Pierce High School District #2
Monday, October 12, 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 boardroom of Pierce High School. Members present were Dan Unseld, Ryan Collison, Lisa Freeman, Stefanie Dvorak, and Adam Venteicher. Also, present were Superintendent Kendall Steffensen, High School Principal Mark Brahmer and eight guests. Elementary Principal Trent Suehl arrived late due to activity schedules. Todd Wragge absent due to Dental Convention. Collison motions and Freeman seconds to excuse Todd Wragge, motion carried 5-0.

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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Communication and correspondence from the Public

There was no communication from the public.

Consent Agenda

Venteicher moved and Collison 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. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion carried 5-0, 1 absent.

Reports and Information

Brenna Benes and Ella Bauermeister resented the FFA chapter. They have had a busy month. They have had Forestry, range shooting, and dairy judging. For October, they have their monthly meeting this evening, fruit sales will be delivered this month. The National Conference is scheduled from Oct 21st-24th. Kate Anderson is the Student Council School Board Representative. This month they have door decorating and movie night. On October 29th there will be a movie night for school kid. There will be one PG movie and one PG-13 movie, along with a haunted hallway and concession stands. Kate also represented FCCLA. Two pink-out tie blanket were made at the October meeting on the 6th. This is going to Sharon Painter for the Pink-Out raffle at the volleyball game tomorrow (Oct. 13th).

Pierce Elementary Principle, Mr. Suehl, provided a board report that included the current enrollment. Parent teacher conferences were held on September 23rd with 99% of our families in attendance. The preschool, kindergarten, and first grade classes visited the fire station this past week. The first quarter ends on Thursday, October 15th. Report cards will be sent home Friday, October 23rd. Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated the week of October 26th. The K-6th

grade students have finished fall MAPS testing and will take them again in the Spring. The teachers use these testing results to see what skills each student needs to work on, and it also helps make decisions on intervention groups.

Jr.-Sr. High School Principal, Mr. Brahmer, provided a October board report. Mr. Brahmer is 75% completed with his Fall teacher evaluations. Highschool is continuing with the ROAM program (Revitalization on a Monday). This focuses on working with the youth to help navigate some issues young adults go through. The Teammates program is underway and have recently added 4 new students. All Fall activities continue. MAPs testing will occur this month for the 7th-10th graders. District Cross Country will be in Albion on October 14th. The Pierce Marching Band Festival was held on Wednesday, October 7th. The Homecoming dance was last Saturday.

Superintendent, Mr. Steffensen, provided his reports and information. Independent Roofing was schedule to present to the board regarding the high school roof, but due to the rain delaying the roof inspection, they did not have time to compile all the information they would like to present, so this presentation will be postponed until the November meeting. Heartland Counseling was able to secure an intern to provide social work services to our school district 32 hours per week. The hope is they will transition into a Licensed Mental Health Therapist once they complete their education, internship, and obtain a license. The intern must be supervised by a Licensed Mental Health Therapist when they are working directly with students, so this may cause some scheduling concerns. Heartland is evaluating the current peer support opening at our district. The 2025-2026 yearly audit took place on September 25th. As in prior years, Dana F Cole completed the audit with results to be presented at the November regular meeting. During the 2026-2027 school year, our School Lunch program is scheduled to be audited. In completing the cost forms, a red flag was raised as the amount charged for milk is lower than the cost of milk. When the audit takes place, the auditor will likely require milk prices to be immediately increased, but they may also require the general fund to reimburse the lunch fund for the difference in the buying and selling price of milk back to the beginning of the school year. The elementary door replacement is scheduled to begin October 19th with the single doors. Hardware for the double doors has not yet been received, but the hope is that it will be available by the time the single doors are completed. Later in the month, Mr. Steffensen will be mailing his evaluation forms as well as the Board of Education self-evaluation form to be completed for the November regular meeting. Also, a reminder that his contract renewal date is December 15th of any given year.

Discussion Items

For the first discussion item, Equip Global provided a handout and a zoom presentation. They relayed how their company may be able to assist our school district financially. They presented three different options for the board to review, with the company's recommendation of helping with Grant writing. This company has been in contact with some community members who are also looking into different financial avenues to help assist the school with completing High School projects. The board discussed that Equip Global seemed like a positive option and would

give full support to the community members who are currently working with this group. At this time, the board will not be financially responsible when working with Equip Global, but would work with the community members in writing grants.

For the second discussion item, the board held a meeting of the Committee on American Civics and asked for public comment during the committee meeting on American Civics. There was no public comment.

For the third discussion item, the teacher negotiations comparability, was moved to later in the meeting as it requires executive session.

Action Items

Action item number 1 includes reviewing and/or revising policy 5004 option enrollment. As relayed previously a statutory change has been added to the policy regarding the automatic acceptance of siblings of a currently enrolled option student. Also, as previously relayed, school districts do have a choice of the timeline for option applications. The choices are contained in section 10 subsection b. Currently, our school district implements the first choice, which is to accept late applicants. The second choice is to deny applications received after the March 15th deadline. The advantages to moving to a March 15th deadline is that it limits option applications to families who have planned their student's education in advance, and it allows our school district time to investigate family circumstances as the term "currently enrolled option student" is important. Mr. Steffensen's recommendation is to motion to revise policy 5004 to include a March 15th deadline. Collison moves and Dvorak seconds to revise policy 5004 to include a March 15th deadline. No further discussion. Motion carries 5-0-1 absent.

Action item number 2 includes establishing enrollment option capacity. This item is to determine grade level capacity for the approval or denial of option enrollment requests for the 2027-28 school year. The option capacity has no effect on resident students as they are welcome to attend our school district regardless of how many students are enrolled in any given grade level. The current grade level capacity is 50 students in each grade level in the elementary building and 55 students in each grade level in the high school building. In prior years, the number has appeared to work well, but with statutory change regarding the automatic acceptance of siblings of a currently enrolled option student, establishing grade level capacity is discussed. School districts have some control over enrollment by determining capacity. A higher capacity loosens this control, and a lower capacity tightens the control. Both Mr. Brahmer and Mr. Suehl expressed their opinion on the importance of keeping a lower capacity level to ensure the students in our district have adequate access to smaller classroom sizes. Both Mr. Brahmer and Mr. Suehl express the advantages of keeping classes at a reasonable size and being able to hold all students to a high standard. Discussion was had on decreasing the level capacity to 45 students for each grade level in the elementary building to decrease to 50 students in each grade level in the high school building. Collison moved and

Venteicher seconded to accept the Resolution on School District Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Enrollment Applications as presented by Superintendent Steffensen. No further discussion. Motion carries 5-0-1 absent.

For action item number 3, approve partial guaranteed maximum price for advanced purchase of precast walls, this item is to approve the purchase of precast walls in advance of breaking ground on the elementary. A reminder that bids are solicited during the construction manager at risk process. The board was provided a copy of the bids Hausmann Construction received for precast walls. Enterprise Precast submitted the lowest bid. This bid was $139, 414 under the budgeted amount. Future bids may come in higher than budgeted, but our school district is off to a good start. Electrical rough in and various fees are in addition to the cost of the precast walls price as listed on the included bid package #1. Dvorak moved and Collison seconded to approve the partial guaranteed maximum price of $1,087,702 as listed on bid package #1. No further discussion. Motion carries 5-0-1 absent.

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: schedule a board of education/administration retreat, review the annual audit, conduct a board of education self-evaluation, conduct an evaluation of the Superintendent.

For the third discussion item of reviewing classified wages and teacher negotiations comparability array, Collison moved and Dvorak seconded to go into executive session to protect the public interest and the district's bargaining position. Voting unanimous, motion passed. The board entered executive session at 7:40 pm. The board came out of executive session at 7:54pm.

Collison moved and Freeman seconded to adjourn. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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