

Scottsbluff Board of Education Special Meeting

Friday, September 11, 2026 3:00 PM

Scottsbluff Public Schools District Office Conference Room
2617 College Park
Scottsbluff, NE 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 Special Board Meeting was called to order by Board President Scott Reisig at 3:00 PM.

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 Thursday, September 3, 2026, and on the Scottsbluff Public Schools website on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

4. Adopt Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda Passed with a motion by Paul Snyder and a second by Mark Lang.

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

5. New Business

5.a. Additional Base Growth Resolution

Motion to approve the Additional Base Growth Resolution as presented. 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

6. Public Comment - a total of 120 minutes will be allotted (no more than 5 minutes per speaker)

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Board of Education.

7. Adjourn

The Board of Education Meeting was adjourned at 3:09 PM.

Motion to adjourn Passed with a motion by Tory Schwartz and a second by Paul Snyder.

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



Advertising Affidavit

Account Number: 1045259

Date: September 03, 2026

E-mail

rtrue@sbps.net

Reagan True
Attn PAYABLES
1722 1ST AVE
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69361

Date	Category	Description	Ad Size	Total Cost
9/3/2026	Legal Notices	SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION I	1 x 37.00 CL	20.18

Published by

I, (the undersigned) an authorized representative of the **Scottsbluff Star Herald**, a newspaper published in **Scottsbluff, NE**, do certify that the annexed notice

SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATIO

was published in said newspaper on the following
09/03/2026

The first insertion being given ... **9/3/2026**

Newspaper reference: **0000462919-01**

Cols: 1.00 ad width: 1.55 ad depth: 3.34

Sworn to and subscribed before me this **Thursday, September 3, 2026**

Billing Representative

Notary Public

RICHARD A HUNDLEY
NOTARY PUBLIC
REG. #7904041

State of Virginia COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
County of ~~Harmon~~ MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2028
My Commission expires

THIS IS NOT A BILL. PLEASE PAY FROM INVOICE. THANK YOU

**SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the Board of Education for the School District of Scottsbluff, in the county of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, will be held at 3:00 PM, Friday, September 11, 2026 at the Scottsbluff Public Schools Education Center, 2617 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. The meeting agenda, kept continuously current, will be available for inspection on the Scottsbluff Public Schools website www.sbps.net. Agenda items may be subject to Closed Session. Agenda items are subject to change up until 24 hours prior to the meeting. Sequence of the agenda may be adjusted; please attend the entire meeting.

NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3405, that the Board of Education for Scottsbluff Public Schools will meet on the 11th day of September, 2026, at 3:00 PM at the Scottsbluff Public Schools Education Center, 2617 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE 69361, to discuss, consider and possibly vote to approve an increase in the school district's base growth percentage up to an additional five percent, or other maximum amount as permitted by law, above the base growth percentage.

Published in the Star-Herald
Scottsbluff, NE
September 3, 2026

2026-2027 Property Tax Request Authority

Strategic Priority #3

In alignment with District Priorities, Scottsbluff Public Schools will Invest in Upgraded Facilities and Infrastructure.

Defining Objectives

- 3.1 - Strategically address aging elementary facilities
- 3.2 - Create short-and-long term infrastructure plans
- 3.4 - Maximize finances to meet all facility needs

Modernization Now Complete

Since 2021 we have invested

\$9.77M

on the Elementary
Modernization Project without
the need for a bond issue.

If we had spread that out over the 6 years, that would be \$1.63M/year, which would translate into a levy of 7.7¢ each year based on the 2025 valuation. This would be \$77 per \$100K of valuation.

- 95 Classrooms Updated
- 1,665 Student Desks Purchased
- 103 New Clear Touch Interactive Displays

Impacting:

- 1,281 Students
- 239 Staff

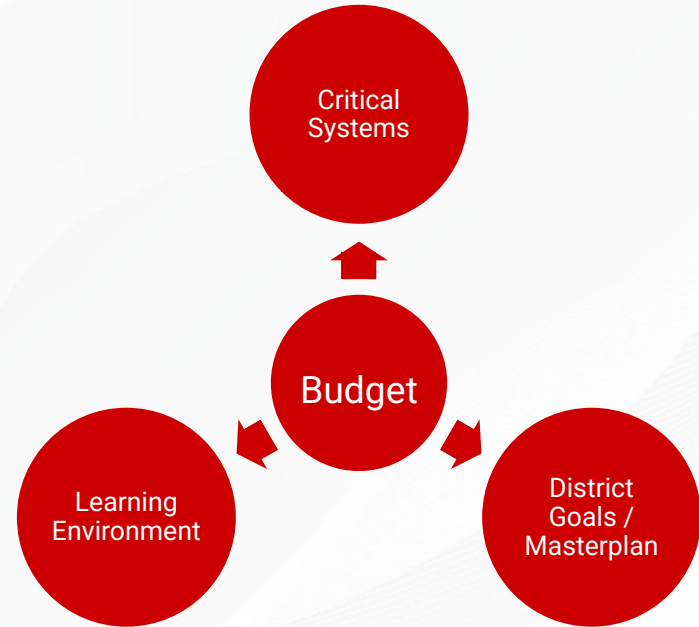
Facility Condition Assessment

Conducted by BCDM Architects
June 2026

CRITICAL LIST - PRIORITIES

HOW DO WE RECOMMEND PRIORITIZING SCOPE?

- **Prioritize Student Learning Environments**
- **Prioritize Critical Systems Most Likely To Cause Additional Damage if not Resolved that Impact Your School Day**
 - Mainly MEP Systems
 - Extremely Critical Paving/Drainage Issues
 - Extremely Critical Roof Issues
- **Master planning / Additional Improvements/Goals**
 - Any long-term plans to consider?
 - Any other improvements – bundle work?



BCDM Facilities Condition Assessment

1 – Critical Replacement / Repairs Needed:

- May result in intermittent operation, rapid deterioration, associated damage, increased future cost, or critical life-safety concerns.
- These items should generally be considered within the next 0–3 years.

2 – Moderate Replacement / Repairs Needed:

- Showing predictable deterioration or approaching the end of their practical service life.
- May create future operational concerns or require attention within the next 4–10 years.

3 – No or Minimal Replacement / Repairs Needed:

- New, recently replaced, or appear to require little to no repair or replacement within the next 10 years.



CRITICAL PRIORITIES & LONG-TERM PLANNING

- **HVAC:**

- Prioritize getting ventilation systems active.
- May be able to repair/maintain some systems in the short term and budget out for full replacement later.

- **Roofs:**

- Critical roofs can be phased over an extended timeframe.
- Balance of condition and warranty.

- **Other Costs / Considerations:**

- Track Resurfacing: \$350-400K
 - Not in original assessment.
- Long-term goals/plans for:
 - Splash Building, Hunts Acres, Bearcat Stadium, etc.

\$TBD - \$2.6M

HVAC Repairs, or
Replacements at
Main Facilities

\$1.3 M

Priority 1 Roofing

\$3.2M

Priority 2 Roofing
(Future)

\$1.1M

Ancillary
Buildings

Facilities Condition Assessment

- Critical Replacement - \$8.2M (does not include resurfacing the track - \$450K)
 - Roofs - \$4.3M
 - HVAC - \$2.3M
- *“Based on our assessment, it is clear that the Scottsbluff Public Schools District has made thoughtful investments in its facilities. When we conduct facility assessments, we often find critical needs across all the primary building systems. It stood out to us that the district has already addressed several important infrastructure needs in facilities that are well positioned for long-term use. Upgrades to electrical and technology infrastructure along with continued attention to building finishes, address infrastructure needs while having a direct impact on the student learning environment. While there are still important infrastructure needs to plan for, the district has done a good job of directing resources toward facilities and improvements that are best positioned to provide long-term value.” - BCDM Architects*

Considerations

- What was prioritized in the elementary modernization?
 - Mission: In a fiscally prudent, systemic and future focused manner, to improve the quality of teaching and learning for students and staff at our elementary schools
 - Safe, secure learning environment
 - Welcoming environment for students, parents, and community
 - Classrooms designed for flexibility and future instructional needs
 - Integration of technology
 - Efficient, pleasing working environment for staff
- Changes in the scope of the Elementary Modernization project addressed items such as electrical updates, safety and security updates, and fire suppression at Westmoor, that would have been identified as critical needs in this assessment.

Current Budget and Tax Authority

The District's combined Levy has dropped from \$1.2933 in 2022-23 to \$0.8514 in 2025-26. That is a savings of \$441.90 per \$100K in valuation for Scottsbluff taxpayers!



PROPERTY TAX SAVINGS CALCULATOR

See how much a Scotts Bluff County property has saved over the last few years as the district's levy has come down, using assessed valuations pulled live from Nebraska Taxes Online.

Address

e.g. 2610 Broadway, Scottsbluff

— OR —

Owner name

e.g. Smith, Jane

LOOK UP SAVINGS



SCOTTSBLUFF
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY

2024-2025 Budget Reductions

2024-2025 Budget Reductions	
General Fund Reserves	\$ 1,040,000
Elementary Science Positions (4)	\$ 360,000
ESSER Paras	\$ 125,000
Lake Minatare Teacher (1)	\$ 90,000
Assistant Database Analyst	\$ 65,000
Consistent Planning - Eliminate K-2 Planning	\$ 54,000
Learning Loss Groups	\$ 25,000
Everyday Sub	\$ 17,000
SHS - Extra Day Contracts (20 days)	\$ 12,000
SHS - 2 Semesters of Overloads	\$ 12,000
Total	\$ 1,800,000

2025-2026 Budget Reductions

2025-2026 Budget Reductions	
General Fund Reserves	\$979,000
Elementary Teacher - Lincoln Heights	\$95,500
Elementary Teacher - Westmoor	\$95,500
Comp in Lieu Reduction - SHS	\$42,000
PK Extended Care (YMCA will be taking over in 2025-2026)	\$28,000
Lake Minatare Para	\$26,000
Roosevelt Para	\$26,000
Reduction of Student Teacher Stipend	\$8,000
Total	\$ 1,300,000

2026-2027 Budget Reductions

2026-2027 Budget Reductions	
Lake Minatare Closure**	\$750,000
Paraprofessionals (2 SHS, LH, & WE)	\$103,200
Westmoor Teacher	\$98,000
Reduction of Seats at Scottsbluff Plus	\$79,410
Administrator Reduction**	\$59,000
SHS Teacher FTE Reduction	\$49,000
Total	\$1,138,610

How do we compare to the 242 other school districts in Nebraska?

- Scottsbluff Public Schools ranks number one in General Fund Levy reduction from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- Scottsbluff Public Schools ranks fifth in overall levy reduction from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- Even with an additional 10 cents we will have reduced our levy more than 229 other school districts in Nebraska.

Source: [Statistical Information for Public School Districts \(levy and valuation information\) – Nebraska Department of Education](#). Calculation does not include districts unable to be calculated due to consolidation and districts who do not have authority to levy general/building fund property taxes.

How would the resolution impact taxpayers?

- Total Additional Property Tax Authority (5%) = \$2,186,810
 - School Property Tax Credit would help offset the additional property tax authority.
For 2025, the property tax credit was 28% which would be \$612,307.
- Impact per \$100K of valuation = \$98.81
- Even with adding an additional 9.88 cents to our tax authority we will have reduced our levy more than 230 other school districts in Nebraska.

Property Tax Valuations and Tax Asking

Year	Valuation	% Increase	Levy	Tax Asking
2026/27*	2,213,240,462	4.45	0.9372	20,742,183
2025/26	2,118,849,452	9.49	0.8514	18,041,351
2024/25	1,935,139,105	5.04	0.9177	17,758,548
2023/24	1,842,347,405	9.52	1.1722	21,596,503
2022/23	1,681,393,654	3.69	1.2933	21,755,666
2021/22	1,622,230,435	2.45	1.3153	21,336,686
2020/21	1,583,350,523	0.86	1.3153	20,825,449
2019/20	1,569,858,513	2.10	1.3153	20,647,859
2018/19	1,537,556,341	1.33	1.3153	20,223,112
2017/18	1,517,312,376	8.41	1.3153	19,956,817

*Should the 5% be approved. Bond Levy would maintain at 14¢ and QCPUF at 3¢.

If we were still at the \$1.3153 levy, the tax asking would be \$29,110,752.

Rationale for Recommendation

- In alignment with our strategic plan, we are seeking Board approval to request an additional 5% in Property Tax Authority in order to secure the necessary funds to execute a short-term and long-term facility plan.
- This plan has been developed to fund critical repairs without the need for a bond issue.
- Not passing the resolution will leave us vulnerable to catastrophic HVAC failure or roofing related building damage.
- Budget cuts to provide these updates will adversely affect classrooms, instruction, and staffing and not align with our budget priority of maintaining financial cash reserves in accordance with Nebraska State Statute.
- This levy authority may not be available in future years.
- 2026 LB 1219 would have put a 2% cap on allowed property tax asking.

Nebraska Budget Headlines

**Pillen promises no big government as
Nebraska faces ballooning budget shortfall**

**Nebraska lawmakers on track to fill 2 separate
deficits in 2027 session**

Nebraska budget hole grows to over \$1 billion, with 5
months before next legislative session

**Property tax relief swamps all other state
spending in Nebraska**

Recommendation

Approve the resolution to increase the school district's base growth percentage by 5%.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Nebraska Law generally limits a public school district's base growth percentage, subject to limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3405 includes an exception to generally allow a school district to otherwise exceed the base growth percentage if at least seventy percent of the Board of Education votes in favor of the increased request; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education of a school district with an average daily membership of more than three thousand forty-four students but no more than ten thousand students may increase its base growth percentage by up to an additional five percent above the base growth percentage; and

WHEREAS, the average daily membership of Scotts Bluff County School District Number 79-32, a/k/a Scottsbluff Public Schools (the "School District") is more than three thousand forty-four students but no more than ten thousand students; and

WHEREAS, due to student and staffing needs, and the need to maintain its budgetary obligations, the Board of Education of the School District hereby desires to increase its base growth percentage by up to an additional five percent or other maximum amount as permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, public notice of this possible increase was published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the School District at least one week prior to this Board meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3405, at least seventy percent of the Board of Education of this School District affirmatively votes to increase to the School District's overall base growth percentage by up to an additional five percent above the base growth percentage, or other maximum amount as permitted by law. The Superintendent or designee is hereby authorized and directed to take any action consistent with this Resolution to ensure that the School District's overall property tax request complies with this Resolution.

The foregoing Resolution having been read in its entirety, Member _____ moved for their passage and adoption. Member _____ seconded same. After discussion and on roll call vote the following members voted in favor of passage and adoption of the above Resolution:

_____.

The following members voted against the same:

_____.

The following members were absent or not voting:

_____.

The above Resolution having been consented to by at least seventy percent of the Members of the Board of Education, it was declared as passed and adopted by the President at a duly held and lawfully convened meeting in full compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings law.

DATED this ____ day of August, 2026.

SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BY:

President

ATTEST:

Secretary