

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
July 14, 2025

President Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:32 p.m. on July 14, 2025, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jennifer McConville, Derek Meyers, Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Principal Tara Fries and Krista Kennedy.

Absent: Brooke Brooks.

Visitors: Les Roggenkamp, Hillery Kennedy, and Emma Rasmussen from Valley Voice.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

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

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the Stockmens 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 July 14, 2025, Board Meeting. Ayes: Teter, Meyers, McConville, O'Dea and Neseth. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to revise Policy 2008 Meetings, 3036 Purchasing Credit and Program, 3023 Record Management and Retention, 3043 Design-Build Contracts, 5002 Admission of Students, 5015 Protection of Pupil Rights, 5018 Parent Involvement in Education Practices, and 5031 Student Appearance. These policies are required revisions from KSB School Law. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to adopt policy 6044 Participation and Assignment of Athletic Teams and 6045 Behavioral Intervention. Both are new policies which are required to adopt. Ayes: O'Dea, Meyers, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to take action on Policy 5045 Student Fees. Prices need set for breakfast and lunch at the elementary and Jr./Sr. High School for the 2025-2026 school year. All Jr./Sr. high school and elementary lunch prices will increase by \$.20. Breakfast prices will remain the same. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Meyers, to approve 6025 Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic survey was distributed to student and staff. Option 2 appears to be the best option for students and staff. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to take action on the substitute pay for the 25-26 school year. Superintendent Billeter suggests increasing the substitute daily pay from \$150 to \$160 or \$165 to stay competitive. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Meyers, to discuss pay for classified staff members. Superintendent Billeter would like to raise the pay to \$16.50 or \$17.00 an hour for classified staff. Southwest schools would provide an additional \$.10 per year of service, up to five years for classified staff who are earning above \$16.50 or \$17.00 an hour. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to approve Student, Activities and Staff Handbooks for the 25-26 school year. KSBs suggested and required updates are incorporated in the handbooks. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by, McConville seconded by O'Dea, to lease a turf tank field painter with Cambridge and Arapahoe Schools. There would be a three-year contract that includes a warranty, technical support, and enough paint for up to 10 fields per year, although we only anticipate needing it for 8 times annually. The machine would complete the painting in just 2.5 hours which would save significant time for our custodians and cut down on the cost of overtime. The cost of the turf tank painter is \$5,616 the first year and \$5,333 in the subsequent years. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, Meyers, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter reported that CTE Construction in McCook, is offering a generous donation to our school's Nutrition Fund every quarter. Billeter applied for a Perkins Grant for \$5,500. Those funds would purchase a vertical band saw as well as new ovens for the FCS room.

Principal Fries would like to set more concrete requirements for students who qualify as high or gifted learners. Currently, a student qualifies as a high ability learning if they test at 95% or higher on MAPS testing. More specifically, a student who has tested out in a classroom setting, moves into high ability learning sessions.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Brooks, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, McConville, Neseth, and Meyers. 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, August 11, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.