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AUGUST 2026

HTTP://CHAMBERSPUBLIC.ORG

From the Superintendent's Desk

Submitted by Frank Jesse, Chambers Public School Superintendent

It is hard to believe that summer is rapidly coming to an end, and school will be starting in a flash. WELCOME BACK! I know I speak for all the staff at Chambers when I say we are glad you are here and we are excited to be starting the 2026-2027 school year. From the seniors who will be finishing to the kindergarteners who are just starting, we have high expectations for this new school year.

The district has a few new additions and a couple of familiar faces with new duties. Our newest members include Mrs. Kelli Knox, Ms. Haily Schaaf, Ms. Patty Franssen, and Ms. Brooklyn Powell. Mrs. Knox accepted the position as administrative assistant while Ms. Franssen and Ms. Schaaf will fill our para educator needs and Ms. Powell will be our assistant custodian. We are excited and eager to welcome them to our team! Familiar faces with new duties include Mrs. Elli Marino as our new kindergarten teacher and Ms. Christina Bahm as our assistant cook.

You may have received or will soon be receiving a back-to-school letter from the district that includes several pieces of key information for the start of the year. One of these is the Free and Reduced lunch application. Every family is strongly encouraged to complete this confidential application. The more families that apply and qualify for the free and reduced lunch program, the more aid the school can receive from other federal funding sources. Specifically, the district's Title I grant allocation is impacted by the number of students participating in the free and reduced lunch program. The Title I program allows specialized assistance to students who struggle in math and reading but do not qualify for special education services. The district's E-Rate funding is another program that is impacted by the free and reduced numbers. E-Rate is a federal program that provides discounts for telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries. The district would be able to apply for additional food grants such as the fresh fruit and vegetable grant and milk grant if our free and reduced numbers met qualifying requirements. Please consider completing the application as it may benefit your family personally and help fund specific programs in the district. Again, the application is confidential. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the school at 402.482.5233.

Open communication and an open-door policy are two keys for a successful and productive relationship between the school and parents/patrons of the district. If you ever have any questions, need further clarification on a topic, or just want to discuss things going on at school, please feel free to call or stop in. There will be additional opportunities to be informed about the happenings of the school by attending monthly school board meetings. Those are typically conducted every third Monday of the month. Each meeting offers an

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opportunity for you to address the Board of Education. The agenda for those meetings is published one week in advance in the *Sandhills Ties*, *Holt County Independent* newspaper, and on our website. A copy of the agenda is also located in the superintendent's office for review. Another opportunity to stay abreast of school events and news is by having the school app. The school app is free in IOS and Android stores. Simply search for Chambers Public Schools. You may also consider following CPS on Facebook and on X.

As we all gear up for the start of the new year, there will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, August 5, from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in Room 1. The agenda will cover changes in the student handbook, the School Improvement process, School Improvement goals, and other topics. There will also be time to answer any general questions you may have. Our first student day is Wednesday, August 12 beginning at 8:00 AM with a 1:00 PM dismissal. Thursday, August 13 and Friday, August 14 are full student days with a dismissal time of 3:27 PM.

I am looking forward to having a great year and it is truly a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with your children!

Frank C. Jesse
Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Chambers FFA

Submitted by Mrs. Dexter, FFA Adviser

As we begin another school year, I wanted to take a moment to explain what FFA is and how your child can get involved.

The National FFA Organization is a career and technical student organization that promotes leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. For nearly 100 years, FFA has helped students develop valuable life and career skills. Chambers FFA was chartered in 2013, and membership is open to all Chambers students in grades 7–12.

Throughout the year, members have the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitions and activities. Our major competitive events include Range Judging, Livestock Judging, Leadership Development Events (LDEs), and Career Development Events (CDEs). These contests allow students to build confidence, develop leadership and communication skills, and explore careers in agriculture.

The biggest way our chapter supports its activities is by operating the school concession stand. We encourage all members to stop in and help during home games throughout the year, as this fundraiser helps provide opportunities for our chapter.

We are excited to kick off the year with our FFA Kick-Off Party on Monday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m. by the football field. All Chambers students in grades 7–12 are invited to attend (whether they plan to join FFA or not). We will have an inflatable water slide and serve walking tacos!

If you have any questions about FFA or the opportunities available for your child, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Dexter. I look forward to another great year with Chambers FFA!

From the Principal's Desk

Submitted by Brady Firley, 7-12 Principal and Activities Director

Welcome Back! I hope everyone has enjoyed a relaxing and safe summer. It is hard to believe another school year is already here! As we prepare to welcome students back to Chambers Public School, I want to say how excited I am to begin my second year as your 7-12 Principal and Activities Director.

Looking back on my first year in this role, I am incredibly grateful for the support shown by our students, staff, families, Board of Education, and community. It was a year filled with growth, learning, and many successes both inside and outside of the classroom. I appreciate the relationships we have built together, and I look forward to continuing that work throughout the upcoming school year.

At Chambers Public School, our goal is to provide every student with opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed. We will continue to emphasize high academic expectations, positive relationships, responsibility, and school pride. We want every student to know they are valued and challenged to become the best version of themselves.

As Activities Director, I am also excited for another outstanding year of athletics and extracurricular activities. Our coaches and sponsors have invested countless hours preparing for the year ahead, and I encourage every student to become involved. Participation in activities helps students build leadership skills, develop friendships, and create lifelong memories.

A Few Important Dates:

- Parent Meeting: Wednesday, August 5th @ 5:00 PM
- Fall Sports Practices Begin: Monday, August 10th
- First Day of School: Wednesday, August 12th

Our Focus This Year:

- Student achievement and academic growth.
- Positive school culture and student leadership.
- Respect, responsibility, and accountability.
- Strong communication between school and home.
- Continued growth in extracurricular participation.

Whether you are returning to Chambers Public School or joining us for the first time, we are excited to have you as part of our school family. Working together, we can provide an exceptional educational experience for every student.

As always, my door is open. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or ideas. Strong schools are built on strong partnerships, and I appreciate the continued support of our families and community.

I look forward to another outstanding year at Chambers Public School. Let's make it a great one!

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

Counselor's Corner

Submitted by Gina Pospichal, School Counselor

It's hard to believe the start of the school year is fast approaching. I'm excited to begin the 2026-2027 school year.

Students registered for classes for the fall semester in April. Parents may access JMC to see students' schedules. If a student wishes to transfer out of a class the student selected in April, the student must complete a transfer form with a parent's signature by August 19. Students enrolled in a dual-credit course through Northeast Community College must complete the transfer sheet and withdraw from the class through Northeast Community College as well.

This year we will continue to implement the Second Step SEL program in grades K-6. Mental health and social emotional skills are essential for students' overall health. This program helps students learn and exercise valuable social and emotional skills.

The registration date for the September 19, 2026, ACT Test is August 14. The registration for the October 17, 2026, ACT Test is September 11. Students may register for the test at http://www.act.org. The ACT has undergone extensive changes. These changes are outlined on the ACT website.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Have a great 2026-2027 school year!

ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Registration Date
September 19, 2026	August 1, 2026	September 1, 2026
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

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.

CHAMBERS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Elementary Supply Lists

Kindergarten

- Empty pencil box (just the cheap plastic one, no compartments, no zippers)
- Book bag
- Large box of Kleenex
- Box of snacks (Preferably crackers. Please avoid sugary snacks.)
- Large, old, short-sleeved shirt for painting
- Soft-tip scissors
- Water bottle
- Extra change of clothes in case of a spill or accident
- Snow pants and snow boots for recess when there is snow on the

First Grade

- Box of Crayons, up to 24-count
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Case, fabric or plastic
- 2 Glue Sticks
- 1 Big Pink Eraser
- 10-#2 Pencils
- Soft-tip Scissors
- 2 Boxes of Kleenexes
- 1 Box of Snack Crackers (Teddy Grahams, Goldfish, etc.)
- Oversized Paint Shirt
- 2 Containers of Disinfectant Wipes
- Water Bottle

Second Grade

- 2 Big Boxes of Kleenex
- Crayons (any size)
- Colored pencils (any size)
- Markers (box of 8)
- 10 Pencils (No. 2)
- 2 red pens/1 black pen/1 blue pen
- 10 pocket folders
- 2 boxes of crackers for snack
- 1 water bottle
- 1 wide-ruled spiral notebook
- 5 Highlighters-1 orange, 1 yellow, 1 blue, 1 pink, and 1 green
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 pencil box - 5 inches by 8 inches/6 inches by 9 inches (just so it fits in their desk)
- 1 glue stick
- 1 glue bottle—4 fl. oz.
- 1 old shirt for art (please label this)

If you have any of these items at home already, please send them for your child to use instead of buying new ones. THANK YOU!! I am really looking forward to having you in my class!!

Reminder: Each student in grades K-6 needs to bring a pair of shoes for P.E. These shoes will be worn only for P.E. and will stay at school.

Third Grade

- A small pencil box (optional)
- Notebook (wide-ruled)
- Several pencils
- Red pen
- Crayons and/or colored pencils
- 1 folder
- Large box of Kleenex
- Box of crackers

Fourth Grade

- 1 small pencil box or pencil pouch for your desk
- 2 large boxes of tissues
- 1 large eraser
- A box of colored pencils
- A box of crayons
- A box of markers
- 2 composition notebooks
- Many #2 pencils or mechanical pencils (lead for mechanical pencils)
- 3 spiral notebooks (single subject)
- 5 folders
- 1-2 highlighters
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 package of notecards
- An old shirt for art

Fifth Grade

- Book bag/back pack
- (5) Wide-rule notebooks
- Eraser
- Small Box of Colored pencils
- Small box of Crayons
- Small box of Markers
- (1-2) Highlighters
- (5) Folders
- Wooden or Mechanical pencils
- Extra lead and erasers if bringing a mechanical pencil
- Pens (RED. Other colors if wanted. NO erasable pens.)
- Pencil box or case
- Old t-shirt for art (Bigger shirts work best. Please initial the tag)
- (3) large boxes of facial tissues.
- (2) Dry erase markers (optional but helpful if they have them)
- 1 binder
- 1 composition notebook

Sixth Grade

- Pencils and lead if using mechanical pencils
- Highlighters (3 colors)
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 box of markers
- Dry erase markers (pack of 4--any color)
- 1 pencil pouch
- 1 two-inch binder
- 1 package of loose-leaf notebook paper
- 2 notebooks
- 2 composition notebooks
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 pair of scissors
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- Personal water bottle (optional)
- Disinfectant wipes (optional)

CHAMBERS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Secondary Supply Lists

Agriculture

- Pencils
- 1 or 1.5 inch binder
- Notebook or looseleaf paper for binder
- Headphones

Art (Grades 9-12)

- Gum eraser or pink eraser
- Suggested, but not required: STAEDTLER, ROCOD, or DERWENT 12-Pack Graphite Pencils in Metal Case (Pencils 6B-4H)

English 7

- 5-subject notebook
- 1 or 1.5 inch binder
- Pocket folder
- Pencils

FCS

- Pencils
- 1 inch binder (7th and 8th grades)
- 5-Tab binder dividers
- Headphones

Health

- Notebook
- Folder
- Pencils

Math

- PENCILS!!!
- 1 or 1.5 inch binder (7th, 8th, and 9th Grades)
- Notebook paper or notebooks (wide or college-ruled)
- Scientific calculator (all 7-12 students) Recommended: Texas Instruments TI-30X
- Earbuds or headphones (preferably ones that can be left in locker or book bag)

Science (Grades 7-12)

- Pencils with erasers
- 7.5" x 9.75" Composition Book, 100 sheets, wide-ruled or college-ruled
- Basic (small, inexpensive) calculator for calculting in science (or use your scientific calculator)
- Pack of 2" x 2" sticky notes
- Pencil case to contain your pencils, erasers, sticky notes, and calculator

Social Studies/Personal Finance/Business Math

- 1 or 1.5 inch binder
- Notebook

Spanish I

- 5-subject notebook
- Pocket folder
- 1 pkg notecards

World Languages 7

- 3-subject notebook
- Pocket folder

P.E. and Weights

- Shoes worn only for P.E. and the Fitness Center
- Gym clothes (These may be left at school and taken home on weekends to wash. A locker will be provided.)

Other Helpful Items to Consider:

- **Locker shelves — Locker width 15 inches/Locker depth 11 inches**
- **Folders for organization**
- **Magnetic pencil holder for locker**
- **Book covers**
- **Highlighters**
- **Sticky Notes**
- **Pens**

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 July 20, 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 July 13, 2026, and thereafter in the *Holt County Independent* and *Sandhills Ties* on July 15, 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 8:00p.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 Terry Kamphaus, seconded by Jon Sladek, 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 visitor comments.

Consent Agenda
Motion by Monte Metschke, seconded by Terry Kamphaus, 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: $126,995.74
HOT LUNCH CLAIMS: $993.68
PAYROLL: $176,206.24

Counselor Report
Mrs. Pospichal gave the counselor report.

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

Superintendent Report and Recommendations
Mr. Jesse gave the superintendent report.
- Strategic Plan
- Summer Projects
- School Safety

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- NCSA Administrator Days
- Back to School

Board of Education Development

New Business

A. Discussed 2026-2027 Budget development.

B. Motion by Terry Kamphaus, seconded by Jon Sladek to approve 2026-2027 propane bid from Farmer's Pride. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

C. Motion by Terry Kamphaus, seconded by Monte Metschke to approve roof maintenance bid from White Castle Roofing. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

D. Motion by Jon Sladek, seconded by Brady Dexter to approve board policy updates:
   a. Policy 5375 – Bully Prevention
   b. Policy 5615 – Student Fee Policy
   c. Policy 6800 – Computer Usage
   d. Policy 7900 – Parental Involvement
   e. Policy 4004 – Title IX

   Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

E. Motion by Terry Kamphaus, seconded by Brady Dexter to approve Student, Staff and CWC Handbooks. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

F. Motion by Brady Dexter, seconded by Terry Kamphaus to approve Fortinet Firewall and Router quote from Sterling. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

G. Motion by Monte Metschke, seconded by Jon Sladek to approve 2026-2027 Assistant Custodian contracts for Brooklyn Powell and Isabella Powell. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

H. Motion by Jon Sladek, seconded by Monte Metschke to approve sale of surplus items. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

Topics for Next Month's Agenda: Line of Credit, Transfer of funds to CWC, Activity, Hot Lunch

Adjournment

Motion was made by Amy Scott, seconded by Brady Dexter to adjourn the meeting at 9:41pm on July 20, 2026. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0. The meeting was duly adjourned.

Next Scheduled Meeting: August 17, 2026 @ 8:00pm.
Budget Work Session: August 24, 2026 @ 7:00pm.

_____, Secretary
Amy Scott

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