

**Proceedings of the Bridgeport Public Schools Morrill County School District #63  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 9, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High School Media Center**

President Jeff Pohl called the school board meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

President Jeff Pohl informed the public of the Open Meetings Act posted by the library door.

The public was informed of this meeting by public posting at the United States Post Office, Sonny's Super Foods, and Prairie Winds Community Center on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Roll call was taken. Members present: Jeff Pohl, Ryan Amateis, Kay Anderson, Justin Corman, Jim Lapaseotes, and Linda Norman. 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 Lapaseotes and seconded by Corman to approve the agenda as presented. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

Communications received: Norman read a "thank you" from Dana Morgan, BPS Kindergarten teacher, thanking Mr. Schlothauer and the BPS Board of Education for the dinner provided during parent teacher conferences.

Visitors were recognized.

***Business Meeting:***

It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Corman to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: minutes from February 9, 2026, regular board meeting; financial reports and payables ending February 28, 2026; February 2026 expenditures; and March 2026 payroll. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

Bills were paid as follows:

| Vendor                           | Amount      |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| ACT Finance                      | \$737.00    |
| Amazon eCommerce                 | \$6,368.84  |
| Barnes & Noble, Inc.             | \$107.80    |
| Bayard Public School             | \$50.00     |
| Benzel Pest Control              | \$181.50    |
| Black Hills Energy               | \$7,770.18  |
| Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NE | \$5,536.88  |
| Bluffs Facility Solutions        | \$3,759.07  |
| Bomgaars                         | \$432.80    |
| BPS Press                        | \$20.00     |
| Bridgeport News Blade            | \$258.77    |
| Carla McGrath                    | \$1,318.84  |
| Cash-Wa Distributing             | \$19,725.52 |
| City of Bridgeport               | \$12,229.35 |
| Comfort Inn Lexington            | \$990.00    |
| Crowne Plaza Kearney             | \$1,626.02  |
| Culligan of Scottsbluff          | \$288.00    |

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dana F Cole & Company LLP             | \$22,175.21         |
| DAS State Acctg-Central Finance/OCIO  | \$317.87            |
| Dennis Supply Co                      | \$319.30            |
| Docu-Shred                            | \$70.00             |
| Emmily Jeffries                       | \$168.00            |
| Engineered Controls                   | \$560.00            |
| ESU #13                               | \$19,835.87         |
| Floyd's Truck Center, Inc.            | \$1,390.71          |
| Follett School Solutions, Inc.        | \$2,122.80          |
| Fresh Ideas, Chadron State College    | \$404.43            |
| Gall Beyer                            | \$75.00             |
| Gering Schools                        | \$190.00            |
| Grace Dubs                            | \$770.30            |
| Hiland Dairy                          | \$2,145.57          |
| HomeTown Leasing                      | \$5,030.99          |
| Homewood Suites Omaha Downtown        | \$4,550.00          |
| Jackson's Garage LLC                  | \$2,489.97          |
| JAMF Software, LLC                    | \$1,142.75          |
| Jessica Ann Martin                    | \$3,552.80          |
| Joshua MacDonald                      | \$818.44            |
| Josie Freiburger                      | \$1,012.46          |
| JP Boiler Service LLC                 | \$886.00            |
| Kaiser Tire                           | \$20.00             |
| Koke's Auto Farm Truck                | \$422.78            |
| KSB School Law                        | \$566.50            |
| Lee's Service                         | \$29.00             |
| Lexi Blomenkamp                       | \$235.00            |
| Matheson-Linweld                      | \$409.16            |
| Mid-American Research Chemical Corp   | \$1,008.49          |
| Mike's                                | \$40.00             |
| Mitchell Public Schools               | \$115.00            |
| Naomi Loomis                          | \$1,562.08          |
| Pitney Bowes Bank INC. Purchase Power | \$74.63             |
| Prestige Group Inc                    | \$2,600.00          |
| Quill                                 | \$297.65            |
| School Nurse Supply                   | \$355.50            |
| Sean Sterkel                          | \$200.00            |
| Shaggy Buffalo                        | \$150.00            |
| Sidney Public Schools                 | \$50.00             |
| Simply Clean                          | \$258.00            |
| Sonny's Super Foods                   | \$4,270.59          |
| Spectrum Enterprises                  | \$239.96            |
| Susanna Batterman                     | \$310.00            |
| Thompson Glass Inc                    | \$630.00            |
| Trading Post                          | \$121.32            |
| Twin City Hardware Company            | \$539.05            |
| UNL Extension Nebraska Lincoln        | \$155.00            |
| VIAERO                                | \$495.62            |
| Wells Fargo Card Services, Inc.       | \$18,324.49         |
| William H. Sadlier, Inc.              | \$706.20            |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                    | <b>\$165,615.06</b> |

The floor was opened for public comment: Brandon Nichols, representative of the FFA advisory council, talked to the board regarding the current low numbers in the FFA program. He stated the community supports the program and doesn't want the program to be dropped if the numbers continue to be low. He pointed out different obstacles which include class schedule conflicts due to the number of classes offered by the district and when they are offered.

***Unfinished Business:*** There was no unfinished business to conduct.

### ***New Business***

It was moved by Corman and seconded by Amateis to approve the first reading of a policy to award high school credit for Algebra completed in middle school. This is the first reading; therefore, this policy will be on April 13, 2026, board agenda for the second reading and possible passage of said policy. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

It was moved by Lapaseotes and seconded by Corman to approve the following salary increases for the District Principals for the 2026-2027 contract year: Jason Blanco, High School Principal, \$119,015; James Simmons, Elementary Principal, \$105,641; and Erin Reynolds, Principal of Instruction, \$112,669. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

Corman moved and Amateis seconded the motion to approve the 2026-2027 elementary teaching contract for Sarah Post. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

### ***Reports and Discussion***

Colton Carrier, Student Council president, reported to the board the student council will have officer campaigns start March 16, 2026, with the vote taking place on April 1, 2026. The offices being voted on by the student body are for President and Vice President only. He will have an update on the elections at the April 2026 meeting. He brought more information regarding the weighted GPA being tested in PowerSchool. He found out one (1) student can be tested at a time, instead of having to test all students at the same time.

Mrs. Reynolds, Principal of Instruction, reported the Part C: Birth-2 PRT student count was two (2) during the 2025 Fall semester; however, it increased to seven (7) in the 2026 Spring semester. The transition meeting from Pre-K to Kindergarten has started with seven (7) students transitioning to kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year. The classified employee evaluations for SPED are complete for the 2025-2026 school year. She also reported the requirements for the Target Improvement Plan have changed. The plan will be revised to align with the new NDE Literacy Project we will be aligning K-3 reading. The cost to train our seven (7) staff members will be roughly \$16,000, which is an unfunded mandate. She also discussed the quarterly School Improvement meeting which took place on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The team reviewed progress toward current goals, discussed professional development planning for the 2026-2027 school year, and reviewed the updates related to the Literacy Act.

Mr. Simmons, Elementary Principal, reported to the board the elementary parent-teacher conference attendance was 93%, which was slightly down from the fall semester attendance, but felt it was still a good showing. He also discussed how Social Emotional Learning (SEL) currently uses Second Step; however, there is discussion of moving to the 8 To Great curriculum. He also discussed the Literacy Act requirements Mrs. Reynolds discussed. The plan is to have all elementary teachers trained; however, the Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers must be training before next school year. He also stated the Missoula Children's Theatre will be taking place during the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> with two (2) different

showings of "Hansel and Gretel" being presented on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. He touched on the attendance with 24 ten-day letters, 3 fifteen-day letters and 1 twenty-day letter being sent so far this school year. He is very happy with 6 having perfect attendance through February, which is ten-fold better than last year when there were zero students with perfect attendance.


Mr. Blanco, Secondary Principal, reported the spring activities have started with 17 out for boys' golf and 50-54 boys and girls out for track. The first track meet will be March 20<sup>th</sup>. The ACT for juniors will be given on March 24<sup>th</sup>, which is the same day as the senior B Club Trip. He reported the parent-teacher conference attendance was lower than normal with an overall 53% attendance. The SRP lockdown drill with the Sheriff's department at the end of February helped to determine where improvements need to happen. One area is the phone system had issues, so that is being looked at.

Mr. Schlothauer, Superintendent, reported that Colton Carrier has been named as a candidate for the 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and is one of the final 167 nationwide candidates. If he makes the next step, he will go to Washington D.C. for dinner with President Trump and be considered for a \$50,000 scholarship. The Academic Banquet is fast approaching, and he is taking recommendations for a speaker. Students took the Accuplacer test the first week of March to see if they qualify for College English and Math classes. There were 27 students qualified for College English and 29 qualified for Intermediate Algebra or higher. The CDL students have all finished their online work and will go to WNCC on April 1<sup>st</sup> to have an introduction to the program, do ride-a-longs (which is the next step of the program), get some simulator experience and tour the diesel tech program. SPED funding is looking at a proposed reduction of \$18,4498,033 which is approximately a 6% cut in funding. We have been receiving our 80% reimbursement; however, if this cut is approved, we will receive less. The latest number for the 2026-2027 state aid allotments came out the first part of March and we are scheduled to receive \$34,017 additional funds compared to the current school year. We continue to look at the unused budget authority for the past 3 years and will have more answers on that as the legislation session wraps up. He brought up becoming a member of NASB which would allow us to be part of the CJUMP (choice gas program) with other school districts and possibly receive a better natural gas rate. There are numerous other benefits to being a member of NASB too. The Pre-K applications for the 2026-2027 school year at currently at 24, but our program only allows 20 students. He received an email with a presentation attached about awarding Mack Haddix a posthumous diploma from Bridgeport Public Schools. Mack left school early in 1943 to fight in World War II. Mr. Schlothauer will forward the program on to the board members.

Anderson attended the VALTS graduation on March 4, 2026, and reported that MaKayla Smith was one of the graduates. MaKayla plans to attend WyoTech in Laramie now that she has graduated.

It was moved by Amateis and seconded by Corman to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Kriha  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:   
George Schlothauer, Superintendent