

Pierce High School District #2

Monday, February 9, 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, Ryan Collison, Adam Venteicher and Todd Wragge. Also, present were Superintendent Kendall Steffensen, Elementary Principal Trent Suehl, and twenty 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

Brandy Price addressed the Board regarding the high school's special education program. Speaking as a parent advocate, she expressed concerns about the implementation and adherence to Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Dave Lineman addressed the Board and expressed opposition to approval of an additional bond for the elementary school.

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. Voting Unanimous, motion carried.

Reports and Information

Dirk White and Alexander Huweldt reported for the FFA. The FFA chapter is preparing for FFA week coming up Feb 23rd-27th. Students will have "fun" dress up days during this week. Many FFA members participated in the Livestock Judging and State Degrees this last month.

Josie Painter reported on behalf of Student Council. The Student Council continues to sell from the "Spirit Thrift Shop". They are also continuing to work on the half time committee. This week they are going to be doing "Basketpong" as their halftime game. They are also preparing for their March Madness event.

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. Suehl expects these numbers to continue to increase. PreK and Kindergarten roundup will be held on March 3rd. The

elementary teachers will be meeting in their Individual Student Problem Solving Teams during this month's in-service to brainstorm ideas to help students. The teachers will also be looking into the most current Reading data. K-2nd finished their Winter MAPS test in reading and math and results showed good growth. Spring pictures are being held on Thursday, March 5th. The elementary will also host "Donuts with Dames" on Wednesday, March 11th.

Brahmer included information on Honor Roll students: 75% of our current students are achieving a 2.7 GPA or higher, while 48% of these students achieving a 3.5 GPA or higher achieving a Principal's Honor Roll status. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on March 25th and class registration for current 7th through 11th graders will be held on March 12th. There are many students (29 currently) that participate in the Teammates Mentoring Program. There is also continued work going on the Stepping Stones/ROAM Program for Jr/Sr High students. The goal of this program is to have students meet with their Stepping Stones/ROAM teachers to help with goal setting and academic success. The students continue with ACT Prep courses and Brahmer also included the State Assessment Calendar.

Superintendent Steffensen included the latest bill summary from the Nebraska Council of School Administrators listing bills that may affect education. These bills are in the beginning stages of the legislative process and may not make it through all of the steps. CWP Architects have visited both the elementary and the high school to obtain specifications for the window and door replacements. They will do another site visit on February 11th to finalize measurements. Once confirmed, they will solicit bids for the project. Finally, a reminder of the incumbent filing deadline is February 17th. Venteicher, Collison, and Wragge will need to file for reelection by then to be placed on the November 2026 ballot.

Discussion Items

For the first discussion item, the school board reviewed the school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

The second discussion item regarding non-certified employee compensation was skipped to have this discussion in executive session to protect the public interest and the school district's bargaining position.

Action Items

The first action item was to evaluate the status of the principals' contracts. Venteicher moved and Wragge seconded to extend Mr. Brahmer and Mr. Suehl's contracts for the 2026-2027. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion carried.

The second action was the review of the Board of Education policy sections 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000. Dvorak moved and Collison seconded to accept the review of Board of Education policy sections 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion carried.

The third action item was acceptance of resignations (Amy Nelson – 4th grade; Elly Herley – 1st grade). Wragge moved and Venteicher seconded to accept both resignations. Steffensen mentioned that a job posting for one of the positions was already listed and the school has received several applications so far. Voting unanimous, motion carried.

The fourth action item was to consider and take all necessary action calling an election in the principal amount not to exceed \$9,905,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing additions and renovations and other site improvements to the existing elementary buildings and related matters – There was a copy of the resolution and related items for an election and potential building project included in the handouts. Andy Forney provided information regarding the proposed bond. He explained that the proposed bond differs from the previously presented bond, including a shorter term of 10 years rather than 25 years and lower projected interest rates, estimated between 2.6% and 3.3%. He noted that the proposed bond would fund projects exclusively at the elementary school. Mr. Forney also explained that, if the Board approves the bond resolution, the proposal will proceed to a public vote. He shared that public meetings will be held at the elementary school to provide building tours and to answer questions related to the bond. Steffensen read the resolution. Collison motioned and Dvorak seconded approving the resolution as read. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion carried.

The fifth action item was removed as there was no action needed.

To move back to discussion item two, Wragge motioned, and Collison 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 6:58pm and came out of executive session at 8:33pm.

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: adoption of the school calendar for the successive school year, state aid certification overview, determine non-certified compensation, provide Board Superintendent vacation and sick log, and disclose of Board of Education members purchasing EHA insurance.

Adjournment

Dvorak moved and Freeman seconded to adjourn. Voting unanimous, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

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

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF
NOTICE OF MEETING**

The undersigned Members of the Board of Education of Pierce County School District 0002 (Pierce Public Schools), in the State of Nebraska, hereby acknowledge receipt of advance notice of a meeting of the Board of Education of said District and the agenda for such meeting held a 6:30 P.M., on February 9, 2026 at Pierce High School, in Pierce, Nebraska.

DATED February 9, 2026

 Pell

 Curtis

 Daniel J. Unald

 Lisa Freeman

 Suzanne Durale

 Adam Vertelich

I hereby certify that _____ was absent from the meeting but that, to my personal knowledge, such member(s) received advance notice of the meeting and agenda.

 Suzanne Durale
Board Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of Pierce County School District 0002 (Pierce Public Schools), in the State of Nebraska (the "District"), was convened in open and public session at 6:30, P.M. on February 9, 2026, at Pierce High School, in Pierce, Nebraska.

Present were: UNSELD, COLLISON, WRAGGE, VERTEICHER,
FREEMAN, & DVORAK
Absent were: NONE.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by (posting) (publication), one of the District's designated methods for giving notice, a copy of the (certificate of posting) (proof of publication) being attached to these Minutes. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board and a copy of their Acknowledgment of Receipt of Notice is attached to these Minutes. Availability of the Agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the members of this meeting. The President publicly stated at the beginning of the meeting to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings of the Board were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Member COLLISON offered the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (THE "BOARD") OF PIERCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0002 (PIERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS), IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA (THE "DISTRICT") AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board hereby finds and determines that the District is fully organized as a Class II School District under Chapter 79, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 2014, as amended, embracing territory having a population of one thousand five hundred or more but fewer than five thousand inhabitants and maintaining both elementary and high school grades under the direction of a single board of education.

Section 2. The Board further finds and determines that it is necessary that funds be provided for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing additions and renovations and other site improvements to the existing elementary building and providing for necessary furniture, technology, apparatus, and safety and security updates for such building; for such purposes it will be necessary to issue bonds of the District in one or more series in the total principal amount not to exceed \$9,905,000; and that a proposition for the issuance of bonds for such purpose has not been submitted to the electors of the District within six months preceding the date of the election called for by this resolution.

Section 3. It is hereby ordered that an election shall be held in the District in conjunction with the statewide primary election on May 12, 2026, at which election there will be submitted to the qualified voters of the District for approval or rejection of the following proposition:

“Shall Pierce County School District 0002 (Pierce Public Schools), in the State of Nebraska, issue the bonds of said District in the principal amount of not to exceed Nine Million Nine Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars (\$9,905,000) for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing additions and renovations and other site improvements to the existing elementary building and providing for necessary furniture, technology, apparatus, and safety and security updates for such building; said bonds to be issued from time to time as may be determined by the Board of Education, to bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined by the Board of Education and to become due at such time or times as may be fixed by the Board of Education; and

“Shall the District cause to be levied and collected annually a special levy of taxes against all the taxable property in said District sufficient in rate and amount to pay the interest and principal of said bonds as the same become due?”

Section 4. The ballots to be voted upon and cast at said election shall have printed thereon the foregoing proposition, followed by the words: “FOR said bonds and tax” and “AGAINST said bonds and tax” following said proposition. Qualified electors voting in favor of said proposition shall blacken completely the oval opposite the words “FOR said bonds and tax” following said proposition, and qualified electors voting against said proposition shall blacken completely the oval opposite the words “AGAINST said bonds and tax” following said proposition.

Section 5. Notice of said election shall be given to the qualified electors of said District at least twenty (20) days prior to such election and a copy of the sample ballot shall be published one time not more than ten (10) days nor less than three (3) days prior to the election, such notice and sample ballot to be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in said District, and each of the Secretary of the District or Superintendent of Schools be and hereby is directed to cause such notice and sample ballot to be published.

Section 6. The form of ballot and form of notice of said bond election shall be substantially in the form submitted to this meeting (with any changes as may be necessary or advisable based on information provided by the Election Commissioner or bond counsel), a copy of which forms shall be made a part of the minutes. The Secretary of the District or Superintendent of Schools each is hereby authorized and directed, in conjunction with the Election Commissioner conducting the election, to arrange for the printing of the necessary ballots for said election and to do all other things and take all other action appropriate or necessary in order to cause said proposition to be submitted to the qualified electors of the District as provided herein.

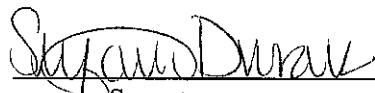
Section 7. Said election shall be conducted in accordance with Section 10-701 et seq., R.R.S. 2012, as amended, and the Election Act.

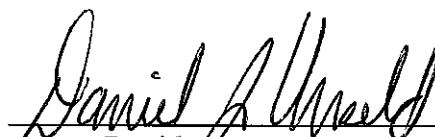
Section 8. The Secretary of the District or Superintendent of Schools each is authorized and directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the Election Commissioner of Pierce County (which County contains the greatest number of electors in the District entitled to vote on the above proposition) no later than March 1, 2026, which Election Commissioner shall conduct the

election as provided by law. Ballots for voting by electors in counties other than Pierce County shall be certified across county lines and voted, counted and canvassed as provided by law.

Section 9. The Election Commissioner is authorized and directed to make all necessary arrangements for submitting said proposition at such election as provided by law.

The foregoing resolution having been read in its entirety, Member DVORAK seconded the motion for its passage and adoption. After consideration, the roll was called and the following members voted in favor of the passage and adoption of said resolution: UNSELD, COLLISON, WRA GGE, VEPTETCHER, FREEMAN, & DVORAK. The following members voted against the same: NONE. The passage of said resolution having been consented to by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Education, the President declared the resolution duly passed and adopted.


Secretary


President

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
PIERCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0002
(PIERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

Public notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of Pierce County School District 0002 (Pierce Public Schools), in the State of Nebraska, that at an election to be held in conjunction with the statewide primary election to be held on May 12, 2026, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District the following proposition:

PROPOSITION

“Shall Pierce County School District 0002 (Pierce Public Schools), in the State of Nebraska, issue the bonds of said District in the principal amount of not to exceed Nine Million Nine Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars (\$9,905,000) for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing additions and renovations and other site improvements to the existing elementary building and providing for necessary furniture, technology, apparatus, and safety and security updates for such building; said bonds to be issued from time to time as may be determined by the Board of Education, to bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined by the Board of Education and to become due at such time or times as may be fixed by the Board of Education; and

“Shall the District cause to be levied and collected annually a special levy of taxes against all the taxable property in said District sufficient in rate and amount to pay the interest and principal of said bonds as the same become due?”



FOR said bonds and tax

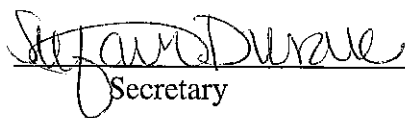


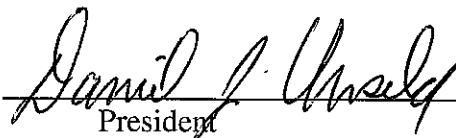
AGAINST said bonds and tax

Electors voting in favor of said proposition shall blacken completely the oval opposite the words “FOR said bonds and tax” following said proposition, and electors voting against said proposition shall blacken completely the oval opposite the words “AGAINST said bonds and tax” following said proposition.

The polling places for said election shall be open at 8:00 o'clock a.m. on the day of such primary election and will continue open until 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the same day. Qualified electors of the District will vote at the designated polling places, as set by the Election Commissioners of Pierce County and Wayne County for such primary election. All of such polling places are accessible to individuals with physical mobility limitations. Ballots for early voting may be obtained from the Election Commissioner of Pierce County, at 111 W. Court St., Room 1, Pierce, Nebraska 68767 or from the Election Commissioner of Wayne County, at 510 Pearl St., Suite 5, Wayne, Nebraska 68787.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SAID DISTRICT.


Secretary


President

District - PUBLISH - 4 Times (April 14, April 21, April 28, and May 5, 2026)

Election Commissioner – PUBLISH one time at least 42 days prior to election: March 31, 2026

OFFICIAL BALLOT

SCHOOL BOND ELECTION

**PIERCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0002
(PIERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

“Shall Pierce County School District 0002 (Pierce Public Schools), in the State of Nebraska, issue the bonds of said District in the principal amount of not to exceed Nine Million Nine Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars (\$9,905,000) for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing additions and renovations and other site improvements to the existing elementary building and providing for necessary furniture, technology, apparatus, and safety and security updates for such building; said bonds to be issued from time to time as may be determined by the Board of Education, to bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined by the Board of Education and to become due at such time or times as may be fixed by the Board of Education; and

“Shall the District cause to be levied and collected annually a special levy of taxes against all the taxable property in said District sufficient in rate and amount to pay the interest and principal of said bonds as the same become due?”



FOR said bonds and tax



AGAINST said bonds and tax

Electors voting in favor of said proposition shall blacken completely the oval opposite the words “FOR said bonds and tax” following said proposition, and electors voting against said proposition shall blacken completely the oval opposite the words “AGAINST said bonds and tax” following said proposition.

PUBLISH - 1 Time (Between May 2, 2026, and May 9, 2026)

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION CALLING ELECTION

The undersigned Secretary of the Board of Education (the "Board") of Pierce County School District 0002 (Pierce Public Schools), in the State of Nebraska (the "District") hereby certifies that attached to this certificate is a true, correct and complete copy of a resolution (the "Resolution") adopted by a majority vote of the members of the Board of the District at a meeting of said Board duly called and held on February 9, 2026, pursuant to published notice as required by law and at which a quorum was present. Such Resolution calls for an election to be held on the question of issuing bonds in conjunction with the statewide primary election on May 12, 2026. Such Resolution is in full force and effect and has not been modified.

The undersigned Secretary further certifies that:

1. Pierce County represents the county having the greatest number of electors entitled to vote on the question.
2. The territory of the District also includes electors residing in Wayne County.
3. The Resolution designates the form of ballot for the question to be submitted at such election.
4. For information purposes, the form of notice of election and form of sample ballot which the District will publish are attached to the Resolution.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2026.



Secretary of the Board of Education of
Pierce County School District 0002

RECEIPT OF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Receipt of the foregoing Certificate and attached Resolution on this 9th day of February, 2026, is hereby acknowledged.

ELECTION COMMISSIONER OF
PIERCE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By: _____
Name/Title: _____