

**Scottsbluff Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Monday, March 9, 2026 6:00 PM

Scottsbluff High School Board Meeting Room  
313 E 27th Street  
Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

Mark Lang: Present  
Beth Merrigan: Present  
Robert Polk: Present  
Scott Reisig: Present  
Tory Schwartz: Present  
Paul Snyder: Present

1. Opening Procedures

1.a. Call to Order

The Scottsbluff Public Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Board President Scott Reisig.

1.b. Roll Call

1.c. Excuse Absent Member(s)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Open Meetings Law

This meeting was held in accordance to the Open Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was published in the Star-Herald on Saturday, March 7, 2026, and on the Scottsbluff Public Schools website on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

4. Consent Agenda

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda Passed with a motion by Beth Merrigan and a second by Mark Lang.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

4.a. Adopt Agenda

4.b. Approval of Certified Staff Hire

4.b.1. Olivia Miller, Kindergarten, Roosevelt Elementary

4.b.2. Jeremy Gumm, AFJROTC, Scottsbluff High School

4.b.3. Ryan Bosche, Art, Scottsbluff High School

4.b.4. Giles Hovseth, Freshman Academy Math, Scottsbluff High School

4.b.5. Kaden Hubbard, Ag, Food & Natural Resources, Scottsbluff High School

4.b.6. Madison Schaefer, Strength and Conditioning, Scottsbluff High School

4.c. Approval of Certified Staff Resignation

4.c.1. Elizabeth Dunegan, Kindergarten, Roosevelt Elementary

4.c.2. Scott O'Dell, Freshman Academy Math, Scottsbluff High School

4.c.3. Wendy Ramirez, Registered Nurse, SBPS

4.c.4. Shelbi Cotton, Registered Nurse, SBPS

4.d. Administrator Appointment

4.d.1. Ashley Dillman, Assistant Principal, Bluffs Middle School

4.e. Approve Minutes as follows:

4.e.1. February 9, 2026

5. Expenditures

5.a. Expenditures: \$1,197,264.44

Motion to approve the expenditures for the amount of \$1,197,264.44 Passed with a motion by Robert Polk and a second by Tory Schwartz.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

6. Awards and Recognitions

6.a. Girls Wrestling

Scottsbluff High School Girls Wrestling Coach Shaide Bowthorpe spoke.

6.b. Boys Wrestling

Scottsbluff High School Boys Wrestling Coach Dustin Stodola spoke.

6.c. Girls Basketball

Scottsbluff High School Girls Basketball Coach Hattie Burford spoke.

6.d. Swimming

Scottsbluff High School Swim Coach Vanessa Woolsey spoke.

6.e. Drill Team

Scottsbluff High School Drill Team Sponsor Angie Hinze spoke.

6.f. Educators Rising

Scottsbluff High School Educators Rising Sponsor Anne Schmall spoke.

6.g. Anne Schmall - Educators Rising Teacher Leader of the Year

Scottsbluff High School Assistant Principal Kelli Jensen spoke.

7. Student Report

Scottsbluff High School Senior Ava Reed provided an update to the Board of Education. Ava stated the end of the third quarter at Scottsbluff High School is quickly approaching and that SHS students had much to celebrate in February. Ava stated Winter Royalty Week was filled with school spirit and a memorable dance. She congratulated the 2026 Winter Royalty King Keon Delgado and Queen Sheridan Ferguson. Ava noted the National Honor Society Induction

was held on February 5 during which 50 students were inducted. The SHS Girls Wrestling Program had historic success with a first-ever SHS state champion, Jazymn Garcia, with Marcela Colin earning a notable fourth-place finish. Boys Wrestling also celebrated Daylon Adams becoming a state champion, as well as Oscar Brown and Anthony Shifflet bringing home a third place finish. Both Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball won their district championship, with the Lady Bearcats finishing their season at state with a gritty game against Bennington. The Bearcat Boys will travel to state basketball this week to play a first-round game against Gretna East. The Swim Team qualified three relay teams and four individuals in a combined 12 events for the state swim meet. The ProStart team had a great state competition, with one team finishing as state champions and another with a top-three finish. The SHS Choir hosted the Panhandle Choral Festival, bringing in students from around the region to train with Eph Ehly, a nationally recognized composer and former SHS teacher. The SHS Educators Rising chapter attended the State Leadership Conference in Kearney and SHS Teacher Mrs. Anne Schmall, was named Nebraska's Teacher Leader of the Year. The SHS Cheer and Drill teams competed at their respective state competitions, with the Drill Team capturing another state championship in the High Kick Division. Ava noted that over the next month, the SHS Career and Technical Student Organizations will travel east for their respective state competitions. College registration will take place later in the month, and ACT and PreACT testing are scheduled for March 24. To finish out the month, Prom will take place on March 28. Ava thanked the Board of Education for their continued partnership and support of our students and school community.

8. Public Comment - a total of 120 minutes will be allotted (no more than 5 minutes per speaker). There was one member of the public present who wished to address the Board of Education.

- Reginald Preston, Scottsbluff

## 9. Unfinished Business

9.a. Revision of Board Policy 2230 - "Evaluation of Principals and Other Certificated Administrative Personnel" - Second Reading

Motion to approve the revision of Board Policy 2230 - "Evaluation of Principals and Other Certificated Administrative Personnel" as presented. Passed with a motion by Mark Lang and a second by Robert Polk.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

## 10. New Business

10.a. Westmoor Student Leadership Team

Motion to approve the addition of the Westmoor Student Leadership Team program at Westmoor Elementary. Passed with a motion by Beth Merrigan and a second by Tory Schwartz.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.b. Administrator Evaluation Change

Motion to approve the changes to the administrator evaluation process as presented. Passed with a motion by Mark Lang and a second by Beth Merrigan.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.c. DALI Chromebooks

Motion to approve awarding the bid to Y&S Technologies for 600 Chromebooks for a total of \$188,100.00. If Y&S Technologies is unable to honor their bid, the bid shall be awarded to CDWG for 600 Chromebooks for a total price of \$227,964.00. Passed with a motion by Robert Polk and a second by Tory Schwartz.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.d. Network LAN Extensions

Motion to award the bid to Allo Communications for \$2,600.00 per month for a three-year term, totaling \$93,600.00. Passed with a motion by Mark Lang and a second by Robert Polk.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.e. Westmoor Elementary Modernization Furniture Purchase

Motion to approve Marianne Carlson, as a representative of Scottsbluff Public Schools, to move into an agreement with School Specialty to purchase the classroom furniture for the Westmoor Elementary Modernization project for \$443,873.13. Passed with a motion by Robert Polk and a second by Beth Merrigan.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.f. Vehicle Purchase

Motion to approve the purchase of a 2026 T-350 for \$66,486 from Woodhouse Ford. Passed with a motion by Mark Lang and a second by Robert Polk.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.g. Facilities Condition Assessment RFP

Motion to approve awarding the Facilities Condition Assessment RFP to BCDM Architects and approve administration to sign the Agreement to Perform Professional Services. Passed with a motion by Tory Schwartz and a second by Beth Merrigan.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.h. Certified Negotiated Agreement

Motion to approve the Certified Employee Negotiated Agreement as presented for the 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 school years. Passed with a motion by Beth Merrigan and a second by Robert Polk.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.i. Executive Director of Finance Contract Changes

Motion to approve the two-year Executive Director of Finance Contract with Marianne Carlson as presented. Passed with a motion by Mark Lang and a second by Tory Schwartz.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

10.j. Superintendent Evaluation Instrument

Motion to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument as presented. Passed with a motion by Mark Lang and a second by Robert Polk.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea

## 11. Reports and Proposals

### 11.a. Board Members

No report.

### 11.b. Board Committee Reports

11.b.1. Curriculum & Instruction/Americanism Committee - Next Meeting: March 30, 2026 @ 11:30 AM

No report.

11.b.2. Facility Committee - Next Meeting: April 7, 2026 @ 11:30 AM

No report.

11.b.3. Finance Committee - Next Meeting: April 7, 2026 @ 1:00 PM

No report.

11.b.4. Policy Committee - Next Meeting: March 18, 2026 @ 2:30 PM

No report.

11.b.5. Student Services Committee - Next Meeting: March 19, 2026 @ 11:30 AM

No report.

### 11.c. From the Administrative Staff:

11.c.1. Executive Director of Finance

No report.

11.c.2. Executive Director of Student Services

No report.

11.c.3. Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction

No report.

11.c.4. Superintendent

Dr. Andrew Dick congratulated Director of Communications Melissa Price for another outstanding annual report. He stated he had received a number of compliments from community members on the high-quality publication which does an outstanding job of telling the District's story and successes over the past school year. Dr. Dick noted this publication was done by Melissa Price in-house.

Dr. Dick thanked Scottsbluff High School teacher Anne Schmall for her leadership of the SEA Negotiations Team. Dr. Dick noted it was a very cordial process and thanked the Board for their role in the process as well.

Dr. Dick provided a timeline and context regarding the Lake Minatare well issue. On February 26, 2026, the maintenance team discovered the pump that feeds the RO/chemical system at Lake Minatare was leaking. A new mechanical seal to repair the pump was ordered as the leak had been increasing in volume every day since discovery. When the pump was dismantled to make

the repair, it was discovered that sand/debris had chewed up the shaft on the pump and ruined the other seals within the pump itself. This pump is now obsolete since it was first installed over 15 years ago. Within an hour, Director of Facilities Travis Rickey and his team provided bottled water on-site for students and staff. Mr. Rickey then contacted the District's Certified Water Operator, Mike Davies, and set the earliest possible appointment for Tuesday, March 3. During this appointment on-site, they were able to determine that the well that feeds water to the building is approximately 80 feet deep, and they were able to reach water at 30 feet. Right inside the building, they took a water sample in a bucket from where the well water enters. In the sample of water they found a lot of black debris of various sizes. This black debris was deemed to come from either the pipe of the pump, or most likely the well casing itself. The repair for this issue would be to replace the pipe of the pump or the well casing. The Certified Water Operator believes the black debris is iron, but it has not been verified through a chemical test. After the District received these findings, a message was sent to the families of Lake Minatare students on March 4. Also on March 4, the District received an estimate from Fisher Well Service in the amount of \$15,564 to repair the well. The District was told it would take two to three weeks to complete the work due to paperwork and materials. In addition to Fisher's Well Service work, the chemical injector pump would need to be replaced. Mr. Rickey provided an estimated cost of between \$3,000 - \$4,000 to complete the work in-house. Dr. Dick noted the maintenance team frequently takes care of projects in-house in order to maximize taxpayer dollars. Mr. Rickey estimated it would take four to six weeks to receive those parts and complete the work, taking into consideration there are 45.5 student days remaining in the school year. On March 9, Mr. Rickey accompanied Dr. Dick to Lake Minatare Elementary to observe the issue first-hand. During this time, Dr. Dick spoke to the head custodian and the food service provider, and both indicated the well issue had not caused an inconvenience to their work. The head custodian stated that he had not seen any deposits in any sink or toilets. Dr. Dick stated he also visited classrooms, and noted approximately half of the students were using their own personal water bottle, not the plastic bottles provided. He stated Lake Minatare Elementary Principal Dr. Ashlen Schaneman reports that teachers do not feel the current set-up is inconvenient, and Dr. Dick offered Board Members an opportunity to ask questions of Dr. Schaneman or Mr. Rickey. Dr. Dick stated Mike Davies, Certified Water Operator, confirmed with the State of Nebraska the District's current plan to provide bottled water to students through the end of the 2026-2027 school year. Board Vice President Beth Merrigan addressed Dr. Schaneman, asking if she could comment on the daily operations at Lake Minatare. Dr. Schaneman responded that the situation had not been much of an issue, especially as the administration and Mr. Rickey were able to provide water bottles almost immediately. Dr. Schaneman also acknowledged the students can fill up their own water bottles from a five-gallon jug, which minimizes distractions caused by plastic water bottles, as well as trash. She stated their day-to-day functions have not been altered. Dr. Schaneman stated as soon as the issue was identified, signs were placed above sinks and fountains, and she then visited each classroom to ensure students understood not to drink the water.

## 12. Future Meetings and Dates to Remember

12.a. March 12, 2026 - End of 3rd Quarter

12.b. March 13, 2026 - ½ PD & ½ Workday - No School for Students

12.c. March 18, 2026 - Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:00-8:00 PM)

12.d. March 19, 2026 - Parent-Teacher Conferences (8:00 AM-8:00 PM) - No School for Students

12.e. March 20, 2026 - No School for Students & Staff

12.f. March 24, 2026 - ReConnect Graduation @ 5:30 PM - BMS Cafeteria

12.g. April 2-6, 2026 - No School for Students & Staff

12.h. April 7, 2026 - No School for PK-5 Students

12.i. April 13, 2026 - Regular Board of Education Meeting

13. Adjournment

The Regular Board of Education Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Motion to adjourn Passed with a motion by Beth Merrigan and a second by Tory Schwartz.

Mark Lang: Yea, Beth Merrigan: Yea, Robert Polk: Yea, Scott Reisig: Yea, Tory Schwartz: Yea, Paul Snyder: Yea