

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Tuesday, April 14, 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. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Excuse Absent Board Members

V. Approval of the Agenda and changes to the Agenda

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Byron Hall 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 March regular meeting

VI.B. Approve claims and accounts

VI.C. Approve resignations

VII. Public Comment

It was shared with the Board that the rejection of the Knife River project may impact the district's future taxable growth.

VIII. Information Items: Reports

VIII.A. Administrator reports

Casey Tremayne and Joy Gonzalez presented to the board about the different ways they are currently co-teaching with 6th grade students.

Mrs. Uhl and Mr. Brand shared updates highlighting a busy and successful spring across the district, with a strong focus on student transitions, celebrations, and upcoming events. Plans are in place to support 5th graders transitioning to 6th grade through orientation activities, panels, and an open house for families. At the elementary level, events like the spring concert, Kindergarten Round Up with 21 participating families, and a well-attended Title I Read-In reflect strong community engagement. Students are actively participating in NSCAS testing, with additional assessments like AIMSweb to be scheduled, and upcoming events include the elementary track meet and preschool graduation. At the secondary level, student scheduling for next year is underway, ACT data analysis is forthcoming, and key milestones like senior trip, last day, and graduation are approaching. Extracurriculars are thriving, with spring sports in full swing, notable track performances, and strong representation and success at the SkillsUSA State Competition. The district continues to build strong momentum as the school year progresses, with a clear focus on supporting students and preparing them for a successful finish.

VIII.B. Superintendent report

Discussion was held regarding holding off on budget amendments until June to allow for more accurate financial projections. The administration reported that \$170,000 has been repaid to the QCPUF, which was viewed as a very positive step for the district's financial position. Board members were asked to indicate their availability for graduation. Information was shared on the ACT recovery course. Updates to the student handbook were discussed, including recent library changes. The administration is currently seeking bids for the potential trade-in of the grey van. Enrollment stands at 452 students, with 3 new students and no withdrawals, and attendance remains at 95%. An update was also provided on chronic absenteeism data and ongoing recovery efforts.

VIII.C. NRCSA Report

Kristina Nelsen shared information about the NRCSA conference she attended. The conference had very good speakers and great information on many topics. She highly recommended other board members participate in the future.

## IX. Discussion Items

### IX.A. Academic Content Standards for reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies

Dr. Lefdal presented information on Academic Content Standards, which needs to be presented yearly.

### IX.B. 2026-27 Professional Development Plan

Dr. Lefdal shared that the three administrators will develop a professional development plan for the 2026-2027 school year and present it in June. He said it will be heavy in curriculum work on the elementary side and heavy on standards work on the secondary side.

### IX.C. Legislative Update

A legislative update was provided, noting that while limited education-related bills were passed this session. Ongoing monitoring and advocacy efforts will remain a priority to ensure the district is prepared for any changes and continues to communicate the potential impact on students, staff, and the community.

### IX.D. Summer Maintenance

Dr. Lefdal shared we are going to keep summer projects small this year. Do some deep cleaning, painting, and small projects around the building. We will hold costs down as much as possible.

### IX.E. Ag Update

Mr. Jerabek shared several strong ideas for next year's coursework and described activities currently taking place in his classes. He anticipates that student interest in agriculture classes will increase next year. He also outlined opportunities available to students prior to establishing an FFA chapter. Additionally, there appears to be significant community support for starting an FFA chapter in the near future. A public interest meeting will be held at the end of the school year to discuss the potential launch of an FFA chapter.

### IX.F. Review ELL Program

This is a yearly review on our English Language Learner program. Dr. Lefdal discussed our program and how we monitor how students are growing in this area.

### IX.G. Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Dr. Lefdal discussed the possibility of changing how we recognize our top graduating students to provide more scholarship opportunities for students with excellent and similar GPA's and ACT scores.

### IX.H. Scheduling Update

Dr. Lefdal shared the 26-27 schedule is coming together nicely and nearly completed.

### IX.I. Virtual High School Update

Dr. Lefdal discussed an opportunity to generate income for the school by offering a virtual online high school. This will be discussed at a later date.

## X. Action Items

### X.A. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the class of 2026 graduation list

Motion was made by Dr. Kristina Nelsen and seconded by Samantha Johnson to approve the class of 2026 graduation list. 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 accept contract renewals for certificated staff

Motion was made by Dr. Kristina Nelsen and seconded by Byron Hall to accept contract renewals for certificated staff. 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 approve the Mid year policy updates

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Dr. Kristina Nelsen to approve the Mid year policy updates. 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

XI.Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.

XII.Adjournment

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Ryan Harris to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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, April 14, 2026.

ATTEST:  
Dr. Kristina Nelsen  
Secretary

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