MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Tuesday, August 11, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Byron Hall: Present, Ryan Harris: Present, Samantha Johnson: Present, Tyler Kirkholm: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Absent, Paul Tighe: Present.

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Lefdal, Principal Abbie Uhl, Principal Jake Brand, and Board Secretary Amy Brand

Visitors present: Several

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given to all members of the Board of Education. The Secretary of the Board maintains a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and advance notification to the listed media of the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting was provided. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the Agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

I.<u>Opening the Meeting</u>

I.A.Call Meeting to Order and Notification of Open Meeting Law

I.A.i.Posted in the room

I.A.ii.Publication of Meeting was provided according to 84-1411

I.B.District Mission Statement:

II.<u>Board Member Roll Call</u>
Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Ryan Harris to excuse absent board members Nelsen and Kirkholm. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried
Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Absent, Paul Tighe: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

III.<u>Excuse Absent Board Members</u>

IV.<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>

V.<u>Approval of the Agenda and changes to the Agenda</u>
Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Paul Tighe to approve the agenda as presented. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried
Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Absent, Dr.

Kristina Nelsen: Absent, Paul Tighe: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VI. Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Ryan Harris to approve all items presented on the Consent Agenda. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Absent, Paul Tighe: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VI.A. Approval of Minutes from the July regular meeting

VI.B. Approve claims and accounts

VI.C. Approve resignations

VI.D. Approve new hires

VII. Public Comment

Concerns were brought to the board regarding the low numbers out for Football this year and projected in the future. The board was asked to look at options for co-oping with another school for this sport. This will be on the October agenda.

VIII. Information Items: Reports

VIII.A. Administrator reports

As we prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, staff are focused on professional learning and a strong start for students. August professional development will emphasize Collective Efficacy, CKLA implementation, and standards alignment, while special education staff, paraprofessionals, and administrators recently completed Crisis Prevention certification. Open House will be August 17, followed by the first day of school on August 19.
At the elementary level, we are finalizing schedules for the new ELA curriculum, preparing for DIBELS implementation, and reviewing assessment trends to identify skills that can be strengthened earlier. Preschool Welcome Visits will be August 19-21, with preschool beginning August 24. At the JH/HS level, schedules and grading practices are finalized, the first-day schedule has been adjusted based on staff feedback, and fall athletics are underway. We are excited to welcome students and staff back for another great year at Homer!

VIII.B. Superintendent report

The district continues updating its website to meet OCR accessibility requirements. We are also transitioning district policies from the old system to the new platform. Mrs. Schmidt, our new school counselor, is off to a great start and doing an excellent job supporting students and staff.

IX. Discussion Items

IX.A. 2026-27 Budget update

Dr. Lefdal went over the budget amendments with the board. Unused budget authority needs to be utilized in the General Fund. The Employee Fund was opened per the auditors' request and School Nutrition will also be amended.

IX.B. Virtual High School

Dr. Lefdal updated the Board on the upcoming launch of Homer Virtual Academy and the new opportunities the program has presented for students and the district.

X. Action Items

X.A. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the 2026-27 tax authority resolution.
Dr. Lefdal explained the importance of increasing the district's tax request authority by 7% and how that decision could affect the district's future taxing authority.
Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Samantha Johnson to approve the 2026-27 tax authority resolution. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried
Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Absent, Paul Tighe: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.B. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the Homer Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the district's non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 contract years.
The Board approved the Homer Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the district's non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 contract years.
Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Ryan Harris to approve the Homer Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the district's non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2027- 2028 and 2028-2029 contract years. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried
Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Absent, Paul Tighe: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XI. Next Meeting

The Budget Amendment Meeting will be Monday, August 17th at 7:00 p.m. and the next regular meeting will be Monday, September 14th at 7:00p.m.

XII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Byron Hall to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried
Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Absent, Paul Tighe: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Dated this Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

ATTEST:
Dr. Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

Dakota County School District #31R
a/k/a Homer Community School
BY: Paul Tighe, President