Proceedings of the Bridgeport Public Schools Morrill County School District #63
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School Media Center

President Jeff Pohl called the school board meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Notice of this meeting was provided to the public through postings at the United States Post Office, Sonny's Super Foods, and the Prairie Winds Community Center on Friday, September 11, 2026. Additionally, the notice was published on September 10, 2026, in the *Bridgeport News-Blade*, a local legal newspaper of general circulation.

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

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

Communications included a "thank you" from Claire Linders for the Donald Clark scholarship she was awarded. She is very appreciative of the continued financial support to pursue her educational goals. Dana Morgan, Kindergarten teacher, also wrote a "thank you" to the board in appreciation for the nice staff picnic to kick the school year off.

Visitors were recognized.

Business Meeting:

It was moved by Corman and seconded by Lapaseotes to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda includes the minutes of August 10, 2026, regular board meeting & minutes from August 26, 2026, budget workshop; financial reports and payables ending August 31, 2026; August & September 2026 Expenditures; and September 2026 payroll. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

Bills were paid as follows:

Vendor	Amount
4imprint	$2,453.21
Allo Communications	$818.97
Amanda Crider	$122.00
Amazon eCommerce	$10,184.20
Amsterdam Publishing	$507.87
Benzel Pest Control	$181.50
Black Hills Energy	$524.25
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NE	$3,907.50
Bluffs Facility Solutions	$3,168.73
Bluum of Texas, LLC.	$35,952.97
Bridgeport News Blade	$130.52
Burger Werx Catering	$275.00
Cash-Wa Distributing	$12,780.89
City of Bridgeport	$11,533.69

Crescent Electric Supply Company	$2,726.21
Crossroads Music	$465.00
Culligan of Scottsbluff	$288.00
Dan's Landscape & Tree Service	$1,000.00
DAS State Acctg-Central Finance/OCIO	$1,271.48
Dick Blick Art Materials	$53.56
Discount School Supply	$8.36
District 12 Ag Teachers	$200.00
Docu-Shred	$70.00
E-470 Public Highway Authority	$9.60
Egan Supply	$30.30
Emmily Jeffries	$136.80
Engineered Controls	$155.00
ESU #13	$2,354.97
Floyd's Truck Center, Inc.	$250.00
Follett Content Solutions, LLC	$2,026.96
HARRIS	$384.27
Hiland Dairy	$1,951.60
HomeTown Leasing	$5,282.53
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co.	$6,985.60
I Love You Guys Foundation	$450.00
Innovative Office Solutions LLC	$422.89
Jackson's Garage LLC	$830.20
Jason Blanco	$170.00
Jessica Ann Martin	$2,639.08
JJ Pratt Enterprises, LLC	$450.00
Joshua MacDonald	$531.32
Josie Freiberger	$1,097.25
Kaiser Tire	$2,197.76
Koke's Auto Farm Truck	$357.69
KSB School Law	$404.00
Lakeshore Learning Materials	$795.13
Lee's Service	$31.00
Legacy Cooperative	$695.99
Linpepco Alliance	$669.20
Marcia Brenner Associates, LLC	$2,700.00
Menard's	$84.99
Morrill County Community Hospital	$4,036.00
MRG Hauff	$279.00
Naomi Loomis	$1,000.69
Nebraska Council of School Administrators	$740.00
NSCTA	$320.00
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC	$446.19
Precision Greenhouse Service, LLC	$3,874.52
Pyramid School Products	$3,220.80
Quaver Music.com, LLC	$1,800.00
Rapid Fire Protection	$4,026.00
S & S Worldwide Inc	$15.74
Scholastic Inc	$3,015.77

Screencastify LLC	$864.00
Sherwin Williams	$546.47
Soar Pediatric Therapy, LLC	$4,578.76
Sonny's Super Foods	$4,558.25
SPVA	$753.00
Trading Post - Yrly Bldg Lease	$30,000.00
Trading Post	$6,137.25
Turf Tank Billing	$2,276.00
ULINE	$773.80
VIAERO	$247.58
Walsworth	$2,564.74
Wells Fargo Card Services, Inc.	$19,616.54
William H. Sadlier, Inc.	$1,030.04
GRAND TOTAL	**$219,439.18**

The floor was opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

Unfinished Business

Pohl opened and called the 2026-2027 Budget Hearing to order at 7:08 PM. The board reviewed the proposed budget document as presented at the meeting and in the board packets. Discussion included explanation of the addition of property taxes for the Special Building Fund. These funds will be used for restricted purposes as allowed by Nebraska Statute 79-10, 120. Special Building funds cannot be used for general operational maintenance, routine repairs, or regular day-to-day services which are handled by the district's general fund. Examples of some allowable projects can include new roof, upgrading technology that "equips a building," upgrading building-wide security systems, fire sprinkler replacement, etc. These funds are included in the tax authority levy along with the general fund. There being no further discussion, the 2026-2027 Budget Hearing was closed at 7:15 PM.

Pohl opened and called the 2026-2027 Final Tax Request Hearing to order at 7:15 PM. The board reviewed the proposed tax request as presented at the meeting and in the board packets. There being no additional discussion, the Final Tax Request Hearing was closed at 7:17 PM.

New Business

It was moved by Amateis and seconded by Corman to approve Resolution No. 26-27 01 Increase in District's Certified Property Tax Request Authority by $605,353, which is allowed by State Statute 79-3405(s)(a) with 70% board approval. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

It was moved by Norman and seconded by Lapaseotes to approve the 2026-2027 Budget as presented in the Budget Hearing. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

It was moved by Lapaseotes and seconded by Amateis to approve Resolution No. 26-27 02 Final Tax Request as presented in the Final Tax Request Hearing. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

Derrick Wells, wrestling coach, gave a presentation to the board on a possible wrestling facility. He proposed to possibly turn the "white building" into a wrestling facility. The bard wanted a better visual of his proposal and asked to take a tour of the "white building"

President Pohl called a recess at 7:49 p.m. so the board members could tour the "white building."

President Pohl called the meeting back to order at 8:09 p.m.

Discussion continued with Mr. Wells regarding the proposed facility. It was agreed turning the "white building" into a wrestling facility would take time. The board asked Mr. Schlothauer to investigate a couple of other options for use sooner than what the "white building" could possibly provide. The board thanked Mr. Wells for his proposal and will take it into consideration.

It was moved by Corman and seconded by Amateis to approve the VALTS interlocal agreement with ESU #13. Yes votes: Pohl, Amateis, Anderson, Corman, Lapaseotes, and Norman. No votes: none.

Reports and Discussion

Dixon Leisy & Kambrey Amateis presented the Student Council report to the board. Student Council oversees homecoming this year and they added a faculty king/queen as a fun activity this year. They have been hearing rumors about not being allowed to continue the tradition of the senior prank and asked if the rumors were true. It had been discussed due to some unsafe past pranks. It was agreed to allow the pranks this year if there were ground rules established and no harmful/damaging or unsafe pranks were conducted. If not followed, then it was agreed there would be repercussions. A Penny Carnival will be held again this year as it was a great fundraiser for them last year. Another discussion is having a Student Council Night this spring with some fun activities to possibly include faculty pranks and "Soak a Senior." Other discussions have included equal locker rooms, new after school clubs, a 10-point grading scale, and possibly awarding students with good attendance with concession gift cards.

Mrs. Reynolds, Principal of Instruction, reported the district currently has 81 students that qualify for special education services ages birth – 21. ECSE (ages 3-5 years) currently has 7 students and ages 0-2 had 5 families receiving services from the district. Another number that is down from last year is 1 homeschool student is receiving services. There are 17 total students with 504 plans in our district, of which 15 students being in secondary and 2 in elementary school. She reported that the 9th and 10th grade students will be taking the Pre-ACT in October.

Mr. Simmons, Elementary Principal, reported the work staff is doing with the BIST Training that started during in-service week has impressed the presenter, as she held another training session in the week of September 8th. Nebraska Bank will start up the Bulldog Branch in the first week of October. It was a good first year with over 85 depositors for a total of approximately $9,000. They hope to continue this growth and excitement this year. He presented the current K-6 enrollment is 235 with 3 students still enrolled, even though it is believed they have moved. We have not received records requests from their new schools yet, so they are enrolled in our district. We have a full pre-school class again this year with 20 students. Monitoring Guide for the ESSA (Title) grants will take place sometime this semester. Data Digs includes meeting with 3rd-6th grade teachers to review testing results from last year. They will also identify what we are doing well and what our gaps are to help develop a plan to move forward. Character Counts Assembly will be on Friday, September 25th. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held September 29th & 30th, with an early dismissal on the 30th. Fire Safety will be presented by the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department on October 7th.

Mr. Blanco, Secondary Principal, reported on the various fall activities including Homecoming week being this week (Sept. 14th). The class hallways and lockers have been decorated and there are various dress up/spirit days throughout the week. The pep rally will be held after the volleyball game on Thursday with the weather determining if it will be on the football field or in the gym. There is an early dismissal on Friday, with the parade taking place at 3:00 p.m. followed by the football game against H & H starting at 6:00 p.m. and the dance to follow. It is also a busy week for volleyball as they have games on Tuesday, Thursday and WTC tournament in Kimball on Saturday. Our home

cross country meet was today (Sept. 14th) and girls golf had a meet today and another one on Thursday. FFA will participate in the area Range Judging contest on Tuesday. Mr. Blanco also discussed Mike Donahue being here on Wednesday (Sept 16th) to present with JH students from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and the HS students from 1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Impact Team (made up of teachers), and various student groups will meet with Mike as well. Lastly, he handed out an information sheet regarding the 5.0 Weighted GPA. It talks about the purpose of moving to a 5.0 weighted GPA, pros and cons, and included some examples of how it compares to our current GPA scale.

Mr. Schlothauer, Superintendent, reported that the 2011 small bus continues to have issues with the AC and Jackson's Garage will be looking into it further as the cooler season is approaching. The white bus is running well with the teams and coaches requesting to use it on long trips. This is because of how well it rides and the AC. Installing cameras and charging ports in it is currently being discussed. Our next inspection dates are the first week of October. Bridgeport Elementary is one of 5 schools in the state that has been awarded the **"The 74" – Bright Spots**. This is an award that recognizes schools across the country who are beating the odds in literacy education. The other 4 Nebraska districts recognized are in Valentine, Norfolk, Columbus and Omaha. Due to the early out on Friday, the lunch menu for Thursday and Friday will be flipped this week. He has put Bridgeport School's name in to potentially host a Husker Volleyball game in the future.

There were no Board of Education reports.

It was moved by Lapaseotes and seconded by Amateis to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:50 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