

**Cozad Community Schools
Board of Education Budget Hearing
Monday, September 15, 2025 7:00 PM
Office of the Superintendent**

Mission: Cozad Community Schools, in partnership with family and community, prepares students to be successful lifelong learners through quality education.

Vision: Cozad Creates Success

Values - Guiding Principles

Respect - Trust, appreciate, celebrate, value, act with urgency

Integrity - Do the right thing, deliver highest quality instruction and practice full accountability

Teamwork - Teamwork at all levels districtwide, recognize and celebrate, have fun and enjoy

Innovation - Positive attitude, open to new ideas,

Courage - Embrace change and take calculated risk, encourage others, communicate directly with respect

1. BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING 7:00 P.M.

1.1. Call to Order, Roll Call

1.2. Nebraska Open Meeting Law, Publication of Meeting

This meeting has been preceded by advance notice and is hereby declared to be in open session. A current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the West wall of the meeting room.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance by publication in the Cozad Local and posted on the Cozad Community Schools website and at the District Office, Cozad Post Office and Wilson Public Library. Notice of this meeting was also given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. The order of agenda items may be changed when deemed necessary.

The board may choose to enter closed (executive) session to discuss any matter for which closed (executive) session is lawful and appropriate.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board of Education invites you to offer comments during the public comments portion of the agenda. This is the portion of the meeting when members of the public may speak to the board.

We have _____ speakers who have signed up to speak. We will allow ___ minutes per speaker for a total of _____ minutes.

During the public comment portion of this meeting, those who have signed up need to be allowed to speak without interruption for the time allotted by the Board. We understand that people may have strong feelings about the issues they come to speak about. We ask that you respect the opinions of all who speak and that you refrain from applause, conduct that interferes with the Board meeting, or other outbursts during the presentations. Offensive language, vulgar personal attacks, or hostile conduct will not be tolerated. If the Board President determines any statement or comment constitutes offensive language, a vulgar personal attack, or hostile conduct, then the Board President will rule the person out of order, and the person forfeits any remaining time. You should be further advised that there is no legal protection for any comments that are made, including slanderous comments. Each person should choose their words carefully.

The Board is not obligated to respond to public comments or questions because such dialogue could violate the Open Meetings Act.

During the meeting, including during public comment, comments, outbursts, or interruptions from the audience will not be tolerated. After public comment, the Board will conduct its business. Remember that this is a public meeting, not a meeting of the public. Individuals wishing to speak must do so during public comment. Any attendee who chooses to interrupt Board business will be deemed out of order and may be asked to leave. Refusal to do so may result in removal.

The board needs to be allowed to conduct our business in this public setting uninterrupted. Any questions or concerns that arise from this meeting can be addressed via phone or email to the administration or Board after the meeting has concluded.

If the subject of your public comment is related to a particular student or staff member, we ask that you not mention the student or staff member by name in the public session. The Board has a complaint procedure in policy, and the Board will not respond to or consider any complaints unless and until an individual follows the complaint policy.

As a reminder, under the Open Meetings Act, the Board of Education is legally obligated to require any member of the public desiring to address the Board to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization you may represent. As a result, please state and spell your first and last name, state your current address, and let us know if you are here representing any particular organization before you begin your public comment.

It is now _____ p.m. Our first speaker _____

3. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Cozad Community Schools (24-00011) in Dawson 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 15th day of September, 2025 at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., at District Office Board of Education Room 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	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026			
General	\$ 14,001,459.00	\$ 15,502,000.00	\$ 17,848,007.00		\$ 8,043,006.00	\$ 9,904,041.00
Depreciation	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 2,201,755.00		\$ 2,201,755.00	
Employee Benefit	\$ 9,823.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 28,743.00		\$ 28,743.00	
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Activities	\$ 533,876.00	\$ 575,000.00	\$ 998,149.00		\$ 998,149.00	
School Nutrition	\$ 1,041,596.00	\$ 950,000.00	\$ 1,156,704.00		\$ 1,156,704.00	
Bond	\$ 1,527,341.00	\$ 2,136,233.00	\$ 4,917,789.00		\$ 3,017,789.00	\$ 1,919,192.00
Special Building	\$ 11,839,200.00	\$ 3,400,000.00	\$ 696,286.00		\$ 301,286.00	\$ 398,990.00
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	\$ 1,931,953.00	\$ 245,740.00	\$ 304,090.00		\$ 24,090.00	\$ 282,828.00
Cooperative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Student Fee	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,807.00		\$ 10,807.00	
TOTALS	\$ 30,885,248.00	\$ 23,325,973.00	\$ 28,162,330.00	\$ -	\$ 15,782,329.00	\$ 12,505,051.00

Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
Breakdown of Property Tax \$ 2,202,020.00	\$ 10,303,031.00	\$ 12,505,051.00

Revenue Summary Report				
GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 Estimated	2025-26 Projected
Local Property Taxes	\$7,584,726	\$8,319,088	\$6,980,000	\$6,860,000
Cash Balance- Placeholder	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Carline Taxes	\$18,656	\$20,003	\$20,000	\$20,000
Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$471,487	\$526,291	\$500,000	\$500,000
Tuition From Individuals Reg Education	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,000
Tuition From Other School Districts <i>Sped</i>	\$0		\$0	\$0
Preschool Tuition and Fees	\$44,635	\$54,463	\$46,000	\$46,000
Interest on Investments	\$27,376	\$218,659	\$220,000	\$210,000
Community Services Activities	\$37,008	\$35,017	\$25,000	\$100,000
Rental of Equip/Prop/Facilities	\$15,417	\$6,305	\$100	\$100
Local License Fees	\$3,695	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contributions and Donations	\$3,159	\$1,253	\$650	\$100
Police Court Fines	\$105	\$150	\$100	\$100
Categorical Grant fro Corp/Private	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$9,000	\$1,000
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	\$4,680	\$1,680	\$1,400	\$1,000
Miscellaneous Local Receipts	\$2,300	\$1,950	\$300	\$100
County Fines and License Fees	\$62,272	\$48,651	\$88,000	\$60,000
ESU Receipts	\$1,493	\$1,025	\$3,100	\$1,500
State Aid	\$2,047,337	\$2,883,292	\$2,737,085	\$1,941,825
SPED Reimb (School Age)	\$597,086	\$1,230,014	\$1,315,656	\$1,315,000
SPED Transportation Reimb (School Age)	\$17,704	\$41,237	\$16,800	\$17,000
Homestead Exemption	\$143,089	\$170,703	\$150,000	\$150,000
Property Tax Credit	\$484,768	\$548,432	\$2,855,000	\$2,855,000
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle	\$23,836	\$23,690	\$18,450	\$19,000
State Apportionment	\$164,166	\$154,311	\$297,000	\$150,000
Payments for High Ability Learners	\$7,075	\$8,007	\$0	\$5,000
State Early Childhood	\$0	\$24,162	\$11,000	\$11,000
Career Education	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,200	\$7,500
Title I, part 1 : Support for Improvemnet	\$0	\$0	\$52,000	\$0
Idea Part-B ARP-Base & Enrollment Poverty Allocation	\$0	\$24,923	\$0	\$0
Idea Preschool ARP-Base/Enrollment Poverty Allocation	\$0	\$3,279	\$0	\$0
Title I, Part A	\$184,579	\$188,950	\$194,000	\$185,000
Title II, Part A	\$27,865	\$26,874	\$28,200	\$20,000
IDEA Base	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
IDEA Preschool (619)	\$9,060	\$9,200	\$9,000	\$9,000
IDEA Part B (611) Base & Entroll/Proverty	\$264,894	\$266,100	\$247,500	\$240,000
IDEA Part B Proportionate Share	\$0	\$0	\$6,130	\$0
Other federal Receipts	\$28,709	\$1,920	\$0	\$0
Title IV, Part B-21st Century Grant	\$57,600	\$57,600	\$115,200	\$0
MIPS	\$12,185	\$10,814	\$8,800	\$8,000
MAAPS	\$17,273	\$10,984	\$5,900	\$5,000
Title IV-A, SSAE Grant	\$12,005	\$13,587	\$15,000	\$10,000
ARP- Expanded Learning Afterschool (ARP ESSER III)	\$220,057	\$18,627	\$49,000	\$0
ARP- Expanded Learning Summer (ARP ESSER III)	\$1,288,762	\$21,692	\$50,800	\$0
Sale of Property	\$162,103	\$6,094	\$0	\$0
Insurance Adjustments	\$60,291	\$0	\$5,700	\$0
Other Non-Revenue Receipts	\$4,248	\$1,620	\$4,400	\$2,000
Non-Program Receipts	\$474,482	\$0	\$700	\$0
TOTAL:	\$14,597,883	\$15,000,347	\$16,101,371	\$14,757,225

BUDGET ALTERATIONS

<i>Item/Position</i>	<i>Description</i>
Apps / Tech:	
Reflex Math	Discontinued the App
Education Walkthrough App	Discontinued the App
Nearpod	Discontinued the App
Fiber Optic Run	Postponed until 2026-27 via E-Rate
Furniture / Equipment:	
1st/2nd grade Window Coverings	Went with film vs. shades
1st/2nd grade marker boards	Sent used ones to HS
Tech Furniture	Got free furniture from ESU 10
MS Furniture	Used old Band chairs in Mrs. Higgins' room
Elem Furniture	Used desks in new 4th grade/postponed other orders
PE / Recess Equipment	CEPO Donations
Elem Fridge	Did not replace broken fridge
Elem Tech Room	Fixed cabinetry versus replacing it
HS / Alt Ed Furniture	Did not replace
HS Flex Room	Postponed furniture purchase
Sewing machines	Did not replace
Riding Lawn Mower	Did not replace
Building / Grounds:	
Elem Landscaping	Mulch only for now
STAFFING:	
Elementary Para position	Did not fill this position
SPED Para position	Will fill internally or cut
Ticket Taker by D.O.	Will only use when needed
AZ Teacher Tutor	Eliminated AZ Tutor Time and Pay
D.O. Admin Assistant	Did not fill ths position

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

* **Closed Session:** If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

****Sequence of Agenda:** The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the board. Please arrive at the beginning of the meeting.

*****Action Item:** The board reserves the right to take action on any item on the board agenda.