MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 16, 2026
7:00 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Dave Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the following members were present: Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn, Dave Zimmerman, Debra Schlake, Jared McKeever, & Jeff Argo. The following administrators were present: Kane Hookstra, Jeff Murphy, & Virginia Moon.

Reasonable advance publicized notice of the meeting was given according to law by publishing, a designated method for giving notice of the school district. Posted Location:

- Fairbury Journal-News

Posted Date: 02/11/2026
Reasonable advance notice was simultaneously given to board members and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda attached. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posted

President Dave Zimmerman announced that a complete copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the back of the board of education meeting room.

II. Approval of Minutes from the January 12th Working Board Meeting, January 12th Regular Board Meeting and January 19th Working Board Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from January 12th Working Board Meeting, January 12th Regular Board Meeting, January 19th Working Board Meeting and the February 13th Working Board Meeting. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

III. Communications, Audiences, and Recognitions

III.A. Public comments will not be received after this period of time. Public comment period is limited to 5 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes overall.

Public comment was received from John Shalla and Brent Schlake.

IV. Financial Statement: Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

IV.A. Approval of Bills

IV.A.1. General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Claims

Motion to approve the general fund, special building fund, depreciation fund, and qualified capitol purpose undertaking fund claims. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

IV.A.2. Lunch & Activity Claims

IV.B. Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund

Motion to Approve the resolution to participate in the Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

IV.C. QCPUF

Motion to Approve the resolution to pay the QCPUF Funds early. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

V. Support Service

V.A. Facility Update

John Eisenhauer provided the school board with a written report over insulating the shed across from the high school, bus repairs and replacing a heat exchanger.

V.B. Personnel Items

V.B.1. Resignation

V.B.1.1. Mary Jane Spence - 1.0 FTE - 3rd Grade Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Mary Jane Spence at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes,

David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

V.B.1.2. Josie Dickinson - 1.0 FTE - K-12 Art Teacher at the Conclusion of the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to approve the resignation of Josie Dickinson at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

V.B.2. SRO Report

V.B.2.1. SRO Memorandum of Understanding between Gage County, Nebraska and Freeman Public Schools, Southern Schools and Diller-Odell Public Schools.

Motion to Approve SRO Memorandum of Understanding between Gage County, Nebraska and Freeman Public Schools, Southern Schools and Diller-Odell Public Schools. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VI. Items for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

VI.A. Future Facility Projects

Motion to award the contract for the New High School Gym Project to Genesis at the total contract amount of $2,758,596.00 which includes Alternates #1, #2, #4, and #5 with all other alternates rejected. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Jared McKeever, passed.
Debra Schlake: no, Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 5, no: 1

VI.B. Lease Option Funding

Motion to amend the agenda. Motion to take the High School Gym Project to a bond issue placed before the voters. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, failed. Dave Zimmerman: no, Debra Schlake: yes, Dana Dorn: no, Jeff Argo: no, Jared McKeever: no, Betsy Frerichs: yes
yes: 2, no: 4

Motion to Approve the intent to enter into a lease purchase agreement to not exceed $3,100,000.00. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
Betsy Frerichs: no, Debra Schlake: no, Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 4, no: 2

VI.C. Declare the Surplus for Immediate Sale or Disposal

Motion to declare school bus 01 and 04 as surplus for immediate sale or disposal. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Jeff Argo, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VI.D. Preschool Calendar 2026-2027

Motion to table the preschool calendar for the 2026-2027 school year to the next regular school board meeting. This motion, made by Debra Schlake and seconded by Betsy Frerichs, Tabled.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VI.E. District Calendar 2026-2027

Motion to approve the district calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Jared McKeever and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VI.F. Appoint School Board Standing Committees

Motion to approve the standing committees as appointed by the school board president. This motion, made by Dana Dorn and seconded by Debra Schlake, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

VI.F.1. American Civics

Dana Dorn, Jeff Argo and David Zimmerman will serve on the American Civics Committee.

VI.F.2. Building & Grounds

Jared McKeever, Betsy Frerichs and David Zimmeran will serve on the Building & Grounds Committee.

VI.F.3. Finance

Jared McKeever, Debra Schlake and David Zimmeran will serve on the Finance Committee.

VI.F.4. Negotiations

Betsy Frerichs, Dana Dorn and David Zimmeran will serve on the Negotiations Committee.

VI.F.5. Policy

Jared McKeever, Debra Schlake and David Zimmerman will serve on the Policy Committee.

VI.F.6. Transportation

Jeff Argo, Dana Dorn and David Zimmerman will serve on the Transportation Committee.

VI.G. 2026 NRCSA Spring Conference - March 18-20

VI.H. Budget & Finance Workshop - March 10th

VII. Administrative and Committee Reports

VII.A. Elementary Principal's Report

The elementary principal reported on the current enrollments numbers, elementary quiz bowl, lockdown and evacuation drills. Preschool applications opened and 3rd grade had news channel 10/11 come down with their weather tracker vehicle. There is an upcoming spelling bee and music concert. A special thanks was made to Kiwanis for the donation of the book vending machine.

VII.B. Secondary Principal's Report

The secondary principal reported on the 2026-2027 class registrations, Parent/Teacher conferences, Pioneer Conference Art Show and JH quiz bowl. Congratulations were sent to the 7 wrestlers who made it to state.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Argo and seconded by Dana Dorn, passed.
Jeff Argo: yes, Dana Dorn: yes, Betsy Frerichs: yes, Jared McKeever: yes, Debra Schlake: yes, David Zimmerman: yes
yes: 6, no: 0

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, at Southern Jr./Sr. High School Boardroom in Wymore. The Board of Education will usually adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to amend the agenda as deemed necessary.

BY

President of the Board of Education

Of this School District

ATTEST

Secretary of the Board of Education

of this School District