

Pierce High School District #2
Monday, May 11, 2026- Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Pierce Public School Board of Education met for the regular monthly meeting at 6:30 pm in the Board room of Pierce High School. Members present were Dan Unseld, Lisa Freeman, Stefanie Dvorak, Adam Venteicher and Todd Wragge. Also, present were Superintendent Kendall Steffensen, High School Principal Mark Brahmer, Elementary Principal Trent Suehl, and three guests.

Notice of the meeting was printed in the Pierce County Leader and posted on Pierce Public Schools website.

A welcome was extended to the public, the open meetings act pointed out, and roll call taken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Communication and correspondence from the Public

There was no communication or correspondence from the public.

Consent Agenda

Collison moved and Wragge seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the approval of minutes from the previous meeting, approval of claims and payment of bills, and financial reports. Venteicher questioned the CWP charges from the monthly bill statement. This charge was for CWP to do all of the specifications for the windows and doors. This is not included in Hausmann's bid. Venteicher questioned if this charge would have occurred if the board decided to go with another company than Hausmann. Steffensen stated that regardless of which company the school decided to go with for the window's and doors, an architect would need to come in and get all of the specifications for the building. Wragge mentioned these fees would've been included in the bond, but since the bond did not pass, we are paying them outside of the bond, for each individual project. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion carried 6-0.

Reports and Information

Written reports were given to the Board from the high school and elementary principal. A highlight from the elementary report include the current enrollment at the Pierce Elementary as well as the number of children registered for Pre-K and Kindergarten. The students are completing all of their end of year assessments and the last day for the elementary is May 15th. Suehl provided a curriculum and a school improvement report. The classroom curriculum for the next year will include a couple of changes. The current curriculum being used for math (Saxon Math) is discontinued, so a new curriculum needs to be implemented in the next two

years. One 2nd year classroom, both 3rd grade classrooms, and one 6th grade classroom will be piloting i-Ready Math. For reading, the school will be on year two of Amplify CKLA/ELA. The elementary will also continue Social Emotional instruction with “Strong Kids” to help our students with managing emotions, managing anger, and problem resolution. For the school improvement report, the elementary is currently in the second year of their five-year school improvement cycle. For this last year, improving reading comprehension was the school improvement goal. They have looked at data such as MAP, Acadience, ACT and classroom assessments, as well as getting student, parent, and staff feedback on their experiences. They will use all of this data to help make decisions on the areas in which we can continue to improve upon.

Information for the high school included the Senior’s last day was May 1st with graduation on May 9th and the state testing has all wrapped up. ACT results look favorable for this year. Over the past year, there have been a number of students score high, with 7 students receiving a 30 composite score or higher. Summer school will take place for Jr. High and 9th grade students who failed a core class. Driver’s education will start May 26th. The summer weightlifting and conditioning program will start shortly after Memorial Day weekend. For the curriculum report, this past year, the high school added a Basic English course to each senior high grade level. The instructors were pleased with the additions of this course. The Basic English courses have allowed the teachers the opportunity to slow the pace and simplify the rigor of the curriculum to teach at the level of students. Next year, Brahmer would like to see a Basic American History course added as well to meet the needs of some of our learners.

Superintendent Steffensen included information on the legislative session. The 2026 legislative session has ended. A Nebraska Council of School Administrators final legislative report relaying summaries of new laws and interim studies was attached to the paperwork packet. Unseld asked if any funding bills had made it through legislative that would affect school funding, and they had not. The vote counting for the May 12th election will begin at 8:00pm at the Pierce Court House.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Action Items

The first action item, Venteicher moved and Dvorak seconded to approve the school improvement report. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

For the second action item, Venteicher moved, and Wragge seconded to approve the curriculum report. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

The third action item was to determine the rate of pay for substitute teachers. Collison moved and Venteicher seconded to increase keep the substitute pay at \$160 per day. Steffenson stated that the substitute pay rate remains competitive. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

The board requested to go into executive session for further discussion on the fourth action item. Collison motioned, and Wragge seconded to enter executive session to protect the public interest and the school's bargaining position. Voting unanimous, motion carried. The board entered executive session at 6:51 pm and came out of executive session at 7:11 pm.

For the fourth action item, Wragge moved and Collison seconded to raise administration salaries of Mark Brahmer, Trent Suehl, and Kendall Steffensen by 3%. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

Board of Education Professional Development

Steffensen relayed Board of Education development opportunities.

Topics for next month's agenda

Steffensen provided topics for next month's agenda to include: review the districts bullying, student fees, attendance, wellness, Multicultural Education, Parent and Guardian Involvement in Educational Practices, Title I Parent and Family Engagement , and the Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds policies.

Adjournment

Wragge moved and Venteicher seconded to adjourn. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Stefanie Dvorak, Secretary
Pierce Public Schools
Board of Education, District 2; Pierce, NE 68767