

Committee on American Civics Meeting

Mission: "Engaging All Learners to Achieve Success"

The Committee on American Civics Meeting started at 5:30 PM on Monday, August 18, 2025. The meeting was held at Kramer Education Center
2410 16th Street, Suite A
Columbus, NE 68601

Candace Becher: Absent

Michael Jeffries: Present

Doug Molczyk: Absent

Theresa Seipel: Present

Douglas Willoughby: Absent

Marv Zoucha: Present

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD

III. EXCUSE BOARD MEMBERS

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. NOTICE OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

V.A. President ensures all can hear proceedings

VI. COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CIVICS MEETING

Teresa Hausemann, Director of Teaching and Learning, said that CPS District meets the four requirements. The committee is required to hold two meetings per year. This is the first one, the next meeting will include teachers coming forward with evidence. Mrs. Hausemann also shared that all the curriculum standards are met.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn Passed with a motion by Theresa Seipel and a second by Marv Zoucha.
Michael Jeffries: Yea, Theresa Seipel: Yea, Marv Zoucha: Yea
The meeting adjourned at 5:39.

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified Secretary for the School District No. 1 of Columbus, Nebraska, certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting of Monday, August 18, 2025.

President

Secretary

Columbus Public Schools Board of Education
Committee on American Civics
Statute 79-724
August 18, 2025

It is the responsibility of society to ensure that youth are given the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens to ensure a strong, stable, just, and prosperous America. Such a citizenry necessitates that every member thereof be knowledgeable of our nation's **history, government, geography, and economic system**. The youth in our state should be committed to the ideals and values of our country's democracy and the constitutional republic established by the people. Schools should help prepare our youth to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. Civic competence is necessary to sustain and improve our democratic way of life and must be taught in all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools. **A central role of schools is to impart civic knowledge and skills that help our youth to see the relevance of a civic dimension for their lives. Students should be made fully aware of the liberties, opportunities, and advantages we possess and the sacrifices and struggles of those through whose efforts these benefits were gained.** Since young people are most susceptible to the acceptance of principles and doctrines that will influence them throughout their lives, it is one of the first duties of our educational system to conduct its activities, choose its textbooks, and arrange its curriculum in such a way that the youth of our state have the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil American citizens.

School District's Requirements:

1. BOE forms a Committee on American Civics: Mr. Jeffryes, Ms. Seipel & Mr. Molczyk
2. Hold at least two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted;
 - Meeting 1: August 18, 2025 (Education Committee)
 - Meeting 2: January 12, 2026 BOE
 - Teachers from different grade levels will present their curriculum, assessment samples, and patriotic school traditions
3. Ensure and approve K-12 Social Studies Curriculum is aligned to the NE Social Studies Standards
 - Fall of 2019 BOE approved the 2019 NE Social Studies Standards
 - Spring of 2020 BOE approved the CPS K-12 Social Studies Curriculum & Resources
 - Ensured the curriculum includes the rights, responsibilities and duties of citizenship
 - Nebraska Social Studies Standards will be revised starting in the Spring of 2025 with a target completion date of Fall 2026
4. Provide required Social Studies Courses:
 - Grades K-8
 - Grade 9: Geography
 - Grade 10: World History
 - Grade 11: US History
 - Grade 12: American Government & Economics