

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
August 17, 2026

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2026, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jason Neseth, Brooke Brooks, Derek Meyers, Jennifer McConville, Duane Teter, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Principals Tara Fries and Mike Tines, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: John O'Dea.

Visitors: Hillery Kennedy.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Meyers, seconded by McConville, to excuse absent board member, John O'Dea. Ayes: Neseth, Meyers, McConville, Brooks, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea. Motion carried.

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

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the Stockmens Bank in Bartley, the 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 Brooks, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026, board meeting. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Neseth, Meyers, and McConville. Nays: None. Abstained: Meyers and McConville. Absent: O'Dea. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Meyers, to approve the Southwest Teacher Association's request for recognition as the exclusive bargaining agent representing the district's certified staff for the 2028-2029 contract year. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, Teter, McConville, and Meyers. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter discussed budget planning and the sale of surplus items.

Tara Fries discussed Professional Development Days with the external visitation scheduled in 2027-2028. Back to School Night at the elementary was held on Wednesday, August 12. A teacher inservice day is planned for Monday, September 14.

Mike Tines discussed the first two days of school and gave a transportation update. A suburban route is running north of Bartley for several students to shorten the larger buses' routes.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Brooks, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Ayes: Brooks, Neseth, Teter, Meyers, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea. 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, September 14, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.