

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
April 13, 2026

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on April 13, 2026, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jennifer McConville, John O'Dea, Derek Meyers, Jason Neseth, Brooke Brooks, Duane Teter, Superintendent Drew Billeter and Krista Kennedy.

Absent: None.

Visitors: Cris Charley, Sagan Downer, Rudy Kennedy, Alyssa Koch, Gage Hammond, Brody Hammond, and Mel Bjork-Cooper.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Meyers, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Meyers, McConville, Neseth, Teter, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the Stockmen's Bank Bartley Branch, Post Offices in Bartley and Indianola, Southwest Elementary School in Indianola, Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley, and published in the Valley Voice newspaper and on the school website. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Moved by Teter, seconded by McConville, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026, Board Meeting. Ayes: Teter, Brooks, Meyers, McConville, and Neseth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Brooks, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: McConville, Meyers, Brooks, Teter, O'Dea, and Neseth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Tara Fries arrived at 7:36 PM.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

The current rates for bus drivers are \$65 per route and \$18 per hour. No motion, rates will remain the same.

Moved by Neseth, seconded by Teter, to approve the quote for the chemical treatment of the cooling tower. The existing Dolphin system is now obsolete and no longer serviceable. Ayes: O'Dea, Meyers, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to approve the purchase of a new pole vault pit. The current pit has wear and tear and is in need of replacement. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Meyers, Brooks, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Meyers, to approve the resale of used Chromebooks for local students or community members to purchase. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Brooks, Teter, Meyers, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter reported on the selling of 1997 coach bus on AuctionTime on April 29th. Additional surplus items will be sold May 2nd, with other items already listed at the auction. New Teacher Orientation is scheduled for August 3, 2026.

Superintendent Billeter reported on behalf of Principal Springer on the continuation of semester test incentives. If students maintain certain criteria, they will be exempt from taking semester tests. Graduation planning is underway and will be held May 9th, 2026, at the Southwest Jr/Sr Highschool.

Principal Fries reported on a successful Professional Development Day. The focus was on differentiation and moving students up or down levels, based off of their current needs. The Edgerton Explorit Center visited the Elementary students for an eventful day of learning. The center focuses on Science and the students enjoyed the hands on experience. Field Day will take place on May 14th, the Southwest Foundation will sell lunch.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, McConville, Neseth, Meyers, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Agenda for meetings will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.