

Holdrege Public Schools

Board of Education Regular Meeting

August 17, 2026, 6:00 PM

Holdrege High School Media Center, 600 12th Avenue, Holdrege, NE 68949

- I. Call to Order - Roll Call
- II. Recognition of Visitors
 - II.A. HEA Report
 - II.B. Student Council Report
 - II.C. Public Forum
- III. Board of Education Committee Reports
- IV. Business Items
 - IV.A. Action Items
 - IV.A.1. Consent Agenda
 - IV.A.1.a. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Minutes - July 20, 2026 Regular Meeting
 - IV.A.1.b. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Warrants/Bills
 - IV.A.1.c. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Treasurer's Report
 - IV.A.1.d. Excuse Absent Board Members
 - IV.A.2. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Bill(s) from InSPIRe - Holdrege, LLC.
 - IV.A.3. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on Proposal for HHS Masonry Sealing
 - IV.A.4. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on Approval of the 2026-27 MOU and Addendum with Central Community College for Instructional Programs
 - IV.A.5. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on 2026-27 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Community Action Partnership of Mid Nebraska Head Start
 - IV.A.6. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on 2026-27 Agreement for Services at Axtell North Mosaic with Axtell Public Schools
 - IV.A.7. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on Proposed Revision of 2026-27 Extra Duty Assignments
 - IV.A.8. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Resignation of Classified/Noncertificated Staff
 - IV.A.9. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action on the Employment of Noncertificated Staff
- V. Reports
 - V.A. Administrative Reports
 - V.B. Superintendent's Report
- VI. Board Policies

VII. Adjournment

Instructions for those who wish to speak during Public Forum:

Getting Started: When it is your turn to speak during the public forum portion of the agenda, please come forward to the Board Secretary, complete the form provided with your name and any organization represented, as well as your address, and then state your name and any organization represented to the Board of Education.

Time Limit: You may speak only one time and must limit comments to 5 minutes or less.

Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at a Board meeting.

General Rules: Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of the business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Holdrege Board of Education

Monday, July 20, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

High School Media Center

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Holdrege Public Schools was convened in open session on Monday, July 20, 2026, at the High School Media Center at 6:00 p.m.

Notice of Meeting Posted 7/9/26 Holdrege Daily Citizen

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 in advance 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 may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was duly called to order.

Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting

At the beginning of this meeting, it was announced that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the meeting room and directed the public to its location.

The following board members were present: Teresa Kroll, Alex McClymont, Chris McQuillan, Samantha Minnick, Brian Rust, and Nick Wells. Also present were Todd Hilyard, Superintendent, Sandy Dunaway, Secretary, and Elizabeth Piening, Business Manager.

President Rust recognized visitors and invited comments for the public forum. He also noted that the Holdrege Board of Education generally meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm at the High School Media Center. All regular and special meetings of the Board are open to the public. Meeting notices are generally published in the Holdrege Citizen newspaper. The Board of Education also utilizes NASB SPARQ Meetings. The link to the online portal can be found on the website under the District tab on the Board of Education page.

Board committee reports were reviewed.

Motion by Wells, seconded by McQuillan, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2026 Regular Meeting
- b. Approve the Warrants/Bills
- c. Approve the Treasurer's Report
- d. Excuse Absent Board Members

On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Wells, seconded by Kroll, to approve payment of the bill from InSPIRe - Holdrege, LLC. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-abstained with conflict, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Wells, seconded by Minnick, to approve a resolution to increase the school district's property tax request authority by an additional six percent, as permitted by law, above the base growth percentage. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

The 2025-26 Student Fees Report was reviewed and included the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fees policies of the District for the 2025-26 school year. Motion by McQuillan, seconded by Rust, to approve the 2025-26 Student Fees Report. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

A public hearing was held to discuss, consider, and receive input on a proposed Student Fees Policy. The public was given the opportunity to present information and opinions on the proposed Student Fees Policy.

Following the hearing, motion by McClymont, seconded by Minnick, to adopt the revised Policy 5305 Student Fees for the 2026-27 school year, inclusive of Appendix "1". On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

The Attendance Policy was reviewed by the Board. Motion by McQuillan, seconded by Kroll, to adopt revised Policy 5008 Attendance be reaffirmed without alteration. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

The Bullying Policy was reviewed by the Board. Motion by Rust, seconded by McClymont, that the Board's current Anti-Bullying Policy 5415 be reaffirmed without alteration. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

A public hearing was held to discuss, consider, and receive input on the Parental Involvement Policy. The public was given the opportunity to present information and opinions on the Parental Involvement Policy.

Following the hearing, first reading was held for the proposed revision for Policy 6400 Parental Involvement. Motion by Minnick, seconded by McQuillan, to waive further reading and adopt revised Policy 6400 Parental Involvement, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Rust, seconded by McQuillan, to approve the following 2026-27 Handbooks: PK-12 Student-Parent; Teacher-Certificated Staff; Classified Staff; Coaches & Sponsors Supplement; and Substitute. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Minnick, seconded by McClymont, to accept the resignation of the following noncertificated staff: Kristin Eschen, paraeducator, effective July 6, 2026. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Minnick, seconded by McQuillan, to approve the proposed 2026-27 Extra Duty Assignments, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Administrative reports were reviewed.

Motion by McClymont, seconded by Minnick, to adopt revised Policy 5101 Student Discipline, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

The board reviewed 5417 School Wellness Policy and the current assessment. Motion by Minnick, seconded by McQuillan, to reaffirm 5417 School Wellness Policy, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by McQuillan, seconded by McClymont, to adopt revised Policy 6110 School Instructional Hours, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by McClymont, seconded by McQuillan, to adopt revised Policy 8155 School Foundation Committee, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Minnick, seconded by Wells, to rescind Policy 9200 Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Rust, seconded by Kroll, to rescind Policy 9210 Adoption & Amendment of Bylaws, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Minnick, seconded by McClymont, to rescind Policy 9230 Suspension of Policies, Bylaws, and Regulations, as presented. On roll call vote: Kroll-yes, McClymont-yes, McQuillan-yes, Minnick-yes, Rust-yes, Wells-yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on August 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Sandy Dunaway

Sandy Dunaway, Secretary
Holdrege Board of Education

Holdrege High School - Board Report
August 17, 2026
Jeremy Ham, Principal

1. **Orientation** – Orientation for freshmen and newly enrolled students was held on August 10th at 6:30 PM. Schedules were given out to the students as then arrived, then they were free to walk through schedules and test locker combinations. The evening finished with an orientation presentation in the gym at 7:00, the presentation lasted about 20 minutes. Student council representatives and staff were present to assist new students in learning where classrooms are located and to help with locker issues. All HHS students received orientation updates in their seminar period on the first day of school.
2. **Programs update:** The JAG, CNA, and Auto Tech. programs are maintaining positive numbers and remain viable and very productive programs for our students. The CNA class is full, and is already full for the second semester as well. These partnership programs have been fantastic additions to our student course offerings! We have a healthy number of previous CNA students working in our local nursing home and healthcare facilities.
3. **Facilities/Building** - The custodial staff had the building ready for students and staff well ahead of the first school day. James, Jason, and Robbie have done excellent work preparing for the year.
4. **Start of the school year:** The first two days of school went very well! We continue to notice a huge improvement with onboarding our new Freshmen, largely due to the consistency put in place at the middle school. Lacie Wright, Jake McLain, and staff have done great things in a short time that are noticed and appreciated as students have filtered up to the HHS.
5. **1st Day Enrollment**-The total HHS numbers are below, comparing the current and last 3 years: With a fairly small incoming 9th grade class of 64 replacing last year's graduating class of 78, our numbers have dropped.

Grade	23-24	24-25	25-26 Current	26-27 Current
9	93	85	72	64
10	78	98	83	68
11	76	77	93	78
12	72	80	78	88
12+	3	3	2	1
Total	322	343	328	299

Holdrege Public Schools
Special Education & Early Childhood Report
Director: Casey Klein
August 17, 2026

	Aug
Birth-3 years	10
3-5 years with IEP attending NON -HPS Preschool	1
3-5 years with IEP attending HPS preschool	5
Holdrege Elementary	79
Holdrege Middle School	62
Holdrege High School	41
Special Services Students	198
<i>3-5 without IEP Attending HPS Preschoolers</i>	24

Staffing Updates

We are excited to welcome several new staff members to the district for the 2026–2027 school year:

Certified

- Stacey Hofaker, Elementary Resource
- Stephanie Erickson, School Psychologist
- Hanna Swearingen, Preschool Teacher

Classified

- Tifani Sorensen, Middle School Special Education Para
- Tiffany Pelzer, Elementary Special Education Para
- Tami Littrell, Elementary Special Education Para
- Cheyanne Heins, Elementary Special Education Para
- Karianne Timmens, Elementary Special Education Para
- Lynn Kinnaman, Elementary Special Education Para
- Amanda Krause, Elementary Special Education Para

Academic Focused & Training

Elementary and Middle School special education teachers have been trained in SPIRE to support academic growth. Additionally, selected staff completed Crisis Prevention Interventions (CPI) and CPR certification. To comply with the Behavioral Awareness Training mandate, all staff were trained with Behavior Intervention Training (BITS) in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Special Education Support

School Psychologists:

- Kristin Dobish (ES/MS)
- Stephanie Erickson (MS/HS)

Mental Health/Counseling:

Our Licensed Mental Health Practitioner, Stef Neal, and building-level counselors Jessica Nedrig, Wendi Hadley, and Hana Mach are working together collaboratively to best support students in the school environment.

Birth to 5 Team

As we continue to contract with the ESU, our birth to age 5 team consists of Jayme Schroeder, Karen Space, Deb Komenda, and Amber Larson (Early Childhood Resource Teachers); Traci Ganser (Speech Pathologist); Sam Minnick (Physical Therapy); and Sarah Rimpley (Occupational Therapy). This team serves students ages birth to 5 in their homes, daycares, and preschools, and participates in the Planning Region Team.

Focused Monitoring/File Review Process

Progress on the file review continues, with all corrections scheduled for submission by August 31. Ongoing trainings and updates will take place during our Friday SPED building meetings. All Corrective Action Plan activities are on track to be completed by Winter Break.

Elementary Board Report
August 17, 2026
Holdrege Elementary School

Starting year 12 in the elementary building and just keeps getting better! Our custodial team Travis, Nathan, and Lisa made a great team. They put in a lot of work over the summer to make sure our building was ready for students and staff.

Kindergarten Visitation Day: On August 6, 2026 we welcomed the class of 2038. and had Kindergarten Visitation Day. It was a fairy tale theme. The Kindergarten Team had several activities for students to participate in and when their parents returned to pick them up they had a little song to sing for them. It is a great way for teachers to meet the students and allow the kindergarten students to feel comfortable in a new space prior to their first day of school.

Back to School Night- On August 11 2026, we had an open house style back-to-school event from 3:00-5:30. There were five times that parents and students could attend. This was done so according to the alphabetical last name. If it did not work at their designated time or they could not attend, we made arrangements with those families to come at another time. This plan gave teachers and families more time to connect with fewer numbers of people in the rooms at a time. We had an excellent turn out.

New Students: We have gained several new students in the last few weeks as well as some students transferred out.

Kindergarten	65
1st Grade	52
2nd Grade	65
3rd Grade	60
4th Grade	68
Total	310

Playground Update-Our new playground equipment is complete. Our students are excited for this new equipment. There are so many different additions on this playground to suit the needs of upper elementary students. Thank you to the HPS Board of Education for supporting this!





Fall Activities Parent's meeting was held at Holdrege High School on August 5th. We were fortunate to have Darin Boysen come speak and he was excellent. He shared the role of parents in sports. Parent turnout was low this year. Fall Activities sport-specific meetings were held throughout the High School and the Tassel following that meeting.

Lonnie, Sam, and Kyle were out to work with our athletes regarding ACL screening and establishing baseline concussion tests for our athletes. We are again using the SWAY program. It can be conducted by athletes simply following the steps on their cell phone.

Team photos and booster buttons were taken on August 14th after school.

Coaching assignments are nearly finalized, we have been working to fill remaining assignments.

Numbers for Fall Activities (140 total students in Fall Sports) # does not include Band
122 girls enrolled in HHS, 63 out for fall Sport 51% (40% for 2025)
125 boys enrolled in HHS, 65 boys out for Sport (52%) (45% for 2025)

	G Golf	Football	Softball	Volleyball	Cross Country	B Tennis
2022	7	54	7	25	13	14
2023	9	50	9	30	16	19
2024	14	44	9	34	19	15
2025	15	50	11	32	25	7
2026	14	39	11	28	24	11

- The Booster Club will feed all fall athletes, cheer, and band members after the football sports drink scrimmage on Thursday, August 20. Listed below, this year's booster club:



Board Report
Holdrege Middle School
Lacie Wright-Principal/Curriculum Coordinator
Jacob McLain-Assistant Principal/Assitant AD
August 17, 2026

- **Admin Days-** We attended administrator days in Kearney towards the end of July. Many sessions on the first day were on NDE updates which helped for the curriculum and assessment part of the job. The second day we attended many sessions on Middle school things like promoting accountability and discipline procedures. We made many connections and came back with several ideas.
- **CPI training-** Mr. McLain, Mr. Ham, and I all attended a CPI refresher training on August 6th to learn about Crisis Prevention.
- **Custodial summer work-** The building looks fantastic and ready for students and staff. The floors are shining and lockers are sparkling.
- **Open House-** Same format as last year. Instead of meeting in the gym, Mr. Reed made a slide show for us, with staff pictures and their names. It played on the TVs in the commons throughout the night for our guests to see. The students were greeted as they came in and then invited to go to their homeroom to find a packet and a scavenger hunt that had different stops around the school. This allowed for more movement and students went to talk to more than just the core teachers. Lots of great feedback from parents, students and staff. Based on the number of packets we had left at the end of the night, we had an excellent turnout. It seemed like a full house the entire time. Great feedback from the change in time.
- **First two days of school-** On the first day, students learned about the correct Middle School procedures and the Duster Way of doing things, this was on a rotation within their grade. The students rotated to each core teacher with the help of other staff. This allows all students and staff to be on the same page starting with expectations. The second day was a little more normal except during one of their periods, an assembly was held for each grade where students were taught about the smartpass program, proper technology use, and a mini field trip to the football field to go over fan etiquette.
- Current enrollment:
 - 5th grade 64
 - 6th grade 64
 - 7th grade 71
 - 8th grade 80
 - Total: 279
- Looking forward to this upcoming school year and hitting the ground running!

Superintendent's Report
8/17/2026

1. Welcome Back - We have had a very positive start to the 2026–27 school year. We welcomed 13 new teachers and one new JAG teacher to the district on August 4, followed by preopening activities for all staff beginning on August 10. I appreciate the work of our administrators and returning staff members who helped our new employees feel welcome and prepared.
2. Kudos to Summer Maintenance and Custodial Staff - I also want to recognize our custodial and maintenance staff. We were short-handed in several areas this summer, and a number of employees took on responsibilities beyond their normal assignments to make sure that our buildings were ready for students. Their flexibility and efforts were greatly appreciated.
3. Congrats to Ham & McLain - Congratulations are also in order for High School Principal Jeremy Ham, who was selected as the NSASSP Region IV Outstanding New Principal, and Middle School Assistant Principal/Assistant Activities Director Jacob McLain, who was selected as the Region IV Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year. Both recognitions reflect very positively on them and on Holdrege Public Schools.
4. 2026-27 Budget Development - From a budget standpoint, we are still awaiting final valuation information, which is expected by August 20. Once that information is received, Elizabeth and I will continue refining the 2026–27 budget and tax-request recommendations. We are also continuing to keep future facilities needs in mind, including the track and high school gym floor, as we consider the appropriate balance for the Special Building Fund. Our immediate priorities are to help students and staff settle into a successful school year, monitor operational needs, and complete the budget process over the next several weeks.