

**Proceedings of the Bridgeport Public Schools Morrill County School District #63
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School Media Center**

President Justin Corman called the school board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Justin Corman informed the public of the Open Meetings Act posted by the library door.

The public was informed of this meeting by public posting at United States Post Office, Sonny’s Super Foods, and Prairie Winds Community Center on Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

Roll call was taken. Members present: Justin Corman, Ryan Amateis, Kay Anderson, Jim Lapaseotes, Linda Norman, and Jeff Pohl. Also present were: Elementary Principal, James Simmons; Secondary Principal, Jason Blanco; Principal of Instruction, Erin Reynolds; Superintendent, George Schlothauer; and Recording Secretary, Jennifer Kriha.

It was moved by Pohl and seconded by Amateis to approve the agenda as presented. Yes votes: Corman, Amateis, Anderson, Lapaseotes, Norman, and Pohl. No votes: none.

No communications were received or read by the board.

Visitors were recognized.

Business Meeting:

It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Lapaseotes to approve the Consent Agenda items A-C, with the approval of Item D (payroll) as a separate motion. Items A-C include the minutes from October 13, 2025, regular board meeting; minutes from October 17, 2025, special board meeting; financial reports and payables ending October 31, 2025; and October 2025 Expenditures. Yes votes: Corman, Amateis, Anderson, Lapaseotes, Norman, and Pohl. No votes: none.

Bills were paid as follows:

Vendor	Amount
Amazon eCommerce	\$1,020.71
American Floor Mats	\$1,904.51
Black Hills Energy	\$1,722.48
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NE	\$4,853.51
Bluffs Facility Solutions	\$1,252.51
BPS Press	\$68.00
Bridgeport News Blade	\$238.65
Bridgeport Schools Bond	\$36,883.02
Bridgeport TeamMates	\$142.49
Carla McGrath	\$1,219.16
CASH for meals	\$300.00
Cash-Wa Distributing	\$33,511.31
Cengage Learning	\$498.84
Chartwells Higher Ed	\$487.60
City of Bridgeport	\$12,356.62
Claudia Loomis-Gottl	\$100.00
Creative Sites, LLC	\$3,993.37
Culligan of Scottsbluff	\$270.00

Dan's Landscape & Tree Service	\$300.00
DAS State Acctg-Central Finance/OCIO	\$953.61
Demco, INC	\$344.17
Dennis Supply Co	\$260.48
Doane University	\$320.00
Eakes Office Solutions	\$245.07
Elisa Rodak	\$100.00
Emmily Jeffries	\$196.00
ESU #13	\$23,489.56
ESU Coordinating Council	\$311.61
Ewell Educational Services	\$390.00
Grace Dubs	\$929.67
HARRIS	\$4,986.05
Hemingford Public Schools	\$138.00
Hiland Dairy	\$2,470.28
HomeTown Leasing	\$4,804.28
Hotsy Equipment Company	\$421.72
IXL Learning, Inc.	\$11,137.50
Jackson's Garage LLC	\$5,145.09
Jessica Ann Martin	\$2,977.20
John Cordes	\$335.16
Joshua MacDonald	\$934.25
Josie Frelberger	\$6,004.95
Jostens, Inc.	\$91.00
Koke's Auto Farm Truck	\$77.41
KSB School Law	\$234.50
Kylee Bowman	\$702.24
Lakeshore Learning Materials	\$172.46
Lee's Service	\$6,457.00
Legacy Cooperative	\$636.87
Matheson-Linweld	\$522.81
McGraw - Hill Education, Inc	\$1,047.38
Menard's	\$22.29
Mid-American Research Chemical Corp	\$475.28
Morrill County Community Hospital	\$1,901.00
Naomi Loomis	\$837.90
Nebraska Safety Center	\$270.00
Nebraska State Fire Marshal	\$108.00
Nein Pharmacy	\$63.77
Pearson Education Inc.	\$2,364.89
Pitney Bowes Bank INC. Purchase Power	\$199.15
Prairie Winds Community Center	\$60.00
Prestige Group Inc	\$6,200.00
Quill	\$68.84
Rapid Fire Protection	\$9,355.00
Shaggy Buffalo	\$70.00
Sherwin Williams	\$135.15
Soar Pediatric Therapy, LLC	\$11,655.67
Sonny's Super Foods	\$4,146.86
Spec Seats	\$6,545.00
Stacey Watts	\$40.00
Tamika Landrum	\$351.12
Trading Post	\$500.45

VIAERO	\$1,295.84
Wells Fargo Card Services, Inc.	\$16,578.81
GRAND TOTAL	\$241,204.12

A motion to authorize payments of payroll to all school district employees of wages and salaries earned between October 1-31, 2025, pursuant to each of their respective employment contracts, up to a total amount in the aggregate of \$710,000 was made by Anderson and seconded by Norman. Yes votes: Corman, Amateis, Anderson, Lapaseotes, Norman, and Pohl. No votes: none. Actual total gross payroll was \$684,721.55 completed on November 13, 2025.

The floor was opened for public comment: Colton Carrier, Student Council President, presented a monthly report to the board. StuCo will be hosting a Penny Carnival on Monday, December 8, 2025, from 6:00 PM–8:30 PM as a fundraiser. The original date was in October; however, it was moved to December to allow more time for planning, organizing, and obtaining sponsorships. There are currently 3 sponsors with several more in mind. Student Council continues to discuss going to a weighted grade point average. Colton talked to PowerSchool (our Student Information System) about the process and cost to change over to the weighted grade point average. There would be no additional cost to the district. He handed out a flier with the steps on how to change it in the system. It was agreed there would need to be more discussion on how to determine the weight of each class, when to make the change, how the change would affect current classes (freshman-seniors), and GPAs of students that have already graduated. Student Council report will be added to the monthly agenda under "Reports and Discussion" going forward.

Unfinished Business: There was no Unfinished Business to conduct.

New Business

Senator Paul Strohmman from Sidney attended the meeting and discussed legislative issues with the board. One topic of discussion included the budget deficit the State of Nebraska will have to address during the next legislative session. He stated the original projected shortfall was \$95 million; however, when the Big Beautiful Bill passed in July the State is now looking at a possible \$450 million shortfall. This is due to several different factors including revenues coming in lower than projected and at least a \$200 million cut in federal funds from the Big Beautiful Bill. The board is concerned about how this deficit will affect public school funding. Mr. Strohmman agreed it could affect school funds through possible changes to (or possible elimination of) the TEEOSA funds (which is the equalization formula based on a district's ability to raise money through local property taxes), possible changes to the Education Future Funds (EFF was created in 2023 to provide state-level funding for public education, including per pupil foundation aid and funding for SPED and teacher recruitment), and property tax credits. The current EFF per-pupil funding is \$1,500; however, it has been discussed dropping the per-pupil amount to \$900 due to the current projections showing the fund could be depleted within five (5) years due to insufficient revenue transfers. This would greatly impact all districts.

Another discussion included the Homeschool Act and the effect it has had on public school districts statewide. Districts have talked about how they do not receive funding for the students attending part-time; however, they still have expenses for homeschool students ranging from additional textbook and educational materials (hard copy or online expenses), additional technology resources (Chromebooks, iPads, etc.), and additional overhead expenses (general supplies, digital platforms charged per student, etc.). Mr. Strohmman stated he has had discussions with Senator Dan Lonowski (District 33-Grand Island) who sits on the Education Committee regarding these concerns. Special Education is another area of concern as the requirement of "proving quality instruction" for services can be difficult at times with homeschool students. The State of Nebraska homeschool requirements compared to other states were discussed as well. Mr. Strohmman asked what the District's

homeschool numbers were and Mr. Schlothauer stated we have 33 in district and 3 option homeschool students with 9 participating in extracurricular activities and 1 not participating. This number has increased significantly over the past 2 years. Mr. Strohman stated this continues to be discussed and reviewed at the state level as public school districts are concerned because the numbers continue to increase statewide.

The board thanked Mr. Strohman for coming and updating them on the difficult topics continuing to affect public school districts. He said he would like to come back and speak with the board again and with some of the high school social sciences classes, if possible.

Reports and Discussion

Mrs. Reynolds, Principal of Instruction, reported SPEDFRS (2045-2025 budget/expenses for SPED) was submitted to NDE on time on October 31, 2025. The district has a new 1:1 student starting Friday (11/14/2025) but also had a high needs student move out of the district in October which should save the district approximately \$85,000. On October 22nd, professional development for "Teach Like a Champion" focused on the Cold Call engagement strategy with another session scheduled for the in-service week in January 2026. Walk-throughs and evaluations are ongoing for all levels. The 2024-2025 NSCAS State Report Card should be released on November 26th. A writing portion will be added to the NSCAS Spring Summative Assessment for 4th, 7th, and 8th grades.

Mr. Simmons, Elementary Principal, reported that we hosted the 4-H Extension Robotics competition on Saturday, November 8th. Six teams from three schools participated; however, Bridgeport did not have a team this year. We were asked to host since we are the central location. This is the 3rd year of this competition.

Mr. Blanco, Secondary Principal, reported fall activities have ended and winter activities for junior high girls' basketball and boys wrestling have already started. JH boys wrestling has had 2 tournaments with the first one being held on Halloween. They will have five more tournaments with the last one being on December 1st. JH girls' basketball has had one game so far, but their season continues through December 13th. High school basketball and wrestling conditioning started today with competitions starting after Thanksgiving break. The participants in each HS winter sports are as follows: boys' basketball-16; girls' basketball-11; boys wrestling-35; and girls wrestling-8.

Mr. Schlothauer, Superintendent, reported the homeschool enrollment numbers presented during Senator Stroman's discussion. The "new" charter bus is running well and was used 3 different times in the first week going to Chadron, Rushville, and Sandy Creek. The signal arm for turning brights on and off is temperamental; however, this should be an easy fix. The yellow route bus we currently lease will go to Denver and back on Wednesday for the mechanic to inspect before a decision to purchase is made. Prestige Group, Inc. is asking for \$24,500 to purchase it. Two new substitute bus drivers started in October, which has been very helpful. The damage to the leased charter bus has been submitted to insurance as the estimate came in at approximately \$36,000. This bus was returned to Prestige Group, Inc. on October 24th; however, the damage from hitting the elk was done on October 2nd so we are liable to fix it. Bridgeport Elementary School will receive the National ESEA distinguished school award at the national convention in Denver on February 10-12, 2026. We are one of two schools in the state of Nebraska to receive National ESEA recognition. We will be recognized in Category 1 which is "A School Exhibiting Exceptional Student Performance and Academic Growth." Mr. Schlothauer provided a handout with more information about the award. Doug Mader with WNCC will visit with students to finalize things with the CDL program. Currently there are 10 students showing interest in this program. Gail and Mr. Schlothauer met with the Sherwood Foundation from Omaha to discuss the possibility of funding for a CTE building. Their matching grant program is a possibility for us. After some discussion, it was decided to remove the "Beef" banners so the seniors can have the same sized banners as previous classes; otherwise, the

banners will need to be smaller, and their activities wouldn't be included for the banners to fit in the current spot. Upcoming events include the Veteran's Day Program on Tuesday, November 11th and we will host District Play Production on Wednesday, December 3rd. Apta Timekeeping will go live in January 2026 when we come back from break. This is a time clock system integrated with the district's accounting software, AptaFund.

The Board of Education did not have a report.

It was moved by Pohl and seconded by Lapaseotes to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m. Yes votes: Corman, Amateis, Anderson, Lapaseotes, Norman, and Pohl. No votes: none.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Kriha
Recording Secretary

Approved by: 
George Schlothauer, Superintendent