

Board of Education Meeting  
Southwest Public Schools  
District 179  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. on January 12, 2026, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

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

Absent: Jennifer McConville

Visitors: Hillary Kennedy and Mindy Haag.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

Moved by Brooks, seconded by Teter, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. 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 Meyers, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 Board Meeting minutes. Ayes: Brooks, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by Brooks, seconded by Meyers, to Adjourn Sine Die and Elect School Board Officers at 6:52 pm for the 2026 calendar. Ayes: Meyers, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Meyers, seconded by Brooks, motion to nominate elected officers as follows: Neseth as President, Teter as Vice-President, Brooks as Secretary, and McConville as Treasurer. Ayes: Meyers, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

President Neseth presided during the remainder of the meeting.

Motioned, to retain committee members as follows: Teter, O'Dea, and Meyers to the Americanism Committee; Neseth, Brooks, and McConville to the Transportation Committee; Meyers, O'Dea, and Brooks to the Building and Grounds Committee; Neseth, Teter, and McConville to the Negotiations Committee; and Brooks to the Foundation Board. Ayes: Meyers, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Brooks, to take action to authorize Board Officers to sign checks for the following funds: General Fund, Special Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Activity Fund, Qualified Capital Fund, Student Fee Fund, and School Nutrition Fund. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Brooks, to appoint an official depository for the district funds at Stockmen's Bank and Adams Bank & Trust. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Meyers, seconded by O'Dea, to take appropriate action on designating The Valley Voice as an official news publication for the school district. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Meyers, to approve the 2026-2027 Negotiated Agreements. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Brooks, seconded by Meyers, to approve the school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to adopt Policy 4062 Locker Room Supervision. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to adopt Policy 5001 Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Meyers, seconded by O'Dea, to adopt Policy 6032 Constitution Day Education. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by Meyers, seconded by O'Dea, to adopt Policy 6039 Repeat of Grade at Parent-Guardian Request. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter reported on the new Coach Bus. The bus made a safe arrival and is in great condition, apart from a rim that needs replaced, repairs are currently being made. Decals for the bus are being designed and decided on. The Booster Club is generously donating new wall mats for the High School gym. The old wall mats will be removed and installed in the Old Gym. Billeter also reported on an additional Booster Club donation for "Southwest" window clings that will cover the Elementary School main door entrance. Additionally, Billeter would like to look at a solution on updating the Old Gym windows.

Billeter reported for Principal Springer on the 9<sup>th</sup> Period Study Hall being implemented at the Jr/Sr High School. This study hall is designed to provide support for students who are failing classes. Students with failing grades will be required to stay at the Highschool from 3:35pm to 4:00pm to work on any assignments needed to improve their grade, thus avoiding the Eligibility List.

Principal Fries reported on several updates for the Elementary. Winter MAPS testing will begin for all Elementary Students. A new HMH Math Supplement and Intervention Pilot Program will be implemented to assist in student improving their math skills. The program is based off each student's MAPS scores and will customize a program tailored to their specific needs. Fries encourages all parents and students to attend the Family Math Night that will take place on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Elementary.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Meyers, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Ayes: Brooks, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: McConville. Motion carried.

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