ask About School:** Take a few minutes each day to ask your student about something they learned, enjoyed, or found challenging.
- **Attendance Matters:** Consistent attendance is essential to academic success. Encourage your student to arrive at school on time and ready to learn each day.
- **Encourage Balance:** With academics and activities in full swing, help students develop routines that provide enough time for homework, activities, family, and rest.
- **Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Conferences provide an excellent opportunity to connect with teachers, celebrate successes, and identify areas where we can work together to support students.

"Mr. Firley's Desk" continued on page 3

"Superintendent's Desk" continued from page 1
on our school website.

Collective effort with our faculty and staff has been very strong prior to the start of the school year and only continues to strengthen as we move into fall. Beginning in May, the PBiS team began planning for the S.A.D. Day on August 28. We also had 14 parent volunteers help make the day run smoothly. Prior to the year starting, several teachers and support personnel attended classes and training courses over the summer and worked in their classrooms getting their rooms ready for the start of the year. This is not a requirement but something they do as they know it will be a significant benefit for the students and the district.

Additionally, we have individuals stepping up in a huge way for the Collective Effort of the district. Mrs. Haburchak and Mr. Firley are filling the role of mentor teachers for Mrs. Marino and Mr. Springer. Mr. Springer has agreed to help fill the need for a custodian in the elementary school, Mrs. Stech is helping to cover morning recess duties, and Mrs. Butterfield and Dr. Burtwistle are helping to provide supervision for students taking classes with Northeast Community College.

These are just a few specific examples of collective effort by our board of education, faculty, and staff. In the October edition, I will highlight examples of collective effort from our student body.

"Mr. Firley's Desk" continued from page 2
FINAL THOUGHTS

September gives us an opportunity to build upon the excitement of a new school year and establish the habits that will carry us forward. Our theme of Collective Effort reminds us that the success of Chambers Public School depends on students, staff, families, and our community working together.

Thank you to our teachers and staff for their continued dedication and to our families and community members for supporting our students both inside and outside the classroom.

We have had a great start to the 2026–2027 school year, and I look forward to continuing that momentum throughout the fall.

Let's have a great September!

Brady Firley
7-12 Principal | Activities Director
Chambers Public School
Email: bfirley@chamberspublic.org
Phone: 402-482-5233

Kindergarten News

Submitted by Mrs. Marino

I am so excited to be back in the classroom! You may have seen me around the school last year. I was a long-term substitute, then became a para here at Chambers. This year, I am beyond excited to be the kindergarten teacher.

The first few weeks of school have been very busy and full of learning. In reading, we have been learning about realistic fiction stories, new sight words, and letters. Math has been full of counting and writing numbers. In science, we are learning how to use the design process to solve problems.

This year has already gotten off to a great start, and I'm excited to see what the rest of the year entails! I look forward to all of the learning, growth, and fun that the rest of the school year will bring.

FCS and FCCLA News

Submitted by Mrs. Kelly Bordovsky

Hi everyone! For those who don't know me, my name is Kelly Bordovsky. I'm the FCS teacher, FCCLA advisor, and yearbook advisor, and I have lots of exciting things planned for my fourth year at Chambers!

In my FCS courses, students are learning about a variety of topics, including building healthy relationships, food safety, the history of interior design, and so much more. The yearbook staff is also hard at work putting together another year of memories. I'm excited to say they have come into this year with lots of fresh ideas! We've decided to add nearly 20 more pages to the yearbook compared to previous years. I already know it will be worth the wait!

FCCLA is already in full swing. This year's officer team consists of seven officers, including both returning and new members. Over the summer, the officers completed the MAPS workshop through The Leadership Center, which gave them an opportunity to build teamwork skills and plan for the year ahead.

While we will always place an emphasis on competitive events, this year we are also pushing for more community service and greater involvement in FCCLA's National Programs. I'm excited to see what this group accomplishes!

It's going to be a great year at Chambers, and I can't wait to see all the memories we make along the way!

Counselor's Corner

Submitted by Gina Pospichal, School Counselor

Fall MAP and NSCAS testing will be the week of September 8, 2026. For students to perform their very best on the assessments, it's important that they are well-rested and have breakfast or a snack before the testing session.

Seniors should be scheduling college visits and/or job shadow experiences during the fall. September and October are the recommended months for applying for college. Many colleges offer free applications during the fall months. I am always available to assist students during this process. I highly encourage seniors and senior parents to visit EducationQuest for an abundance of college and career planning resources. The web address is www.educationquest.org. EducationQuest offers financial aid seminars and FAFSA completion assistance.

In 2024 Governor Pillen signed LB705 into law. One of the components of this bill is a provision to require all public high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) to graduation. Here are key pieces of the information that parents need to know regarding this law:

- The legislation includes the ability for a parent/legal guardian of a school principal to opt a student out of the requirement. Please visit with Mr. Firley for an opt-out form.
- Students 19 or older or emancipated minors can opt out of the requirement.

The 2027-2028 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will open on October 1, 2026.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 402-482-5233 or email me at gpospichal@chamberspublic.org

ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Registration Date
October 17, 2026	September 11, 2026	September 29, 2026
December 12, 2026	November 6, 2026	November 29, 2026
February 12, 2027	January 22, 2027	February 9, 2026
April 10, 2027	March 5, 2027	March 23, 2027

CHAMBERS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Education of Chambers Public Schools was convened in open and public session on August 17, 2026, in Room 1 at Chambers Public Schools, 201 S. A Street, Chambers, Nebraska. The roll was called, and the following Board members were present: Jamie Tomjack, Terry Kamphaus, Monte Metschke, Amy Scott, Brady Dexter, and Jon Sladek. Also present was Frank Jesse, Superintendent, and Brady Firley, 7-12 Principal.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication on the Chambers Public School's website on August 10, 2026, and thereafter in the *Holt County Independent* and *Sandhills Ties* on August 12, 2026. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice, and a current copy of the agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was called to order by President Jamie Tomjack at 8:01p.m.

Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting
At the beginning of this meeting, the Chair announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the west wall of Room 1.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Monte Metschke, seconded by Terry Kamphaus, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

Visitors were invited to share public comments.

- No public comments.

Consent Agenda
Motion by Jon Sladek, seconded by Monte Metschke to separate Dexter Diesel, LLC claim from the consent agenda. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

Motion by Amy Scott, seconded by Jon Sladek to approve Dexter Diesel, LLC claim. Motion carried, 5-0. Aye: Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0. Brady Dexter abstained.

Motion by Terry Kamphaus, seconded by Brady Dexter, to approve all items on the consent agenda as provided. After discussion and roll call vote the motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS: $120,320.74
HOT LUNCH CLAIMS: $920.39
PAYROLL: $181,516.85

Teacher Report
No teacher report was given.

Counselor Report
Mrs. Pospichal gave the counselor report.

Principal/Activity Report
Mr. Firley gave the principal/activity report.

"Board Minutes" continued on page 8

"Board Minutes" continued from page 7

Superintendent Report and Recommendations
Mr. Jesse gave the superintendent report.

- Enrollment
- Strategic Plan
- Professional Development

Board of Education Development

New Business

A. Motion by Amy Scott, seconded by Terry Kamphaus to approve $10,000.00 transfer of General Funds to Chambers Activity Account. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

B. Motion by Brady Dexter, seconded by Jon Sladek to approve $15,000.00 transfer of General Funds to Hot Lunch Account. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

C. Motion by Monte Metschke, seconded by Jon Sladek to approve $7500.00 Fall 2026 Contribution to CWC Account. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

D. Motion by Brady Dexter, seconded by Terry Kamphaus to approve Line of Credit with Chambers State Bank. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0

Topics for Next Month's Agenda: CEA Recognition, Policy Updates

Adjournment
Motion was made by Amy Scott, seconded by Jon Sladek to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm on August 17, 2026. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0. The meeting was duly adjourned.

Budget Work Session: August 24, 2026 @ 7:00pm.
Special Board Meeting: August 28, 2026 @ 8:00am
Next Scheduled Meeting: September 21, 2026 @ 8:00pm.

_____, Secretary Amy Scott

This is a draft copy of the Board of Education minutes that does not become official until approved by the Board.

CHILDFIND NOTICE

This notice to inform the patrons of Chambers Public Schools that Public law 94-142 and Nebraska Rules 51 and 52 mandate that a free, appropriate public education is available to each child with a disability, 0-21 years of age, who resides in a local school district.

Child Find for Special Education Services

The Chambers Public School asks you to assist us in our childfind efforts. This is an ongoing statewide search for all unserved children with disabilities, ages birth through 21. If you know of a child who is experiencing difficulties with motor development, speech and language, vision, hearing or learning, please refer the parent to the number below. The Chambers Public School District will provide an educational evaluation at no cost to the parent. If the child qualifies under Nebraska law, a free and appropriate educational program will be developed to meet his/her educational needs. To contact us, please call Mr. Frank Jesse (Supt.) at 402.482.5233.

◄ Aug 2026

September 2026

Oct 2026 ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	**2 Band** 7-12 @ State Fair **FFA** Range Judging @ Sargent	**3 CWC XC** @ Niobrara SP 4:30pm **CWC VB** @ Stuart 5:00pm	**4 CWC FB** vs. North Central @ Bartlett 7:00pm	**5**
6	**7 NO SCHOOL -** Labor Day	**8 CWC JH VB** @ Spalding 4:00pm **CWC JH FB** @ Spalding 5:00pm **CWC VB** vs. St. Mary's @ Chambers 6:00pm	**9**	**10 CWC VB** @ Ainsworth 5:00pm **CWC XC** @ Loup City 5:30pm **FFA** Range Judging @ Valentine	**11 School Pictures** **CWC FB** @ Spencer 7:00pm	**12 Band** @ Bancroft
13	**14 CWC JH VB** vs. Stuart @ Chambers 3:30pm **CWC JH FB** vs. Stuart @ Chambers 5:00pm **NECC Rep** @ 10:00 AM in the Library	**15 CWC VB** @ Creighton 5:00pm **FFA** Range Judging @ Atkinson **TeamMates** Walk @ 7:20 AM	**16 NO SCHOOL** – Teacher In-Service	**17 CWC VB** vs. Twin Loup @ Bartlett 6:00pm	**18 HOMECOMING** **1:00pm Dismissal** **CWC XC** @ O'Neill 10:00am **CWC FB** vs. Sandhills/Thedford @ Chambers 3:00pm	**19 CWC VB** Pool Play @ Bartlett 10:00am **CWC JH VB** @ St. Mary's Tourney 8:00am
20	**21 CWC JH FB** @ St. Mary's 4:00pm **CWC JH VB** @ St. Mary's 5:30pm **BOE** @ 8:00pm	**22 CWC VB** Tri @ Bartlett 5:00pm	**23 FFA** Ignite Conference @ Kearney **Special Board Meeting/Budget Hearing** @ 8:00pm	**24 CWC VB** @ Bassett 6:00pm **College Fair** @ O'Neill TBD	**25 CWC FB** @EPPJ 7:00pm	**26 CWC VB** @ Ansley 10:00am
27	**28 CWC XC** @ UNK Invite 12:00pm **CWC JH FB** vs. Burwell @ Bartlett 4:00pm **CWC JV FB** ws. Riverside @ Bartlett 5:30pm **FCCLA** Fall Conference @ UNL	**29 CWC VB** @ Osmond 6:00pm	**30 Early Dismissal** – 1:00 pm **P-T Conference** 3-8:00 pm			