

Unofficial Minutes of the September 14, 2026, Regular School Board Meeting

The School Board of Newell School District 9-2 met for a Regular School Board meeting on September 14, 2026, at 5:30pm in Room 16 of the High School with Chairman Tyrel Bonnet absent with trustees Dean Johnson, Kurt Hocking, Kristin Bonefield (Presiding, Vice-Chairperson), Dawn Gardner, Amber Erk and Katie Donahey in attendance. Administration present were Superintendent Thomas Vail and Principal Mark Galpin.

- I. Call to Order: Presiding Vice-chairperson Kristin Bonefield called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Bonefield led all in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.
- II. Agenda: The Vice-chairperson asked the board if there were any additions or changes to the proposed agenda. Open Forum was added to agenda as item VII by Kristin Bonefield and Executive Session in place IX on the agenda. Motion made by Dean Johnson and was seconded by Katie Donahey, vote was 6-0 to approve the agenda.
- III. Statements of Conflict of Interest: None for this meeting.
- IV. Consent Agenda: Kristin Bonefield presented the Consent Agenda to the trustees. Motion was made by Dean Johnson and seconded by Kurt Hocking, vote was 6-0 with all agenda items being passed.
- V. Reports: Reports were made by Superintendent Thomas Vail and Mr. Mark Galpin. Various items were discussed by both pertaining to school activities.
- VI. Information and Discussion: A.) An update on 3-D and the district's fire system was made by Maintenance Director Ryan Niman about the needs of the district and the company that can handle the fixes. The Buildings & Grounds Committee made a general reference to hire 3-D. B.) Mr. Vail presented a proposal to use a superintendent evaluation tool that he helped develop during his tenure in Colorado. Each trustee was given a hard-copy of the evaluation tool. No discussion followed as the board needs time to digest the tool.
- VII. Open Forum: Two people signed up to speak. 1.) Sherry Hocking addressed the board about ambulance attendance at activities and the \$100 fee for attending and 2.) Molly Moes spoke about the senior class hosting a blood drive during the last week of September.
- VIII. New Business: A.) Motion to hire Computer Guy as the Newell District Technology Contractor; Motion was made by Dean Johnson and seconded by Amber Erk, vote passed by 6-0. B.) Motion to hire 3-D to update the district fire system; Dean Johnson made the motion and it was seconded by Katie Donahey, vote passed by 6-0. C.) Motion was made to Approve Contracts/Stipends for 2026/27 School Year; 1. Resignation of Cheyenne Geppart as Co-FFA Advisor, 2. Hire Colbey Steeke as the sole FFA Advisor, 3. Hire Jessica Bender as the Cross Country Assistant Coach, 4. Hire Erin Lemke as the Assistant Coach for the Middle School

Girls Volleyball, 5. Hire Rhinda Miller as Food Service Assistant from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE, 6. Void Ryan Niman's contract as High School Football Coach & replace his contract with Head Middle School Football Coach, 7. Void Mark Bachman's Assistant High School Football Coach with a replacement as Assistant Middle School Football Coach, 8. Hire Debra Kopetsky as Middle School Student Council Advisor, 9. Hire Kristyn Stahlecker as the High School Student Council Advisor. Katie Donahey made the motion and Dean Johnson seconded, vote passed 6-0. 10. Hire Business Manager was tabled; motion was made by Dean Johnson and seconded by Katie Donahey, vote was passed to table hiring by 6-0. D.) Approve Co-Op drivers at \$20/hr, motion was made Dean Johnson and seconded by Katie Donahey, vote passed by 6-0. E.) Approve the Final Budget for the FY27; motion made by Dean Johnson and seconded by Katie Donahey, motion passed 6-0.

- IX. Executive Session: Under SDCL 1-25-2(1), motion was made by Dean Johnson and seconded by Katie Donahey. The Executive Session started at 6:31pm and ended at 7:10pm.
- X. Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn by Dean Johnson and seconded by Katie Donahey, vote passed 6-0.