

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, February 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: Present, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Present, 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. Opening the Meeting

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. Board Member Roll Call

All members present.

III. Excuse Absent Board Members

IV. Approval of the Agenda and changes to the Agenda

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Tyler Kirkholm 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: Yea, Dr.

Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

V. Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Dr. Kristina Nelsen 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: Yea, Dr.

Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

V.A. Approval of Minutes from the January regular meeting

V.B. Approve claims and accounts

The Superintendent provided an overview of the district's monthly financial activity, including a review of bills paid, additional expenditures, and current account balances across all funds. A brief budget update was shared to demonstrate how expenditures are tracking compared to projections for the fiscal year.

VI. Public Comment

Public comment was received regarding the potential transition of 6th grade students to the secondary side of the building. Several community members shared perspectives, concerns, and considerations about the timing, impact, and overall pros and cons of such a transition. The Board and administration appreciate the feedback and will take the input under advisement.

VII. Information Items: Reports

VII.A. Administrator reports

A blood drive is scheduled for March 2 from 9:00-1:00. Homer has selected the Connected Model for NSCAS testing. The testing windows for Science on April 8-9, ELA during the week of April 13-17, Math on April 21-22, and make-ups from April 27-May 1. At the elementary level, the ELA curriculum revision process continues with HMH Into Reading and CKLA under review, including feedback from area districts and planned site visits on March 17. Preschool enrollment for 2026-2027 currently stands at 26 students, Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for April 10, and NAEP testing for fourth grade will take place on March 11. Every Knight Intervention remains a focus, supporting both academic growth and attendance recovery. At the junior high and high school levels, ACT preparation is underway, with the ACT scheduled for March 24 and PreACT testing for grades 9-10 on March 25-26. Winter activities are concluding, including postseason play and wrestling districts, and speech season is ongoing. Staff continue proactive communication with families of students at risk of failing, supported by after-school recovery opportunities and administrative outreach. Leadership development continues with participation in the ESU 1 Leadership Cadre on February 19.

VII.B. Superintendent report

The Superintendent provided several administrative updates. A brief report was shared on library services and ongoing scheduling work for the upcoming school year. An incentive to support staff pursuing and passing Praxis exams. Current enrollment was reported at 454 students with an average daily attendance rate of 94%. Additionally, information was presented and discussed regarding the "Bound" program as a potential platform for athletic scheduling and management.

VIII. Discussion Items

VIII.A. Middle school and scheduling update

Dr. Lefdal provided an update on scheduling, noting that several adjustments are being made to create a cleaner master schedule with improved course rotations and opportunities for students. MTSS structures and potential middle school scheduling refinements were discussed, including ideas such as practice days to help 5th grade students experience a typical 6th grade schedule. The possibility of monthly class meetings to strengthen relationships and communication was also shared, along with plans to offer orientation

opportunities for incoming 6th and 9th grade students prior to the start of the school year. Additional recess time for middle school students and continued work toward refining next year's master schedule were also discussed.

#### VIII.B. Legislative Update

A legislative update was provided, and several proposed legislative items were shared for the Board's awareness.

#### IX. Action Items

##### IX.A. Approve NASB Online Policy Update for policies 718.00 and 802.07.

Motion was made by Tyler Kirkholm and seconded by Dr. Kristina Nelsen to approve NASB Online Policy Update for policies 718.00 and 802.07. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

##### IX.B. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the Certified Staff Negotiations Agreement and a base salary increase of \$900.

Motion was made by Tyler Kirkholm and seconded by Samantha Johnson to approve the Certified Staff Negotiations Agreement and a base salary increase of \$900. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

##### IX.C. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve classified staff compensation.

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Tyler Kirkholm to approve classified staff compensation at 1.9%. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

##### IX.D. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve administration compensation/contracts.

Motion was made by Dr. Kristina Nelsen and seconded by Ryan Harris to approve administration compensation/contracts at an additional \$2,000. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

#### X. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

#### XI. Adjournment

Motion was made by Dr. Kristina Nelsen and seconded by Samantha Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:39. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Dated this Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

ATTEST:  
Dr. Kristina Nelsen  
Secretary

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