September 14, 2026

Posting Information:
01/01/2025 By Print Crete News
01/01/2025 By Print Crete Public Schools Cardinal Welcome Center

The Crete Board of Education met on Monday, September 12, 2026 at 6:21 PM at the Cardinal Welcome Center for the September 2026 Regular Meeting. Board members present were Justin Kuntz, President; Greg Hollman, Vice President; Vince Krejci, Secretary; Greg Mach, Scott Piening, and Michaela Conway. Also in attendance were Josh McDowell, Superintendent; Ryan Hinz, Chief Financial Officer; Brittany Hajek, Chief Academic Officer; Jenny Beck, Chief of Staff; Katie Bevins, Director of Student Services; Joel Bramhall, Director of Federal Programs; Melissa Frans, Director of Instructional Programs; Ross Louch, Director of Information Technology; Lisa Fye, Elementary Principal; Alix Mach, Elementary Assistant Principal; Shannon Cole, Intermediate Principal; Perla Jaimes, Middle School Principal; Randy Newmyer, Middle School Assistant Principal; Jennifer Banos, Executive Assistant; interested members of the community, and interested members of Crete Public Schools.

The meeting, having been duly preceded by advance notice and conducted in accordance with the posted open meetings law, was called to order by President Kuntz at 6:21 p.m.

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Dr. McDowell highlighted claims of interest.

Motion #68-26 Mr Greg Hollman moved to approve the consent agenda as published. Greg Mach abstained from payment to Old Main $345 to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. Seconded Mr. Vince Krejci. On roll call: Motion Carried. Michaela Conway: Yea, Mr Greg Hollman: Yea, Mr. Vince Krejci: Yea, Justin Kuntz: Yea, Greg Mach: Yea, Mr Scott Piening: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0.

Dr. Hajek, Chief Academic Officer, highlighted academic excellence and coherence throughout the district. The Board asked clarifying questions.

Dr. McDowell provided a district update:

- Student Advisory Council Relaunch at the High School and a launch at the Middle School;
- Superintendent Advisory Council with Dr. Maher, NDE;
- Policy Management update
- Nebraska Public Media - Emerging Football District

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-713(3), notice is hereby given that a settlement has been reached in a claim against the District by Northern Natural Gas. The claim involved alleged damage to a pipe during the construction of Crete High School. The settlement was not an admission of wrongdoing or liability by the District. The District's insurance carrier settled the claim in the amount of $60,000.00 in exchange for a complete release of liability. The entire settlement amount will be paid by the District's insurance carrier and not from any taxpayer funds.

Motion #69-26 Mr. Greg Hollman moved to authorize the Superintendent to execute the settlement agreement on behalf of Crete Public Schools. Seconded Mr. Vince Krejci. On roll call: Motion Carried. Michaela Conway: Yea, Mr. Greg

Hollman: Yea, Mr. Vince Krejci: Yea, Justin Kuntz: Yea, Greg Mach: Yea, Mr. Scott Piening: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0.

The budget proposal was presented to the Board during the Public Hearing. The Board had no clarifying questions.

Motion #70-26 Mr. Greg Hollman moved to approve the 2026-2027 budget as presented. Seconded Mr. Vince Krejci. On roll call: Motion Carried. Michaela Conway: Yea, Mr. Greg Hollman: Yea, Mr. Vince Krejci: Yea, Justin Kuntz: Yea, Greg Mach: Yea, Mr. Scott Piening: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0.

Dr. McDowell provided the Board with the requested clarification from Wednesday's working meeting. The recommendation from the Board is to accept the bid from Rafa Roofing for the 2026-2027 snow removal.

Motion #71-26 Mr. Scott Piening moved to approve the bid from Rafa Roofing for snow removal for the 26-27 school year. Seconded Michaela Conway. On roll call: Motion Carried. Michaela Conway: Yea, Mr. Greg Hollman: Abstain (With Conflict), Mr. Vince Krejci: Yea, Justin Kuntz: Yea, Greg Mach: Yea, Mr. Scott Piening: Yea. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1.

Miss Olivia Merza, FFA Sponsor, presented the out-of-state request to the National FFA Conference in Indianapolis on October 20-24, 2026.

Motion #72-26 Mr. Greg Hollman moved to approve the out-of-state trip request for FFA as proposed and set forth in the presented materials. Seconded Mr. Vince Krejci. On roll call: Motion Carried. Michaela Conway: Yea, Mr. Greg Hollman: Yea, Mr. Vince Krejci: Yea, Justin Kuntz: Yea, Greg Mach: Yea, Mr. Scott Piening: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0.

Mr. Brock Godown presented the out-of-state request for the KSate Marching Band on September 18th-19th, 2026, held at the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan, Kansas. Isabella Meyers, a marching band student who has previously attended and will attend again, presented highlights of the event.

Motion #73-26 Mr. Greg Hollman moved to approve the out-of-state request for the Crete Band Trip to KState as proposed and set forth in the presented materials Seconded Mr. Vince Krejci. On roll call: Motion Carried. Michaela Conway: Yea, Mr. Greg Hollman: Yea, Mr. Vince Krejci: Yea, Justin Kuntz: Yea, Greg Mach: Yea, Mr. Scott Piening: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0.

The next Board of Education Meeting will be on Monday, October 12, 2026.

Motion #74-26 Mr. Greg Hollman moved to approve the adjournment of the regular board meeting at 6:52 PM. Seconded Mr. Vince Krejci. On roll call: Motion Carried. Michaela Conway: Yea, Mr. Greg Hollman: Yea, Mr. Vince Krejci: Yea, Justin Kuntz: Yea, Greg Mach: Yea, Mr. Scott Piening: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0.

Attest: _____ Signed: _____

(Secretary) (President)