

Pierce High School District #2
Monday, March 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 nine 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

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

Evelyn Skrdla reported for the FFA. The FFA chapter attended the CDE district event and reported that 5 teams will move on to the state event.

Josie Painter reported on behalf of Student Council. The Student Council had a slower month but is ramping up for their March Madness event coming up. They are also working on their teacher appreciation and senior send-off events.

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 third quarter will end on March 13th and report cards will go home on March 20th. The elementary will also host "Donuts with Dames" on Wednesday, March 11th. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on March 25th.

Brahmer included information on parent teacher conferences being held on March 25th as well. The 7th and 8th graders are preparing for state testing. Class registration will be completed this week. The Juniors are going to be taking their ACT test on March 24th. District Speech will be held at Wayne State College on March 16th and state speech is in Kearney on March 27th and

28th. The high school has set a School Improvement Goal of improving students' ability to read to comprehend. Prom will be held on March 20th. Two of our robotics teams competed in the State Robotic competition on February 27th.

Superintendent Steffensen included information on the committee meeting that was held last Monday for the bond. Our school district will distribute factual information via social media, mailings, newspaper articles, community meetings, etc.. The next bond information meeting will be held on March 10th. the latest bill summary from the Nebraska Council of School Administrators listing bills that may affect education. LB 654 is a bill that has been approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. This bill will allow preK-2nd graders to be suspended for engaging in violent behavior. This bill also allows siblings of option students to be admitted regardless of class capacity limits. There were other bills (LB 937, LB 1050, and LB 1219) that were discussed that could affect the education system, but these are all still in beginning stages and have not advanced and debated yet .

Discussion Items

For the first discussion item, the school board had an overview on state aid and property tax request authority.

Action Items

The first action item, Collison moved and Venteicher seconded to adopt the school calendar for the successive school year. Voting unanimous, motion carried.

The second action, Venteicher moved and Collison seconded to accept a teaching contract for Brynnlee Orwig and Kristi Wener to fill our elementary openings as well as to Jonathon Dixon to fill our industrial technology opening. No further discussion. Voting unanimous, motion carried.

No action was taken on the third action item. This item will be moved to the April Regular meeting.

The fourth action item was to consider the athletic trainer contract. Columbus Community Hospital would agree to dividing the benefit costs increase over two years, reducing the 2-26/2-27 contract to \$75,330 from what Columbus previously presented (\$83,330). The Pierce Booster Club is willing to provide \$30,000 donation for another year, reducing the school district cost to \$45, 330. Wragge moved and Collison seconded to approve the athletic trainer's contract for the 2026/2027 school year. Discussion was made regarding the need to discuss this on an annual basis, especially if Columbus hospital continues to increase costs and the unknown paid portion from the Booster Club. Voting unanimous, motion passed.

The fifth action item was to consider a licensed mental health practitioner position. We currently are contacted with Heartland Therapy, whom provide 2 licensed mental health practitioners. There is an assumption that Heartland Therapy may not be able to sustain services. Discussion was had on if the school district should hire their own practitioner or if we

should take the risk of staying with Heartland Therapy. Much discussion was had on the cost versus the risks of having no practitioner. Wragge motioned and Dvorak seconded to have a position open and consider applicants. Voting 5-1 with Venteicher in opposition. Motion carried.

To move back to action item 3, Wragge motioned, and Dvorak 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 7:04pm and came out of executive session at 8:20pm.

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, discuss administrator compensation, conduct a committee on American Civics meeting, and Determine non-certificated employer compensation.

Adjournment

Collison moved and Wragge seconded to adjourn. Voting unanimous, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

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