

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Tuesday, May 12, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. The following board members were present or absent:

Byron Hall: Present, Ryan Harris: Present, Samantha Johnson: Present, Tyler Kirkholm: Present, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Present, Paul Tighe: Present.

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Lefdal, Principal Abbie Uhl, Principal Jake Brand, and Board Secretary Amy Brand

Visitors present: Several

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

I. Opening the Meeting

I.A. Call Meeting to Order and Notification of Open Meeting Law

I.A.i. Posted in the room

I.A.ii. Publication of Meeting was provided according to 84-1411

I.B. District Mission Statement:

II. Board Member Roll Call

All members present.

III. Excuse Absent Board Members

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Approval of the Agenda and changes to the Agenda

Motion was made by Dr. Kristina Nelsen and seconded by Samantha Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Yea, Dr.

Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

VI. Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Ryan Harris to approve all items presented on the Consent Agenda. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion

carried

Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Yea, Dr.

Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

VI.A. Approval of Minutes from the April regular meeting

VI.B. Approve claims and accounts

VI.C. Approve resignations

VI.D. Approve new hires

VII. Public Comment

Community members expressed concerns regarding the early end to the school year.

Additional concerns were raised about the potential impact of reducing instructional days on efforts to improve testing scores.

VIII. Information Items: Reports

VIII.A. Administrator reports

Students and staff continue to enjoy the Homer Knights Summer Countdown activities as the school year wraps up. Knights in Action Day was held on May 11 and provided valuable opportunities for community service and positive connections between elementary and secondary students. Preschool Graduation was successfully held on May 12, and the Elementary Track Meet will also take place this week. NSCAS and ACT testing data showed areas of growth and areas for continued focus, with official results embargoed until Fall 2026. At the secondary level, the Middle School Achievement and Awards Ceremony and Poetry Open Mic Night are taking place this week, while several students were recognized for outstanding achievements in fine arts, sportsmanship, and athletics. The recent 5th/6th Grade Transition Day was also well received, with many 5th grade students reporting they felt more comfortable and prepared for middle school following the experience.

VIII.B. Superintendent report

We secured a partnership with CNOS for an athletic trainer to provide weekly check-ins and coverage for home football, wrestling, and track events, which is a great foot in the door for expanding student support services. Work continues on next year's professional development schedule and the development of the Homer Virtual Academy. Extra duty assignments are nearly complete, with only a few openings remaining. Our FAFSA completion report is in good standing.

IX. Discussion Items

IX.A. Roger Heck Insurance Update

Roger Heck updated the Board on our school's insurance policy renewal. The annual premium will increase by \$10,612 (7.56%). The driving factor for the increase in premium was the addition of five buses. A significant change to the policy is implementing a 1% wind/hail deductible which applies to the main school building. More options will be looked into for insurance to save premium costs.

IX.B. Policy Updates- First Reading

Dr. Lefdal explained the policy updates to the board.

X.Action Items

X.A.Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the purchase of 2026 Chevy Suburban for \$20,500 with trade-in.

Our Grey passenger van was traded in for a 2026 Chevy Suburban. Our Transportation Director, Larry Blair, did a great job of finding this vehicle for us at the lowest cost possible.

Motion was made by Dr. Kristina Nelsen and seconded by Ryan Harris to approve the purchase of 2026 Chevy Suburban for \$20,500 with trade-in. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Yea, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

X.B.Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the 2026-27 Student Handbooks

Several changes were made to the secondary portions of the handbook. Secondary schedules will also be added.

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Dr. Kristina Nelsen to approve the 2026-27 Student Handbooks. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Yea, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

X.C.Consider, discuss, and take action to set substitute pay for 2026-27 school year.

Sub pay will increase by \$5 for the initial substitute pay tier (Days 1-20), bringing the total daily pay for this tier to \$150. The remaining pay tiers will stay the same:

- Days 21-50: \$160 per day
- Days 51+: \$190 per day

Long-term substitute pay (beginning on Day 11) will remain at \$234.84 per day.

Motion was made by Tyler Kirkholm and seconded by Ryan Harris to set substitute pay for 2026-27 school year. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

Byron Hall: Abstain (With Conflict), Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Yea, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

XI.Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00p.m.

XII.Adjournment

Motion was made by Dr. Kristina Nelsen and seconded by Samantha Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Yea, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Dated this Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

ATTEST:
Dr. Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

Dakota County School District #31R
a/k/a Homer Community School
BY: Paul Tighe, President