

Pierce High School District #2

Monday, September 14, 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, Adam Venteicher and Todd Wragge. Also, present were Superintendent Kendall Steffensen, High School Principal Mark Brahmer and six guests. Elementary Principal Trent Suehl arrived late due to the activity schedule.

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

Wragge moved and Venteicher 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 6-0.

Reports and Information

Lilian Stern represented the FFA chapter. There are currently 63 members in FFA. This last month, FFA did their kick-off meeting, a forestry project, and rancher judging. Kate Anderson is the Student Council School Board Representative. She discussed their future activities of powder puff volleyball and football, fall spirit for game days, and the half-time committee.

Pierce Elementary Principle, Mr. Suehl, provided a September Board Report which included current enrollment from grades Pk-6th grade. Fall Dibels testing is starting to occur. This exam is given 3 times over the course of the year to track student progression. K-6th grade MAP testing will begin this month, this also helps the school decide how to best meet the needs of our students and which students need intervention. Each day, K-6th grade students have intervention/enrichment time. Lower performing groups will be doing interventions to help improve their phonemic awareness, reading decoding, fluency, and comprehension skills. The higher-groups are working on comprehension skills at an above grade level. The PK-2nd grade are continuing to do Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum along with regular reading instruction. This is designed to help our students in an area that will strengthen their reading

skills. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd. There will be no school for the elementary that day.

Jr.-Sr. High School Principal, Mr. Brahmer, provided a September Board Report as well. Fall teacher evaluations are underway. Mr. Brahmer feels very fortunate in the staff that we currently have, as there is little correction on instructional methods/materials that is needed. Fall activities are underway and keeping many students busy. Homecoming week is approaching with many spirit activities scheduled and the dance scheduled on Saturday, October 10th. The new 7th grade class is adjusting to their new environment and teachers well. Achievement testing will be completed in October and will include Science, Math, Reading, and Language Usage. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd from 10:30-6:30. There will be no students that day.

Superintendent, Mr. Steffensen, provided an update on the renovation project with the bond and other improvement plans. The two of the larger high school improvement items (intercom/phone system and HVAC control system) will be able to be installed in conjunction with the elementary bond project as this is the most cost effective method of completing the improvements. The roof repairs are being looked out by Independent Roofing Company. The company indicates that the roof has several problem areas with varied ailments such as flashings, caulking, gaskets, screws, and rust. The company will present at our October regular meeting to discuss problem areas. Joey Mkenna from equip global will also present at the October meeting to present what his company may be able to provide for our district. September 1st marks the new fiscal year and the end of year financial reports are currently being completed and our district's audit will be at the end of the month. In November, the superintendent evaluation will be completed, so those evaluation documents will be mailed out two weeks prior, along with Board Self-Evaluations. A copy of Mr. Steffensen's vacation and sick logs and who purchased health insurance through the district was provided.

Discussion Items

Bob and Will from CWP Architects were here to relay progress of the elementary building and improvement project. They are currently setting up so this discussion item is going to be moved to the end of the meeting.

Action Items

Action item number 1 includes the 2026/2027 budget. Dvorak motioned and Collison seconded to approve the various 2026/2027 budgets as discussed in the budget hearing meeting. No further discussion was had. Motion carried 6-0.

Action item number 2 includes the tax request. Collison moved and Wragge seconded to approve the 2026/2027 tax request as presented in the resolution provided. No further discussion. Motion carried 6-0.

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 teacher negotiations comparability study, begin the teacher negotiations process, distribute the Board of Education self-evaluation instrument, distribute the superintendent evaluation instrument, remind board of December 15th Superintendent contract renewal date, conduct a committee on American Civics meeting, establish enrollment option capacity, and review enrollment option policy.

Discussion Item Resumed

A power point presentation was given by CWP showing the updated design development package. Some highlights of this design included the outside of the new entryway, receptionist area with enhanced security, the main corridor, and the floor plan review (which included a few comments from board members regarding adding an additional door to the gym as well as increasing storage in a hallway). Budget is on track at this point. CWP will continue to work with community resources to ensure energy efficiency.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Stefanie Dvorak, Secretary

Pierce Public Schools

Board of Education, District 2;Pierce, NE 68767