

Pierce High School District #2

Monday, January 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 board room of Pierce High School. Members present were Dan Unsel, Lisa Freeman, Stefanie Dvorak, Ryan Collison, Adam Venteicher and Todd Wragge. Also present were Superintendent Kendall Steffensen, Elementary Principal Trent Suehl, and seven 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.

Reorganization of the Board of Education

Superintendent Steffensen assumed duties of the chair.

Steffensen asked for nominations for president. Collison nominated and Wragge seconded Dan Unsel for president. Nominations ceased and a voice vote was taken with Unsel being unanimously elected president.

Unsel assumed duties of the chair. Unsel asked for nominations for vice president. Wragge nominated and Venteicher seconded Ryan Collison for vice president. Nominations ceased and a voice vote was taken with Collison being unanimously elected vice president.

Unsel asked for nominations for secretary. Wragge nominated and Unsel seconded Adam Venteicher for Secretary. Freeman nominated and Collison seconded Dvorak as secretary. Nominations ceased and vote was taken, and Dvorak was elected secretary by a 4-2 vote.

Unsel appointed Wragge as the treasurer.

Unsel appointed Unsel, Collison, and Dvorak to the Negotiations Committee. Freeman, Venteicher, and Wragge were appointed to the Committee on American Civics.

Communication and correspondence from the Public

There was no communication and correspondence from the public.

Consent Agenda

Wragge 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. Voting Unanimous, motion carried.

Reports and Information

Sydney Kuper reported on behalf of the FCCLA. FCCLA has six competitors preparing for district competition on February 2nd at Wayne State College. Members are meeting to start Cany Gram sales, their annual fundraiser. The officer team has begun planning FCCLA week in February with a variety of student activities.

Josie Painter reported on behalf of student council. In January, the student council hosted the Winter Royalty dance. They also will be selling “vintage PHS apparel” through the “spirit thrift-shop”. They had asked for donated PHS apparel and will be re-selling these items for their fundraising campaign.

Bailey Thelen and Emelyn Unseld reported for the FFA. The fruit orders have been delivered to the students and orders delivered to community members. They hosted their second annual Christmas market in December and had a float in the Christmas parade. In addition, they visited residents of the nursing home before the holidays.

Written reports were given to the board from the high school elementary principals. A highlight from the elementary report include an increase of Acadience/Dibels testing scores compared to the beginning of the school year. This is a great improvement as the teachers are utilizing a new reading program. Registration for Pre-K and kindergarten is now taking place for the 2025-26 school year. Brahmer included an updated state assessment calendar for the Jr.-Sr. High students, a list of activities students will be participating in over the next month, as well as a list of student teachers from Wayne State College that will be with the school this Spring.

Superintendent Steffensen relayed that the legislature is in session now. Bill introduction is allowed during the first ten days of the session, with two education related bills being introduced on the first day. The first bill (LB 765) relates to bond elections while the second bill (LB 824) relates to the sit out period for retirement plans. It is anticipated that several bills will be introduced that will affect educational funding due to state budgeting.

Discussion Items

For the first discussion item, each board member signed the annual conflict of interest statement.

The second discussion item involved consideration of potential bond repayment schedules. Handouts were included that compared a 10 year and a 15 year repayment schedule as well as associated impacts for a potential \$9.9 million bond issue for elementary improvements. Discussion was had amongst board members when comparing the two, and all board members believed it was financially more appropriate to go with a 10 year repayment schedule. A resolution for the bond will be provided at next month’s meeting.

Action Items

For the first action item, Freeman moved and Dvorak seconded to approve the 3051 Opioid Overdose Prevention and Response policy. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

For the second action item, Venteicher moved and Collison seconded to approve the annual Board of Education calendar. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

As the third action item directed, Wragge moved and Collison seconded to authorize the superintendent as the local agency representative for local, state, and federal programs. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

As the fourth action item directed, Wragge moved and Venteicher seconded to authorize the superintendent to dispose of unwanted items in an appropriate manner. Discussion had regarding “purplewave” as a possible company to look into for disposing of unwanted items. Steffensen will look into this company and compare pricing. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

For the fifth action item, Collison moved and Venteicher seconded to approve six early separation incentive program applications. Discussion about the process of our district’s early separation program and comparing to some surrounding districts. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

For the sixth action item of teacher negotiations. A handout was provided explaining the adjustment of the extra duty schedule. Wragge moved and Collison seconded to accept the negotiated BCBS insurance coverage, increase the base salary by \$1400 for the 2026-27 year and replace the extra duty section that was presented in the negotiation agreement. 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 Board of Education policy sections 1000, 2000, and 3000; review the school calendar for the successive school year’ evaluation the status of the principal’s contracts; and discuss non-certified compensation.

Adjournment

Wragge moved and Venteicher seconded to adjourn. Voting unanimous, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

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