Wauneta-Palisade Board of Education Regular Meeting

Wauneta-Palisade School Central Office, 214 West Wichita, Wauneta, Nebraska
214 W Wichita Street
Wauneta, NE 69045

Friday, September 11, 2026 12:00 PM

Hondo Fanning: Present

John Jutten: Present

Laurie Maris: Present

Aaron McKinney: Present

Allison Sandman: Present

Marty Wheeler: Present

I. Call to Order

President Sandman called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm MT.

I.1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I.2. Posting Verification
I.3. Open Meeting Act Notice
I.4. Mission Statement
II. Roll Call
III. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Proposed Agenda
IV. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comments
V. Discussion Items
V.1. Review of Board Goals

Reviewed board goals, talked about HVAC gym improvements, outdoor speaker system, sound baffles for the gym, parking safety posts in north lot,

VI. Action Items

VI.1. Approval and Signing of August Minutes and Americanism Hearing

To approve and sign the minutes from 8/10/2026 regular meeting and the Americanism hearing Passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by John Jutten.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI.2. Approval of District Expenditures and Budget Reports

To accept the monthly budget reports as presented and approve the district expenditures of Payroll $356,458.75 , GF Accts Payable $101,507.52, for a total of $457,966.27. Passed with a motion by Hondo Fanning and a second by Aaron McKinney.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI.3. Approval of the 2026-2027 District Budget

To approve the 2026-2027 District Budget of Expenditures of General Fund $3,785,901.00, Special Building Fund $484,848.00, QCPUF $70,707.00 for a Total Budget of $4,341,456.00 Passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by John Jutten.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI.4. Adoption of 2026-2027 Tax Levy Request Resolution

To adopt the 2026-2027 district tax levy resolution for general fund levy of $0.678859, special building fund levy of $0.086939, QCPUF levy of $0.012679 for a total levy of $0.778477 Passed with a motion by John Jutten and a second by Marty Wheeler.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI.5. Adoption of LB 243 Resolution

To adopt LB 243 Resolution Passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by John Jutten.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI.6. Adoption of 1% Allowable Growth Resolution

To adopt 1% Allowable Growth resolution Passed with a motion by Hondo Fanning and a second by Marty Wheeler.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI.7. Appoint 2026-2027 Fiscal Agent

To appoint Randy Geier as our 2026-2027 fiscal agent for state and federal funds Passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by Aaron McKinney.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI.8. Approve North Star Negotiations Software

To approve North Star Negotiations software for 2027-2028 certificated staff negotiations Passed with a motion by Allison Sandman and a second by John Jutten.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI.9. Acceptance of Superintendent Resignation

To accept Randy Geier's superintendent resignation effective 6/30/2027 and thank him for the 15 years of service to the district Passed with a motion by Allison Sandman and a second by John Jutten.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VII. Policy Review
VIII. Administrative Reports
VIII.1. Superintendent Report

Geier shared that the school year is off to a great start, with professional development next Friday and great staff.

VIII.2. Principal Report
VIII.3. ESU 15 Report
VIII.4. NASB Report

Sandman shared that AAM was well attended and many members received level awards. Registration for State Conference opens 9/16, Thriving Children, Families and Communities Conference 9/22, Labor Relations 9/29-30, State Conference11/18-20

IX. Executive Session
IX.1. Enter into Executive Session
IX.2. Return to Open Session
X. Next Regular Meeting

Special meeting 9/24/2026 at 4:30 pm MT/5:30 pm CT
Regular meeting 10/12/2026 at 5 pm MT/6 pm CT

XI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 1:00 pm MT. Passed with a motion by Allison Sandman and a second by Aaron McKinney.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Wauneta-Palisade Public School (15-0563) in Chase County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 11 day of September, 2026 at 11:30 o'clock, AM MTN, at Wauneta Board Room, 214 W Wichita, Wauneta, NE 69045 for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk/Secretary during regular business hours. For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: https://nep.education.ne.gov

FUNDS	Actual Disbursements & Transfers 2024-2025 (1)	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers 2025-2026 (2)	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers 2026-2027 (3)	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
General	$ 5,504,043.00	$ 4,515,000.00	$ 6,421,312.00	$ 800,000.00	$ 3,473,270.00	$ 3,785,901.00
Depreciation	$ -	$ -	$ 316,056.00		$ 316,056.00	
Employee Benefit	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Contingency	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ -	
Activities	$ 271,966.00	$ 300,000.00	$ 395,000.00	$ -	$ 395,000.00	
School Nutrition	$ 311,004.00	$ 315,970.00	$ 575,000.00	$ -	$ 575,000.00	
Bond	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Special Building	$ 714,420.00	$ 1,210,331.00	$ 1,239,624.00		$ 759,624.00	$ 484,848.00
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	$ 215,928.00	$ 116,932.00	$ 264,858.00	$ -	$ 194,858.00	$ 70,707.00
Cooperative	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Student Fee	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
TOTALS	$ 7,017,361.00	$ 6,458,233.00	$ 9,211,850.00	$ 800,000.00	$ 5,713,808.00	$ 4,341,456.00

	Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
Breakdown of Property Tax	$ -	$ 4,341,456.00	$ 4,341,456.00

Notice of Special Hearing To Set Final Tax Request

Wauneta-Palisade Public School (15-0563) in Chase County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1632, that the governing body will meet on the 11 day of, September 2026 at 11:40 o'clock AM MTN, at Wauneta Board Room, 214 W Wichita, Wauneta, NE 69045 for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request.

	2025-2026	2026-2027	Change
Property Valuations	523,734,638	557,686,228	6%

	2025-2026 Budget Information				***2026-2027 Budget Information***				
Fund	2025-2026 Operating Budget	2025-2026 Property Tax Request	2025 Tax Rate	Property Tax Rate (2025-2026 Request **Divided By** 2026 Valuation)	2026-2027 Operating Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Property Tax Request	Proposed 2026 Tax Rate	Change in Tax Rate	Change in Operating Budget
General Fund	6,761,339.00	3,590,944.00	0.685642	0.643900	6,421,312.00	3,785,901.00	0.678859	-1%	-5%
Bond Fund(s) K - 12	-	-	0.000000	0.000000	-	-	0.000000	0%	0
Bond Fund(s) K - 8	-	-	0.000000	0.000000	-	-	0.000000	0%	0
Bond Fund(s) 9 - 12	-	-	0.000000	0.000000	-	-	0.000000	0%	0
Bond Fund _____	-	-	0.000000	0.000000	-	-	0.000000	0%	0
Special Building Fund	1,280,960.00	581,713.00	0.111070	0.104308	1,239,624.00	484,848.00	0.086939	-22%	-3%
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 12	299,555.00	71,606.00	0.013672	0.012840	264,858.00	70,707.00	0.012679	-7%	-12%
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 8	-	-	0.000000	0.000000	-	-	0.000000	0%	0
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund 9 - 12	-	-	0.000000	0.000000	-	-	0.000000	0%	0
Total	8,341,854.00	4,244,263.00	0.810384	0.761048	7,925,794.00	4,341,456.00	0.778477	-4%	-5%

BOARD RESOLUTION SETTING THE SYSTEM-WIDE TAX REQUEST AND PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR CHASE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTICT #15-0536, WAUNETA-PALISADE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, public notice was given by the Chase County School District #15-0536 a/k/a Wauneta-Palisade Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools, at least five days in advance of a special public hearing called for the purpose of determining the system-wide tax request of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools for the 2026-2027 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, such public hearing was held before the Board on September 11, 2026, as stated in the notice published in a newspaper of general circulation as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Board provided an opportunity to receive comment, information, and evidence from persons in attendance as such special hearing;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the final property tax request of the Board of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools should be and is hereby set at $ 3,785,901.00 for the General Fund; $484,848.00 for the Special Building Fund; and $70,707.00 for Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The final property tax levies for the Board of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools should be and hereby set at $0.678859 for the General Fund, $0.086939for the Special Building Fund, and $0.012679 for the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund

It is so moved by_____

and seconded by_____this 11th day of September, 2026.

Roll Call vote as follows:

Hondo Fanning	Yes	No	Absent
John Jutten	Yes	No	Absent
Laurie Maris	Yes	No	Absent
Aaron McKinney	Yes	No	Absent
Allison Sandman	Yes	No	Absent
Marty Wheeler	Yes	No	Absent

The undersigned herewith certifies as Secretary of the Board of Wauneta-Palisade Schools, that the above resolution was duly adopted by a majority of said Board at a duly constituted public meeting of said Board held on September 11, 2026.

_____
Secretary of the Board of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools

BOARD OF WAUNETA-PALISADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Board of Chase County School District #15-0536 a/k/a Wauneta-Palisade Public School Board of Education, hereinafter referred as Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools, believes it is in the best interest of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools to raise the restricted fund portion of the 2026-2027 General Fund by 1% over the restricted fund portion of the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget of Wauneta-Palisade Public School as allowed by law;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools be authorized in an amount of 1% over the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools, and that this resolution be adopted by an affirmative vote of 75% of the Board.

It is so moved by _____

And seconded by _____ this 11th day of September, 2026.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Hondo Fanning	Yes	No	Absent
John Jutten	Yes	No	Absent
Laurie Maris	Yes	No	Absent
Aaron McKinney	Yes	No	Absent
Allison Sandman	Yes	No	Absent
Marty Wheeler	Yes	No	Absent

The undersigned herewith certifies as Recording Secretary of the Board of Wauneta-Palisade Schools, that the above resolution was duly adopted by a majority of said board at a duly constituted public meeting of said Board held on September 11, 2026.

_____
Recording Secretary of the Board of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools

BOARD OF WAUNETA-PALISADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Board of Chase County School District #15-0536 a/k/a Wauneta-Palisade Public School Board of Education, hereinafter referred as Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools, believes it is in the best interest of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools to raise the restricted fund portion of the 2025-2026 General Fund by 1% over the restricted fund portion of the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget of Wauneta-Palisade Public School as allowed by law;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools be authorized in an amount of 1% over the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools, and that this resolution be adopted by an affirmative vote of 75% of the Board.

It is so moved by _____

And seconded by _____ this 11th day of September, 2026.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Hondo Fanning	Yes	No	Absent
John Jutten	Yes	No	Absent
Laurie Maris	Yes	No	Absent
Aaron McKinney	Yes	No	Absent
Allison Sandman	Yes	No	Absent
Marty Wheeler	Yes	No	Absent

The undersigned herewith certifies as Recording Secretary of the Board of Wauneta-Palisade Schools, that the above resolution was duly adopted by a majority of said board at a duly constituted public meeting of said Board held on September 11, 2026.

_____
Recording Secretary of the Board of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools

Principal's Report

September, 2026

The 2026–2027 school year has started with excitement. I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received from our students, staff, families, and community as I begin my role as PK–12 Principal. I appreciate our staff's support and willingness to work together to make the beginning of the school year a positive experience for our students.

Staff members worked hard during our in-service days to prepare classrooms, establish routines, collaborate with colleagues, and prepare for students. Professional development and staff conversations have focused on supporting student learning and building a positive school culture.

One of my priorities this year is to continue developing a collaborative culture in which staff members feel supported, valued, and comfortable sharing ideas and concerns. I look forward to working with our teachers and staff throughout the year to strengthen instruction and student achievement.

Student learning will remain at the center of our work this year. We will continue to use student data to identify areas of strength and areas where additional support may be needed. As we move through the next month, I will be spending time in classrooms, talking with teachers and students, and learning more about the instructional practices happening throughout our school.

Building positive relationships with students is an important part of this work. I want our students to know that adults in our school care about them, believe in them, and expect them to do their best. We will continue working to create a school environment where students feel safe, connected, and ready to learn.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the last few weeks of September and the beginning of October, my priorities will include:

- Continuing to build relationships with students, staff, families, and community members
- Visiting classrooms and learning more about instruction across the PK–12 system
- Reviewing student achievement and assessment data
- Working collaboratively with teachers to identify instructional priorities

I am excited about the school year ahead and grateful for the opportunity to serve the students, staff, families, and community. There are many strengths within our school, and I look forward to building on those strengths as we work together to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

Celebrations

The staff and students at W/P are worth bragging about! Below are some data I thought were worth sharing.



For more information about the AQuESTT rating scales, please visit https://aquestt.com/

Michelle Williams
WaPa Principal