

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
December 15, 2025

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: John O'Dea, Jennifer McConville, Derek Meyers, Jason Neseth, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Principals Matt Springer and Tara Fries, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Brooke Brooks and Duane Teter will be late.

Visitors: Cris Charley, Sagen Carmen-Downer, and Chad Stewart.

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

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the Stockmens Bank in Bartley, 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 O'Dea, seconded by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025, board meeting minutes. Ayes: Meyers, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and Brooks. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Duane Teter arrived at the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Meyers, to approve revised Board Policy 1003 Mission Statement. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Teter, to approve revised Board Policy 4025 Superintendent. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by McConville, to adopt Board Policy 4029 Salary Schedule for Certified Employees. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to approve a contract with Makaila Peltier as an elementary kindergarten instructor for the 2026-2027 school year. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Matt Springer, junior-senior high school principal, arrived at the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve a one-year agreement with a 4% salary increase with Drew Billeter as superintendent for the 2026-2027 year. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

The board discussed a revised quote from Coach Masters in the amount of \$194,000.00 and a quote from BusesForSale.com for a 2013 MCI located in Providence, Maryland. The vendor would replace all seats and upgrade the interior for an additional \$11,500.00, bringing the final cost to \$139,250.00. Superintendent Billeter proposed sending a representative of the district to inspect the bus in person before making a down payment for the seat and interior upgrade. If the bus meets the inspection standards, two drivers would be flown to Maryland to drive the bus back to Bartley.

Moved by Neseth, seconded by Teter, to approve the purchase of a used coach bus not to exceed \$150,000.00 payable from the depreciation fund. Ayes: O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter discussed the school board general election in 2026 with three openings being placed on the ballot and discussion of an upcoming Board Policy addressing chronic student absenteeism.

Principal Springer reported on the 2024-2025 State of Schools report with major emphasis on absenteeism and the addition of a 9th period at the junior-senior high school for second semester students on the ineligibility list. He and Cris Charley discussed projects for completion during the two-week Christmas break.

Principal Fries also reported on the State of Schools report. The elementary school is enrolled in a math pilot program. She also discussed the pre-kindergarten enrollment for 2026-2027.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, McConville, Meyers, Neseth, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. 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, January 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.